



3PS CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

Thursday Night Bible Study

ABSTRACT

The narrative is built around three major characters: Samuel, Saul, and David.

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Purpose

First and Second Samuel were originally one document in the Hebrew Bible. This fact no doubt informs any attempt to understand the writer's purpose. Both books provide accounts of the emergence of kingship and the history of the Kingdom of God in Israel. The narrative is built around three major characters: Samuel, Saul, and David.

study of First Samuel will reveal the primacy of God's glory. While the lives of some characters (Samuel and David) reflected His greatness and goodness, others (Eli, his sons, and Saul) made a mockery of God and defamed Him by their actions. These lessons will lead us to confront the call to exalt God alone.

After each study let's ask ourselves what "Life Lesson" did I personally learn from this study that I can apply to my life.

Lesson #1: Prayers Answered

1 Samuel 1:10-18, 26-28 | Background Scripture 1 Samuel 1

Conversation Starter:

- What steps do you take to bring order to your day and to identify priorities?

1 Samuel 1:10-11 (Hannah's Prayer)

10 And she was in bitterness of soul, and prayed to the LORD and wept in anguish.

11 Then she made a vow and said, "O LORD of hosts, if You will indeed look on the affliction of Your maidservant and remember me, and not forget Your maidservant, but will give Your maidservant a male child, then I will give him to the LORD all the days of his life, and no razor shall come upon his head."

Discussion Question

- Why is it important to be honest with God about our pains and frustrations?
- What role does submission play in prayer? How are humility and submission to God related?

1 Samuel 1:12-18 (Eli's Affirmation)

12 And it happened, as she continued praying before the LORD, that Eli watched her mouth.

13 Now Hannah spoke in her heart; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard. Therefore Eli thought she was drunk.

14 So Eli said to her, "How long will you be drunk? Put your wine away from you!"

15 But Hannah answered and said, "No, my lord, I am a woman of sorrowful spirit. I have drunk neither wine nor intoxicating drink, but have poured out my soul before the LORD.

16 "Do not consider your maidservant a wicked woman, for out of the abundance of my complaint and grief I have spoken until now."

17 Then Eli answered and said, "Go in peace, and the God of Israel grant your petition which you have asked of Him."

18 And she said, "Let your maidservant find favor in your sight." So the woman went her way and ate, and her face was no longer sad.

Discussion Question

- On what basis, can we know that God has heard our prayer?
- What promises can we claim from scripture?

1 Samuel 1:26-28 (Hannah's Presentation)

26 And she said, "O my lord! As your soul lives, my lord, I am the woman who stood by you here, praying to the LORD.

27 "For this child I prayed, and the LORD has granted me my petition which I asked of Him.

28 "Therefore I also have lent him to the LORD; as long as he lives he shall be lent to the LORD." So they worshiped the LORD there.

Discussion Question

- How does seeing an answered prayer encourage the person who prayed?
- How does it encourage others who were aware of the prayer?

Live it out

We can approach God with our frustrations and heartfelt desires, knowing we can trust Him to do what's best. We encourage others by praying with them in agreement, sympathizing with their heartaches. God is praised when we recognize that all we have and are come from him.

Memorize

And Hannah prayed and said: My heart rejoices in the LORD; My horn is exalted in the LORD. I smile at my enemies, Because I rejoice in Your salvation. No one is holy like the LORD, For there is none besides You, Nor is there any rock like our God."

1 Samuel 2:1-2 NKJV

Lesson #2: A King Demanded

1 Samuel 8:4-9, 19-22 | Background Scripture 1 Samuel 8

Conversation Starter:

- In what ways are Christians to be set apart from and peculiar in today's culture?

Only God is worthy of being acknowledged as the Ruler of His people and of His creation.

1 Samuel 8:4-5 (A King Demanded)

4 Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah,

5 and said to him, "Look, you are old, and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now make us a king to judge us like all the nations."

Discussion Question

- How does a desire to be like other people affect a person's values and character? How does that desire cloud a person's decision making?

1 Samuel 8:6-9 (Rejection Declared)

6 But the thing displeased Samuel when they said, "Give us a king to judge us." So Samuel prayed to the LORD.

7 And the LORD said to Samuel, "Heed the voice of the people in all that they say to you; for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me, that I should not reign over them.

8 "According to all the works which they have done since the day that I brought them up out of Egypt, even to this day--with which they have forsaken Me and served other gods--so they are doing to you also.

9 "Now therefore, heed their voice. However, you shall solemnly forewarn them, and show them the behavior of the king who will reign over them."

Discussion Question

- What does a believer lose by relying on a human authority more than Christ? How can we determine when we should rely on a human entity and when we shouldn't?

1 Samuel 8:19-22 (Rebellion determined)

19 Nevertheless the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel; and they said, "No, but we will have a king over us,

20 "that we also may be like all the nations, and that our king may judge us and go out before us and fight our battles."

21 And Samuel heard all the words of the people, and he repeated them in the hearing of the LORD.

22 So the LORD said to Samuel, "Heed their voice, and make them a king." And Samuel said to the men of Israel, "Every man go to his city."

Discussion Question

- What do the descriptions of the desired king in verse 20 reveal about the people's hearts?
- What does God's allowing Israel to have a king teach us about God?

Live It Out

God desires His people to be distinct from others, trusting Him in all matters. When we reject God's leaders and their warnings, we reject God. We can trust God to provide godly leaders even when we're tempted to take matters into our own hands.

Memorize

And the LORD said to Samuel, Heed the voice of the people in all that they say to you; for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me, that I should not reign over them."

I Samuel 8:7 NKJV

Lesson #3: Saul Judged

1 Samuel 15:1-15, 22-23 | Background Scripture 1 Samuel 15

Conversation Starter:

- In what ways, do you see our culture seeking satisfaction and meaning?

1 Samuel 15:1-9 (Saul's Disobedience)

1 Samuel also said to Saul, "The LORD sent me to anoint you king over His people, over Israel. Now therefore, heed the voice of the words of the LORD.

2 "Thus says the LORD of hosts: 'I will punish Amalek for what he did to Israel, how he ambushed him on the way when he came up from Egypt.

3 'Now go and attack Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and do not spare them. But kill both man and woman, infant and nursing child, ox and sheep, camel and donkey.' "

4 So Saul gathered the people together and numbered them in Telaim, two hundred thousand foot soldiers and ten thousand men of Judah.

5 And Saul came to a city of Amalek, and lay in wait in the valley.

6 Then Saul said to the Kenites, "Go, depart, get down from among the Amalekites, lest I destroy you with them. For you showed kindness to all the children of Israel when they came up out of Egypt." So the Kenites departed from among the Amalekites.

7 And Saul attacked the Amalekites, from Havilah all the way to Shur, which is east of Egypt.

8 He also took Agag king of the Amalekites alive, and utterly destroyed all the people with the edge of the sword.

9 But Saul and the people spared Agag and the best of the sheep, the oxen, the fatlings, the lambs, and all that was good, and were unwilling to utterly destroy them. But everything despised and worthless, that they utterly destroyed.

Discussion Question

- What makes settling for partial obedience so tempting?

1 Samuel 15:10-15 (Samuel's Confrontation)

10 Now the word of the LORD came to Samuel, saying,

11 "I greatly regret that I have set up Saul as king, for he has turned back from following Me, and has not performed My commandments." And it grieved Samuel, and he cried out to the LORD all night.

12 So when Samuel rose early in the morning to meet Saul, it was told Samuel, saying, "Saul went to Carmel, and indeed, he set up a monument for himself; and he has gone on around, passed by, and gone down to Gilgal."

13 Then Samuel went to Saul, and Saul said to him, "Blessed are you of the LORD! I have performed the commandment of the LORD."

14 But Samuel said, "What then is this bleating of the sheep in my ears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear?"

15 And Saul said, "They have brought them from the Amalekites; for the people spared the best of the sheep and the oxen, to sacrifice to the LORD your God; and the rest we have utterly destroyed."

Discussion Question

- What does a believer lose by relying on a human authority more than Christ? How can we determine when we should rely on a human entity and when we shouldn't?

1 Samuel 8:19-22 (Rebellion determined)

19 Nevertheless the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel; and they said, "No, but we will have a king over us,

20 "that we also may be like all the nations, and that our king may judge us and go out before us and fight our battles."

21 And Samuel heard all the words of the people, and he repeated them in the hearing of the LORD.

22 So the LORD said to Samuel, "Heed their voice, and make them a king." And Samuel said to the men of Israel, "Every man go to his city."

Discussion Question

- What makes confronting someone about their disobedience a challenge?
- What risks are involved in confronting someone and what risk are involved when we don't confront someone?

1 Samuel 15:22-23 (God's Rejection)

22 So Samuel said: "Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, As in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, And to heed than the fat of rams.

23 For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft,

And stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry.

Because you have rejected the word of the LORD,

He also has rejected you from being king."

Discussion Question

- What's the connection between disobedience and idolatry?

Live It Out

God expects complete obedience to His directives. Believers are to humbly confront leaders who blatantly disobey God. God is more concerned about obedience than our worship practices.

Memorize

22 So Samuel said: Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, As in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, And to heed than the fat of rams.

1 Samuel 15:22

Lesson #4: David Anointed

1 Samuel 16:1-13 | Background Scripture 1 Samuel 16

Conversation Starter:

- When has a person, place, or thing greatly exceeded your expectations?

God desires people who seek Him to follow Him with all their Heart.

1 Samuel 16:1-5 (Samuel's Assignment)

1 Now the LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? Fill your horn with oil, and go; I am sending you to Jesse the Bethlehemite. For I have provided Myself a king among his sons."

2 And Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears it, he will kill me." But the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.'"

3 "Then invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; you shall anoint for Me the one I name to you."

4 So Samuel did what the LORD said, and went to Bethlehem. And the elders of the town trembled at his coming, and said, "Do you come peaceably?"

5 And he said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD. Sanctify yourselves, and come with me to the sacrifice." Then he consecrated Jesse and his sons, and invited them to the sacrifice.

Discussion Question

- In what ways, does perusing the call of God on one's life bring isolation from others?
- What are the risks and rewards of such a pursuit?

1 Samuel 16:6-10 (Gods Criteria)

6 So it was, when they came, that he looked at Eliab and said, "Surely the LORD's anointed is before Him!"

7 But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."

8 So Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one."

9 Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one."

10 Thus Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. And Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen these."

Discussion Question

- What dangers lie in if certain individuals are suited for leadership based on appearance or a generalization?

1 Samuel 16:11-13 (David's Selection)

11 And Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all the young men here?" Then he said, "There remains yet the youngest, and there he is, keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him. For we will not sit down till he comes here."

12 So he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, with bright eyes, and good-looking. And the LORD said, "Arise, anoint him; for this is the one!"

13 Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel arose and went to Ramah.

Discussion Question

- What similarities exist between a shepherd and an effective leader?

Live It Out

God chooses leaders for His people. At times believers' motives are more important than their actions. When we're called on to lead, we can trust the Holy Spirit for guidance.

Memorize

But the LORD said to Samuel, Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."

1 Samuel 16:7 NKJV

Lesson #5: David's Victory

1 Samuel 17:32-37, 42-50 | Background Scripture 1 Samuel 17

Conversation Starter:

- Whom or what do you think of when you hear the word courage?

God uses faithful servants to deliver His people.

1 Samuel 17:32-37 (Confidence in God)

32 Then David said to Saul, "Let no man's heart fail because of him; your servant will go and fight with this Philistine."

33 And Saul said to David, "You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him; for you are a youth, and he a man of war from his youth."

34 But David said to Saul, "Your servant used to keep his father's sheep, and when a lion or a bear came and took a lamb out of the flock,

35 "I went out after it and struck it, and delivered the lamb from its mouth; and when it arose against me, I caught it by its beard, and struck and killed it.

36 "Your servant has killed both lion and bear; and this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, seeing he has defied the armies of the living God."

37 Moreover David said, "The LORD, who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine." And Saul said to David, "Go, and the LORD be with you!"

Discussion Question

- How can God use our past as a foundation for our future?
- How can our past experiences help us succeed in the future?

1 Samuel 15:10-15 (Samuel's Confrontation)

10 Now the word of the LORD came to Samuel, saying,

11 "I greatly regret that I have set up Saul as king, for he has turned back from following Me, and has not performed My commandments." And it grieved Samuel, and he cried out to the LORD all night.

12 So when Samuel rose early in the morning to meet Saul, it was told Samuel, saying, "Saul went to Carmel, and indeed, he set up a monument for himself; and he has gone on around, passed by, and gone down to Gilgal."

13 Then Samuel went to Saul, and Saul said to him, "Blessed are you of the LORD! I have performed the commandment of the LORD."

14 But Samuel said, "What then is this bleating of the sheep in my ears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear?"

15 And Saul said, "They have brought them from the Amalekites; for the people spared the best of the sheep and the oxen, to sacrifice to the LORD your God; and the rest we have utterly destroyed."

Discussion Question

- What does a believer lose by relying on a human authority more than Christ?
- How can we determine when we should rely on a human entity and when we shouldn't?

1 Samuel 17:42-44 (False Confidence in Self)

42 And when the Philistine looked about and saw David, he disdained him; for he was only a youth, ruddy and good-looking.

43 So the Philistine said to David, "Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?" And the Philistine cursed David by his gods.

44 And the Philistine said to David, "Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and the beasts of the field!"

Discussion Question

- In what items or people do we sometimes place our confidence?

1 Samuel 17:45-50 (God's Victory)

45 Then David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin. But I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied.

46 "This day the LORD will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you and take your head from you. And this day I will give the carcasses of the camp of the Philistines to the birds of the air and the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel.

47 "Then all this assembly shall know that the LORD does not save with sword and spear; for the battle is the LORD's, and He will give you into our hands."

48 So it was, when the Philistine arose and came and drew near to meet David, that David hurried and ran toward the army to meet the Philistine.

49 Then David put his hand in his bag and took out a stone; and he slung it and struck the Philistine in his forehead, so that the stone sank into his forehead, and he fell on his face to the earth.

50 So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone, and struck the Philistine and killed him. But there was no sword in the hand of David.

Discussion Question

- How has God brought victory in your life when you were powerless in your own ability.

Live It Out

God calls faithful followers to take a stand against those who oppose Him and His people. Confidence in anything other than God will ultimately lead to sure defeat. God gives His followers opportunities to make His name known.

Memorize

This day the LORD will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you and take your head from you. And this day I will give the carcasses of the camp of the Philistines to the birds of the air and the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel."

I Samuel 17:46 NKJV

Lesson #6: Respect Earned

1 Samuel 26:7-12, 21-25 | Background Scripture 1 Samuel 26

Conversation Starter:

- How can Christians respect leaders when we don't like them or even when we have serious disagreements with them?

God is ultimately in charge of those who lead.

1 Samuel 26:7-8 (Opportunity Knocks)

7 So David and Abishai came to the people by night; and there Saul lay sleeping within the camp, with his spear stuck in the ground by his head. And Abner and the people lay all around him.

8 Then Abishai said to David, "God has delivered your enemy into your hand this day. Now therefore, please, let me strike him at once with the spear, right to the earth; and I will not have to strike him a second time!"

Discussion Question

- What are the dangers of equating an open door with God's will?
- How can we know the difference between a true open door and a test disguised as an open door?

1 Samuel 26:9-12 (Godly Respect)

9 But David said to Abishai, "Do not destroy him; for who can stretch out his hand against the LORD's anointed, and be guiltless?"

10 David said furthermore, "As the LORD lives, the LORD shall strike him, or his day shall come to die, or he shall go out to battle and perish.

11 "The LORD forbid that I should stretch out my hand against the LORD's anointed. But please, take now the spear and the jug of water that are by his head, and let us go."

12 So David took the spear and the jug of water by Saul's head, and they got away; and no man saw or knew it or awoke. For they were all asleep, because a deep sleep from the LORD had fallen on them.

Discussion Question

- Respect is often seen as something that must be earned. David showed respect to someone who didn't show respect to him. Why is it hard to respect people who disrespect us?
- Why should we?

1 Samuel 26:21-25 (Trust in God)

21 Then Saul said, "I have sinned. Return, my son David. For I will harm you no more, because my life was precious in your eyes this day. Indeed I have played the fool and erred exceedingly."

22 And David answered and said, "Here is the king's spear. Let one of the young men come over and get it."

23 "May the LORD repay every man for his righteousness and his faithfulness; for the LORD delivered you into my hand today, but I would not stretch out my hand against the LORD's anointed."

24 "And indeed, as your life was valued much this day in my eyes, so let my life be valued much in the eyes of the LORD, and let Him deliver me out of all tribulation."

25 Then Saul said to David, "May you be blessed, my son David! You shall both do great things and also still prevail." So David went on his way, and Saul returned to his place.

Discussion Question

- True repentance (vs. 21) comes when the Holy Spirit convicts us of sin. How do you feel when the Holy Spirit makes us aware of our sin and what should that prompt us to do?
- How can you show respect to people while also being cautious to place your ultimate trust in God?

Live It Out

Opportunities must be weighed in light of God's principles and will. God expects His followers to respect the lives of others who oppose them. God's timing can be trusted in all matters of life.

Memorize

No!" David said. Don't kill him. For who can remain innocent after attacking the Lord's anointed one?"

1 Samuel 26:9 NLT

But David said to Abishai, Do not destroy him; for who can stretch out his hand against the LORD's anointed, and be guiltless?"

1 Samuel 26:9 NKJV