



RISE OF THE CHRIST

IN THE BOOK OF 1 SAMUEL



HOW TO USE THIS BOOK:

1. PERSONAL READING

- Use this guide to help you read your Bible and pray every day.
- Use the prayer point suggestions below to guide your prayers as well as writing down people you are seeking to reach.

2. GOSPEL COMMUNITY

- Take this to **GC** each week so you can follow along with the Bible Study.
- Use the **Whole Family Learning** ideas on page 57.

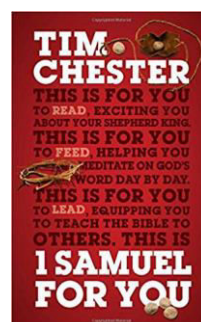
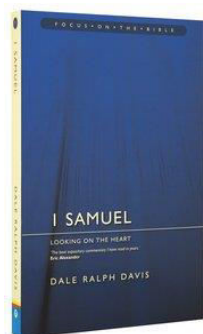
PRAYER POINTS

- We want to encourage you to be on mission to your non-Christian friends, family and contacts. Who are you on mission to? Make a list and pray for them regularly.

SUGGESTED READING:

If you would like to engage more with 1 Samuel:

- '1 Samuel for You' by Tim Chester
- '1 Samuel: Looking on the Heart' by Dale Ralph Davis.



RISE OF THE CHRIST – 1 SAUMUEL

WEEK	PASSAGE	THEME
1	1 Samuel 1:1-2:11	A Coming King
2	1 Samuel 2:11-4:1	A Coming Priest and Prophet
3	1 Samuel 4:1-7:17	The Weight of Glory
4	1 Samuel 7:15-9:27	A King Like the Nations
5	1 Samuel 10:1-12:25	King Saul
6	1 Samuel 13:1-15:35	Adam Revisited
7	1 Samuel 16:1-23	The Shepherd King
8	1 Samuel 17:1-58	Facing Giants
9	1 Samuel 18:1-20:42	Taking Sides
10	1 Samuel 21:1-23:29	The Wilderness Years
11	1 Samuel 24-26:25	Testing Times
12	1 Samuel 27:1-28:25	A Word from the Grave
13	1 Samuel 29:1-31:13	How the Mighty have Fallen

INTRODUCTION: 1 SAUMUEL

A GENERAL OVERVIEW OF 1 SAUMUEL

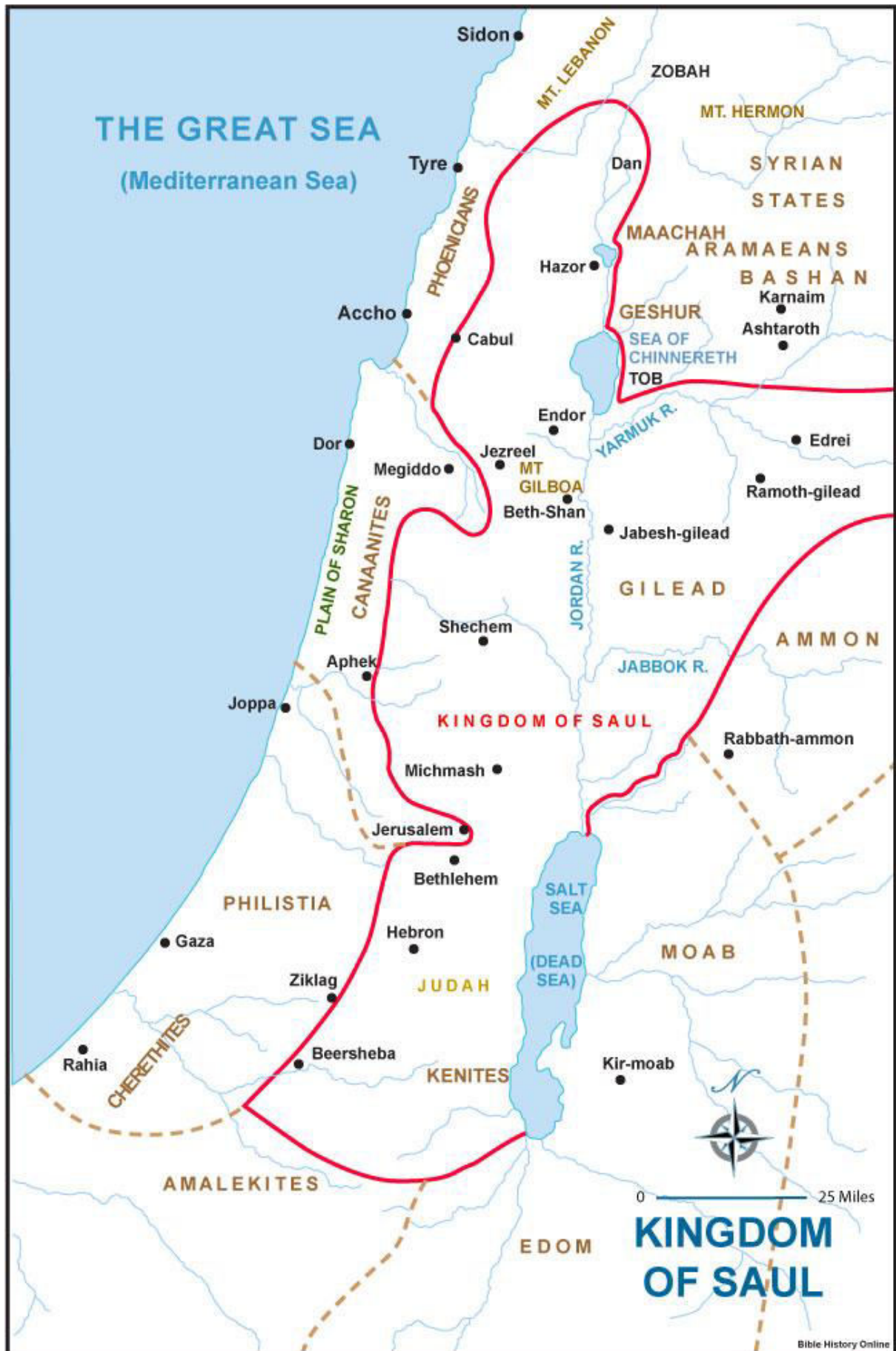
The Author: Unknown. It is named after 'Samuel', the one who anointed the first two kings of Israel.

When was it written and who for: The events which occur in 1 Samuel happened around 1000 BC. However, it was most likely not written down until the time of the exile of Babylon, and was probably done in several stages. 1 and 2 Samuel were originally one book, but were later separated most likely due to their size.

Themes and Purpose: 1 Samuel tells the story of three people: Samuel, Saul and David. The themes of 1 Samuel are God's kingship, guidance, and sovereignty. The purpose of the book is to highlight two major events:

1. The establishment of the monarchy in Israel
2. The preparation of David to be King

The book of 1 Samuel shows what God's king is to be like, obedient and humble. It ultimately points us to Christ, the one true King.



WEEK 1: 1 SAMUEL 1:1-2:11

A COMING KING

PERSONAL BIBLE READING GUIDE

MONDAY

Read Judges 17:6; 18:1; 19:1 and 21:25

1. What is the state of Israel at this time in history?
2. Considering this, what do you expect to read when you get to 1 Samuel?
3. In what ways do you have a tendency to do what is right in your own eyes?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

TUESDAY

Read 1 Samuel 1:1-20

1. What is the problem that we are presented with in this chapter?
2. How does the solution to the problem come about?
3. What do we learn about God in these verses? Does that challenge your view of God?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

WEDNESDAY

Read 1 Samuel 1:9-16

1. What is it that Hannah prays to God about? How would you describe how Hannah is feeling as she prays?
2. When you are feeling as Hannah did, do you turn to God in prayer? Why or why not?
3. Is there anything that you do not pray for because deep down you think God cannot or will not give it? Could Hannah's example prompt you to start praying more regularly and boldly?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

THURSDAY

Read 1 Samuel 1:21-28

1. What do we learn about the purpose of Samuel in this chapter?
2. How do Hannah and Eli respond to God's actions?
3. In 1 Samuel, we are presented with a God who is fully in control and who helps the helpless, how does that give you comfort today?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

FRIDAY

Read 1 Samuel 2:1-11

1. How does Hannah describe God's character?
2. What warning and encouragement do we find in these verses?
3. Choose one attribute of God that is described in these verses and praise him for it in prayer.

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY

If you missed any studies throughout the week, you can do them on these days.

WEEK 1 GC STUDY: 1 SAMUEL 2:1-10

When you think of power and how someone win's something, what words or attributes come to mind?

READ 1 SAMUEL 2:1-11

What is the reason behind Hannah's prayer (see 1:2; 7-8; 17-20)

What do you think is the meaning of 'horn' in verses 1 and 10?
(see *ESV version and Psalm 75:10*)

What characteristics of God are mentioned in the prayer? If you could sum up the main character of God that is described in this passage what would it be?

What does Hannah's prayer say about humans?

What glimpse of the future are we given in these verses?

The rest of 1 Samuel goes on to describe the start of kingship within Israel.
What do you think then is the significance of this story and the prayer of Hannah coming before all that?

Read Luke 1:46-55. What similarities are there between Hannah's prayer and Mary's? What is the significance of this?

What aspect of God's character struck you the most during this study? Why do you think that is?

Can you think of a way your life might be different if you thought of God this way more often?

What is one thing that you can do this week to help you remember that attribute of God?

GC PRAYER POINTS

WEEK 2: 1 SAMUEL 2:11-4:1

A COMING PRIEST AND PROPHET

PERSONAL BIBLE READING GUIDE

MONDAY

Read 1 Samuel 2:11-26

1. How are Eli's sons described? What was so wrong with their actions?
2. What is Samuel doing in this passage? What is the significance of this?
3. Are there times when you feel that God has abandoned you? What truths about God's character can comfort you at those times?

TUESDAY

Read 1 Samuel 2:27-36

1. What is God's message to Eli?
2. What do we learn about Eli in this passage? *See also 3:14 and 4:18*
3. Eli, Hophni and Phinehas all acted dishonorably towards God. What is the type of behavior that God desires?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

WEDNESDAY

Read 1 Samuel 3:1-9

1. What light does verse 7 shed on why Samuel is confused here?
2. What do we learn about God in these verses? Does he get angry at Samuel or does he show patience and kindness?
3. How does God reveal himself to us today?
4. Do you have a hunger for God's word? Do you desire to read it, learn from it and obey it? Why or why not?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

THURSDAY

Read 1 Samuel 3:10-18

1. What message does God give to Samuel?
2. What reasons are given for this?
3. How do you think Samuel felt about having to give this message to the people?
4. God's word to his people is often uncomfortable. Are you willing to listen to his word no matter what the message and what that means for you? Why or why not?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

FRIDAY

Read 1 Samuel 3:19-4:1 and Hebrews 1:1-4

1. What role has Samuel taken on for the people of Israel?
2. What does this mean for the people of Israel (consider 3:1)
3. How has God revealed himself to us today?
4. Considering this, what should our attitude be towards Jesus and the Bible (see also Colossians 3:16)?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY

If you missed any studies throughout the week, you can do them on these days.

WEEK 2 GC STUDY: 1 SAMUEL 3:1-4:1

Have you experienced a time in your life when God seemed silent? What do you think was the reason for this?

READ 1 SAMUEL 3:1-4:1

What do you think is the meaning of verse 7 considering verse 1 of this chapter?

What do we learn about Samuel in this passage?

What do we learn about Eli in this passage? What is the reason for the punishment of Eli and his sons? (see 2:12-17; 22)

What role does Samuel take on? What is the significance of this considering 3:1?

What is the role of God's word in this passage?

How is it that God reveals himself to us today (see Hebrews 1:1-4)? Is he ever silent in these last days?

Considering this, if there are times when you have experienced God being silent why do you think this is?

When you are seeking wisdom and guidance? Where do you look?

Read Colossians 3:16. How can we speak God's word to each other at church and in our GC's more?

GC PRAYER POINTS

WEEK 3: 1 SAMUEL 4:1-7:17

THE WEIGHT OF GLORY

PERSONAL BIBLE READING GUIDE

MONDAY

Read 1 Samuel 4:1-11

1. What is the reason for the Israelites defeat (see Deuteronomy 28:25)?
2. Considering what the Israelites do with the ark of the covenant, what does it show about how they are treating God?
3. What are some modern day versions of treating God like a good luck charm?
4. What should our response be to God instead of treating him like this?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

TUESDAY

Read 1 Samuel 4:12-22

1. What do we learn about Eli in this passage?
2. Consider verse 22, do you think this statement is correct? Or should it have been, "The ark has been captured because the glory had already departed"?
3. When you think of God's glory, what comes to mind? How does this impact your life?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

WEDNESDAY

Read 1 Samuel 5:1-12

1. What happens between the ark of the covenant and the Philistines god?
2. What does this show about God and how he acts?
3. God shows himself to be a sovereign God in this passage. How does this truth about God change your daily life?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

THURSDAY

Read 1 Samuel 6:1-7:2

1. What light does verse 9 shed on this passage and the beliefs of the Philistines?
2. Describe the behavior of the cows. What does this imply?
3. What different responses do the Israelites give to the return of the ark?
4. Is there such a thing as coincidences? What comfort can we have in a God who is totally sovereign?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

FRIDAY

Read 1 Samuel 7:3-17

1. What does Samuel lead Israel to do?
2. How does Israel defeat the Philistines?
3. What is the proper response to the kingship of God?
4. Do you treat God as the king of your whole life? What does this look like on a daily basis?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY

If you missed any studies throughout the week, you can do them on these days.

WEEK 3 GC STUDY: 1 SAMUEL 7:2-17

Think about the world around you, what things do people place their trust in?

READ 1 SAMUEL 7:2-17

What do we learn about the role of Samuel in this passage?

What does Samuel call the Israelites to do? What does it show about the state of the Israelites and their attitude toward God (see Deuteronomy 5:6-10)?

What is the result of their repentance?

How do we see God's mercy at play in this passage?

How would you describe what true repentance is?

Have you experienced true repentance in your life? Are there any 'idols' that you are hanging on to that are affecting your relationship with God?

In this passage God proves to be a God of absolute mercy and sovereignty. How do these two truths go together and give us comfort?

Think of a time when the fact that God is sovereign made a big difference to a situation you were in. Or alternatively, think of a time when it could have made a big difference to you if you had thought of it.

GC PRAYER POINTS

WEEK 4: 1 SAMUEL 7:15-9:27

A KING LIKE THE NATIONS

PERSONAL BIBLE READING GUIDE

MONDAY

Read 1 Samuel 7:15-8:9

1. What did Israel ask for? Why did God rebuke them?
2. How is this request a rejection of God?
3. Have you accepted God as King over your life? How does this show in the way that you live?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

TUESDAY

Read 1 Samuel 8:10-22

1. How does Samuel describe what the king will be like?
2. Why do the Israelites want a king?
3. Considering this, what do you think was the Israelites view of God?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

WEDNESDAY

Read Deuteronomy 17:14-20

1. What does his passage teach about monarchy in Israel? What was the king to be like?
2. Compare what this passage with 1 Samuel 8:1-18. What are the differences?
3. What are the dangers of selfishness and self-rule? Are their elements of trying to self-rule in your own life?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

THURSDAY

Read 1 Samuel 9:1-27

1. What do we learn in this passage about how God works out his purposes?
2. How do you understand the concept of providence?
3. How have you experienced or seen God working in your life lately?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

FRIDAY

Read John 18:33-40

1. What does Jesus reveal about himself in this passage?
2. Considering what we have learnt in 1 Samuel, what is the significance of this?
3. Have you accepted Jesus as the King of your life? What does this look like in your every day life?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY

If you missed any studies throughout the week, you can do them on these days.

WEEK 4 GC STUDY: 1 SAMUEL 8:1-22

Think about rulers who are around today. What sort of characteristics do they have in common?

READ 1 SAMUEL 8:1-22

What do the Israelites ask Samuel for?

What is the significance of this (consider Deuteronomy 17:14-20)?

What is the irony in the Israelites asking for a monarchy? (Consider 1 Samuel 2:12; 8:1-3) What does this tell us about the state of the Israelites at this time?

What will this king that they ask for be like? Compare verse 5, 11-18 with the description in Deuteronomy 17:14-20.

Considering all this, what do you think the Israelites view of God is during this time and how do they treat Him?

Read Luke 12:12-16. What do we learn about who Jesus is in these verses?

In what areas of your life do you struggle to submit to Jesus Kingship?

Do you have a tendency to propose the solution that you think your life needs to God, rather than coming to him for guidance first?

In what ways do you 'try and be like the nations' in your life? Is there anything you need to change in order to live with Jesus as your King?

GC PRAYER POINTS

WEEK 5: 1 SAMUEL 10:1-12:25

KING SAUL

PERSONAL BIBLE READING GUIDE

MONDAY

Read 1 Samuel 10:1-9

1. What is the task that Saul was given to do?
2. What signs were given to Saul? What was the purpose of this?
3. Who was Saul to be subject to? What does this teach about the relationship between God's word and the Spirit?
4. What does it mean for you that the Spirit and God's word are inextricably linked?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

TUESDAY

Read 1 Samuel 10:10-16

1. What was Saul able to do? Who enabled this to happen?
2. What does this teach us about how God equips people to serve him?
3. What do we learn here about the type of people that God uses?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

WEDNESDAY

Read 1 Samuel 10:17-27

1. What does God remind the people of? Why do you think he repeats this again on this occasion (see 8:6-22)?
2. What do we learn about Saul in these verses? Why do you think he hid?
3. What does Saul's anointing teach us about how God acts and equips?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

THURSDAY

Read 1 Samuel 11:1-15

1. What was Nahash trying to do to Israel?
2. What is it that ends up saving the Israelites?
3. What does that teach us about the Holy Spirit and how he works?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

FRIDAY

Read 1 Samuel 12:1-25

1. What does Samuel remind and warn the people of?
2. How does he command them to live? What reasons are there to live like this?
3. Are there any areas of your life where you are struggling to fear God and serve him wholeheartedly? Are there any changes that you need to make to do this more consistently in your life?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY

If you missed any studies throughout the week, you can do them on these days.

WEEK 5 GC STUDY: 1 SAMUEL 12

What motivates you to get out of bed in the morning and do what you do in life?

READ 1 SAMUEL 12

What sort of leader has Samuel been to the Israelites?

How does Samuel describe God (verse 6-11)? How does he describe the Israelites (verse 9-13)? Why do you think these are put side by side like this?

What two different ways of living are presented to the Israelites? What are the results of living those different ways?

How is the Israelites king described (see verse 13-14; 25)? What light do verses 19-25 shed on the place of kingship within Israel?

Describe the evidences of God's grace throughout this passage.

The Israelites had made kingship into a 'useless idol', similar to what they did with the ark of the covenant in 1 Samuel 4. Can you think of examples of 'empty things' in your own life that you are tempted to trust in?

Compare 1 Samuel 12:23 and Hebrews 7:22-28. What comfort does this give us?

How does God's faithfulness motivate you to serve him?

Brainstorm together some ideas about what you can do this week to help you remember God's faithfulness in your everyday life.

GC PRAYER POINTS

WEEK 6: 1 SAMUEL 13:1-15:35

ADAM REVISITED

PERSONAL BIBLE READING GUIDE

MONDAY

Read 1 Samuel 13:1-23

1. Why did Samuel rebuke Saul in this passage? What did he do wrong?
2. What does this teach about the character of Saul?
3. What is the result of Saul's actions?
4. Once again things look helpless for Israel. Why should they still have hope?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

TUESDAY

Read 1 Samuel 14:1-23

1. What do we learn about Jonathon and his faith in these verses?
2. What was the result of his faith?
3. How does your faith affect your day to day life? Do you put your trust in God no matter what the circumstances?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

WEDNESDAY

Read 1 Samuel 14:24-46

1. What was wrong with the Israelites and why was this the case?
2. What further insights do we get into the character of Saul in this passage? Contrast this with the character of Jonathon.
3. What does this passage show about what God cares about? How does this impact your life?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

THURSDAY

Read 1 Samuel 14:47-52

1. How is Saul's reign described in this passage?
2. Considering what a king was meant to be do for the Israelites, what is missing from these verses?
3. "What matters is not success, but covenant". What does this teach us about how God wants us to live?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

FRIDAY

Read 1 Samuel 15

1. What was Saul told to do? What did he neglect to do?
2. What is the result of Saul's disobedience?
3. What do we learn about the importance of obedience in this chapter?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY

If you missed any studies throughout the week, you can do them on these days.

WEEK 6 GC STUDY: 1 SAMUEL 15

What do you think is the essence of disobedience?

READ 1 SAMUEL 15

What did God tell Saul to do? Did Saul fulfill all that God told him to?

What was the result of Saul's disobedience?

What do we learn about the character of Saul through all of this? Do you think that Saul's repentance was genuine or superficial? Why or why not?

What does this passage teach about what God actually desires from the king of Israel?

How is sin described in this passage? What is the essence of sin?

Twice in this passage it says that God 'regretted' making Saul the King (verse 11 and 35). What do you think this means? (See Genesis 6:6)

Read Luke 12:43. What do the Pharisees and Saul have in common? What difference would life look like if people feared God more than man?

Spend some time on your own reflecting on the following two questions:

- How has this passage challenged you in terms of what sin really is? Are there any sins that you are holding on to that you need to repent of and move away from?
- Who do you fear in life? God or man? Is there anything that you need to change in order to fear God in all areas of your life?

GC PRAYER POINTS

WEEK 7: 1 SAMUEL 16:1-23

THE SHEPHERD KING

PERSONAL BIBLE READING GUIDE

MONDAY

Read 1 Samuel 16:1-7

1. What does God command Samuel to do?
2. What do we learn about what God desires in people?
3. Do you have a tendency to care more about what people look like than what is in their heart? Is this true of how you think about yourself?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

TUESDAY

Read 1 Samuel 16:8-13

1. Who is in control of the monarchy in these verses?
2. What is so unusual about God's choice of King?
3. What is the difference between Saul and David? What does this teach us about who God chooses to use?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

WEDNESDAY

Read 1 Samuel 16:14-23

1. How is Saul described in these verses?
2. What characteristics of David are highlighted in this passage?
3. What is the irony presented in this passage?
4. How does this passage help us understand who God chooses to use?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

THURSDAY

Read 1 Samuel 2:1-10

1. Considering what you have learnt in 1 Samuel already, how do you see Hannah's prayer come to fruition?
2. What does this teach us about what God is really teaching through this book?
3. What has been the most significant thing that you have been challenged by in terms of God's character so far in 1 Samuel?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

FRIDAY

Read Isaiah 53:1-12

1. Who is it that is described in this passage?
2. How has what you have learnt in 1 Samuel so far helped you to further understand this passage in Isaiah?
3. What characteristic of Jesus most stands out to you in this passage?
Spend some time meditating upon this and praising him for it.

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY

If you missed any studies throughout the week, you can do them on these days.

WEEK 7 GC STUDY: 1 SAMUEL 16

Describe a time in your life when the opposite to what you expected happened. How did you feel about it?

READ 1 SAMUEL 16

In terms of the new king of Israel:

- Who provides him?
- Where does he come from?
- What is his most important characteristic?

What does this show about the kinds of people that God chooses to use? (see Isaiah 53:1-6)

How are David and Saul contrasted in this passage?

Read back over 1 Samuel 2:1-10. How has what we have learnt so far in Samuel been similar to that of Hannah's song?

Considering this, what is the expectation that is being set up for the type of kingship David will have?

Read Philippians 2:5-11. Considering what we have talked about today:

- What hope do these verses give to us?
- How do these verses motivate us?
- What type of behavior do they encourage?

What have you learnt about God, his character, and how he chooses to work from this chapter? How does this knowledge about God affect the way you live?

GC PRAYER POINTS

WEEK 8: 1 SAMUEL 17:1-58

FACING GIANTS

PERSONAL BIBLE READING GUIDE

MONDAY

Read 1 Samuel 17:1-11

1. How is Goliath described in this passage? Who is he setting himself up to be like?
2. What is the reaction of Saul and the Israelites?
3. Considering 1 Samuel 2:1-8 what should we expect to happen to Goliath?
4. What does this teach you about who God is and his power?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

TUESDAY

Read 1 Samuel 17:12-30

1. How is David described in this passage?
2. Who does David consider Goliath to be fighting against (verse 26-27)?
3. What do you think is the significance of David calling God 'the living God'?
4. How does the fact that God is a 'living God' affect the way you live?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

WEDNESDAY

Read 1 Samuel 17:31-40

1. What do we learn about David's character in these verses?
2. How does David view God? And how does this affect his actions?
3. How does David's view of God challenge your view of God?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

THURSDAY

Read 1 Samuel 17:41-58

1. What is Goliath's response to David?
2. Who does David actually see the battle to be against? What then is the reason for David's success?
3. Whose reputation do you care more about in life? God's or your own? How does this change the way that you live?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

FRIDAY

Read Psalm 2

1. What do the nations do?
2. How is God's anointed described?
3. Considering what we have learnt in 1 Samuel 17, how is Psalm 2 similar?
4. What comfort can we have then in these verses?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY

If you missed any studies throughout the week, you can do them on these days.

WEEK 8 GC STUDY: 1 SAMUEL 17

Without looking at your Bible's, try and retell the story of David and Goliath.

READ 1 SAMUEL 17

What are the differences between Goliath and David that are highlighted in this passage?

Who does David believe the battle to actually be against? How does this affect his attitude towards:

- Goliath?
- The fight?
- The result of the fight?

Read 1 Samuel 2:1-10. How do we see the truth's in Hannah's song displayed in this passage?

Read Psalm 2. How is this Psalm similar to what we have learnt in 1 Samuel 17?

Considering this, what is it that drove David to fight, and should also be of great concern to us?

Do you care more about your reputation or that of Gods? Why do you think this is?

GC PRAYER POINTS

WEEK 9: 1 SAMUEL 18:1-20:42

TAKING SIDES

PERSONAL BIBLE READING GUIDE

MONDAY

Read 1 Samuel 18:1-16

1. How is Jonathon and David's friendship described?
2. What is the significance of this?
3. What is the contrast set up between Saul and David here? What is the basis of this contrast?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

TUESDAY

Read 1 Samuel 18:17-30

1. What is it that Saul is trying to do to David?
2. Do you think that David was aware of this?
3. Who is it that is protecting and providing for David?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

WEDNESDAY

Read 1 Samuel 19

1. Describe what happens to Saul in this passage? How is it somewhat ironic?
2. Who are the people that provide for David and protect him? In what ways do they do this?
3. What is God's role in amongst all of this?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

THURSDAY

Read 1 Samuel 20:1-23

1. What is the plan that Jonathon and David work out together?
2. What is the covenant that Jonathon makes with David (see 18:1)?
3. Why is this covenant so special and significant (see 18:1)?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

FRIDAY

Read 1 Samuel 20:24-42

1. What is Jonathon giving up by his friendship and covenant with David?
2. What is it that binds Jonathon and David's friendship together?
3. Think about the friendships that you have, how are they the same or different to that of Jonathon and David's?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY

If you missed any studies throughout the week, you can do them on these days.

WEEK 9 GC STUDY: 1 SAMUEL 20

Think about friendship and the friends that you have. How does the world's views on friendship differ to that of Christians?

READ 1 SAMUEL 20

Describe the type of relationship David and Jonathon have (see also 18:1-5).

What sacrifice is Jonathon making by pursuing his friendship and covenant with David? Why would this have been so difficult at this time in history?

What is the basis of this covenant that Jonathon and David have? What is the significance of this?

What does this covenant mean for David and provide him with (verse 42)?

In times of trouble and hardship, we seek love, comfort and security. Where is it that you seek to find these things?

If you are a Christian, you are a member of God's covenant children through what Jesus has done (See Mark 14:22-24). This means that we are actually in a covenant relationship with God. What light do the following passages shed on what this means?

- Ephesians 2:11-22
- Hebrews 8:6-13
- Romans 5:1-11

Considering this, what difference does it make in your life to be in a covenant relationship with God through Jesus?

'Life does not consist of achieving your goals, but in fulfilling your promises' (Dale Ralph Davis). What do you think about this statement? What does this look like as you seek to follow Christ?

GC PRAYER POINTS

WEEK 10: 1 SAMUEL 21:1-23:29

THE WILDERNESS YEARS

PERSONAL BIBLE READING GUIDE

MONDAY

Read 1 Samuel 21

1. What is so surprising about where David goes and what he brings with him (verse 9-10, see also 17:4)?
2. Read Psalm 34. What light does this shed on David's state of mind during this time?
3. What do you think it means to take refuge in God? Is this something that you do daily?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

TUESDAY

Read 1 Samuel 22

1. Who is guiding and directing David in this passage? What is the significance of this?
2. Consider 2:30-36. What light does that shed on what happens here?
3. How do we see God's grace at work in this passage (verse 20)? What does this show us about how God acts, even amongst wickedness?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

WEDNESDAY

Read Psalm 52

1. How does David understand what happens in chapter 22?
2. How is the godly man described? In what does he put his trust and what is the result of this?
3. How are you going in putting all your trust in God? How does this change your day to day life?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

THURSDAY

Read 1 Samuel 23

1. Who is it that David goes to for guidance? What is the result of this?
2. How was David encouraged in this passage?
3. How do you see the providence of God working in this passage even in quite ironic ways?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

FRIDAY

Read Psalm 56 and 57

1. How does David describe the trials by which he is surrounded (21-10-22:2)?
2. How does David express his confidence in God?
3. What is it that David seems more concerned about rather than his current circumstances? Is this something that is true of you in your life?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY

If you missed any studies throughout the week, you can do them on these days.

WEEK 10 GC STUDY: 1 SAMUEL 23

Think of a time when you were in danger. What or who did you turn to for help or safety or comfort?

READ 1 SAMUEL 23

Who is it that David goes to for guidance and help? What was the result of this?

How does encouragement come to David? What kind of encouragement is it?

What tension and ironies can you see in this passage? What do you think the purpose of this is for the readers?

Read Psalm 54. What light does this shed on David and what happens to him in 1 Samuel 23?

Despite the distressing circumstances that David was in, he continually turned to God. What is it about God's character that enables us to do this? What is the potential result of doing this?

How do you respond when times are tough in your life? Is there anything that stops you from turning to God?

Read Hebrews 1:1-4 and 4:14-16. How is it that God guides and comforts us today?

How can you remind yourself of God's goodness and provision in your day to day life? What difference do you think this will make to how you react to different life circumstances?

GC PRAYER POINTS

WEEK 11: 1 SAMUEL 24:1-26:25

TESTING TIMES

PERSONAL BIBLE READING GUIDE

MONDAY

Read 1 Samuel 24:1-22

1. What is it that David did and what was it a symbol of? (see 15:27-28)
2. Why do you think David felt so bad about doing this?
3. What does this show about David's understanding of God working out his plans?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

TUESDAY

Read Psalm 142

1. How does David explain how he feels?
2. Does this honesty and emotion towards God make you feel uncomfortable? Why or why not?
3. What does David request of God and for what reason?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

WEDNESDAY

Read Psalm 18

1. List the different things that David says God has done for him.
2. What words does David use to describe God?
3. Which of these spoke out to you the most today? Spend some time meditating on that and praising God for it

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

THURSDAY

Read 1 Samuel 25:1-44

1. How is Nabal described in this passage? Contrast this with the actions of Abigail.
2. What did David want to do? What does this show us about David's character?
3. How does God provide for David in this passage and stop him from doing wrong?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

FRIDAY

Read 1 Samuel 26

1. What opportunity presents itself to David?
2. What is it that is distressing David the most? What is surprising about this?
3. What is the result of this altercation between Saul and David?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY

If you missed any studies throughout the week, you can do them on these days.

WEEK 11 GC STUDY: 1 SAMUEL 26

Think about the world around you or yourself, what are the basic convictions that motivate people's actions?

READ 1 SAMUEL 26

What reasons does David give for not attacking Saul?

Considering this, how does David understand the providence of God? What is more important to him?

How does David address Saul in this passage? What is surprising about this?

What is David most concerned about in his address to Saul? What does this show about David's priorities?

Why do you think David does not return to Saul? What is the significance of this?

David shows great faith in God in this chapter. He doesn't take circumstances into his own hands, but remains obedient to God.

Think through what we have learnt in 1 Samuel already, what are the reasons behind David's faith? How does David view God?

Do you have a similar view of God? Why or why not?

How does our view of God affect the way that we live?

What is one thing you have been struck by about God, his character, and how he chooses to work? How has this knowledge affected your life lately?

GC PRAYER POINTS

WEEK 12: 1 SAMUEL 27:1-28:25

A WORD FROM THE GRAVE

PERSONAL BIBLE READING GUIDE

MONDAY

Read 1 Samuel 27:1-28:2

1. Why does David move towards the Philistines?
2. What is David asked to do in this passage?
3. Who is David now serving? What is the significance of this?
4. This passage does not mention God, which is very unusual for the book of 1 Samuel. Why do you think this is the case in this story?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

TUESDAY

Read 1 Samuel 28:3-14

1. Why does the writer remind us of Samuel's death?
2. Describe the state of Saul in this passage? What does this drive him to do?
3. Who is it that Saul seeks? What do you think is significant or strange about this? Who should he have been seeking?
4. Who do you seek guidance from when times are hard?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

WEDNESDAY

Read Psalm 13

1. Who does the Psalmist bring his requests to?
2. How is this different to what Saul did in 1 Samuel 28?
3. Do you turn to God when you are distressed, confused and feel helpless? Why or why not?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

THURSDAY

Read 1 Samuel 28:15-25

1. What is the message that Samuel gives to Saul?
2. How does Saul respond to this?
3. What is surprising about the actions of the women? Why do you think she cares for Saul in this way?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

FRIDAY

Read Mark 15:33-39

1. What similarities do you see between 1 Samuel 28 and this account of the death of Jesus?
2. Reflect on the depth of Jesus' suffering for us. Spend some time thanking him for his sacrifice to us. That he was willing to be forsaken by God so that we never would be.

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY

If you missed any studies throughout the week, you can do them on these days.

WEEK 12 GC STUDY: 1 SAMUEL 28

Who do you turn to when you are in distressed, confused or feeling totally helpless?

READ 1 SAMUEL 28

Why does Saul seek God in this passage (see verse 5, 15)? What is the result of God turning away from Saul?

Who does Saul actually look to in his time of distress (verse 11)? What do you think is the significance of this?

What is God's message to Saul through Samuel?

How does Saul respond to this message?

Saul is in great need but has no one to turn to. His great distress is due to him being cut off from God. What does this teach us about people's greatest need?

Read Mark 15:33-39. What did Jesus experience on the cross for us?

What does this mean for our relationship with God and what we can now enjoy?
(see Romans 5:1-11)

How does this affect our lives when times are hard? What hope can we have?

Considering all this, is there anything that you need to change in your life in terms of who you turn to when life is hard?

GC PRAYER POINTS

WEEK 13: 1 SAMUEL 29:1-31:13 HOW THE MIGHTY HAVE FALLEN

PERSONAL BIBLE READING GUIDE

MONDAY

Read 1 Samuel 29:1-11

1. If David went with Achish to fight what was he going to have to do?
2. How is it that David is saved from doing this?
3. What does this teach you about the way that God works?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

TUESDAY

Read 1 Samuel 30:1-10

1. What has happened to David and the people with him?
2. How does David react to this attack? Who does he turn to?
3. Think back over to chapter 28. How is David different to Saul?
4. What do you think it means to 'strengthen yourself in the Lord'?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

WEDNESDAY

Read 1 Samuel 30:11-31

1. How does God provide for David in this passage?
2. What is it that dominates David's thinking and decisions in this passage?
3. How have you seen God's providence at work in your life?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

THURSDAY

Read 1 Samuel 31

1. What happens to Saul in this passage?
2. What is the significance of this (see 15:28 and 28:19)?
3. What kindness do we see in this passage (verse 11-13)?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

FRIDAY

Read 1 Samuel 2:1-10

1. Reflect back over what you have learnt in 1 Samuel. How have you seen the truths of Hannah's prayer throughout the stories?
2. What has been the main thing you learnt about God, his character, and how he chooses to work from 1 Samuel?
3. How does this knowledge about God affect the way you live?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY

If you missed any studies throughout the week, you can do them on these days.

WEEK 13 GC STUDY: 1 SAMUEL 31

Think about a time when you were looking forward to something, but it didn't end up happening. How did you feel?

READ 1 SAMUEL 31

What happens to Saul in this passage?

What is the significance of this (see 15:28 and 28:19)?

Why do you think the men from Jabesh-Gilead did what they did for Saul? (verse 11-13 see also 1 Samuel 11)

Why did the Israelites want Kingship in Israel (8:4-5)? Considering this, how do you think the Israelites were feeling then at this time in history? What were they waiting for?

Read Luke 1:26-33. How is it that God's people are actually going to receive salvation from their enemies?

Considering this, what hope do we have, this side of Christ?

Read 1 Samuel 2:1-10. Reflect back over what you have learnt in 1 Samuel. How have you seen the truths of Hannah's prayer throughout the stories?

The book of 1 Samuel teaches us so much about God, his character and how he chooses to work in this world and bring about his promises and purposes. Think back over what you have learnt about God through 1 Samuel. What have you been especially challenged by?

How does this knowledge about God affect how you live on a daily basis?

GC PRAYER POINTS

WHOLE FAMILY LEARNING (WFL) IDEAS FOR 1 SAMUEL

1. **Read** 'The teeny, weenie...true King' (pages 116-121) from The Jesus Storybook Bible.

Ask the following questions (depending on the age of your kids):

- "What was wrong with Saul being king?"
- "What sort of King do God's people need?"
- "Who is our King today?"
- "How does this affect or change the way we live?"

Pray together about what you have talked about.

2. **Read** 'The young hero and the horrible giant' (pages 122-129) from the Jesus Storybook Bible.

Choose one of the following activities:

- a) **Ask** the following questions:
 - What was the bad situation God's people were in?
 - Who was it that actually saved God's people?
- b) **Comic strip or draw** the story of David and Goliath. While you are doing it chat about the story.
- c) If you are game....**act out** the story of David and Goliath!

Then **pray** together about what you have talked about.

3. Have a look at the video's at the Bible project video on 1 Samuel:
<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/course/1-2-samuel/#overview>

You could **watch** these video's and **ask** what they learnt about the book of 1 Samuel or found helpful and discussion can go from there.

Pray about what you have learnt.

SUMMERLEAS CHRISTIAN CHURCH MISSION PARTNERS

FELLOWSHIP OF OVERSEAS CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY STUDENTS (FOCUS)

FOCUS is a Christian international student society that seeks to share the good news of Jesus with International students at the University of Hobart.



How Summerleas can help:

- Go along to Friday Night FOCUS and/or cook for them.

What: FREE food, fun, friendship and teaching from the Bible.

When: Fridays 6.00-8.30pm (if your GC is bringing food please bring it at 5:30pm)

Where: Sandy Bay Baptist Church, 239 Sandy Bay Road

- Pray:
 - Praise God for this wonderful opportunity to reach the nations.
 - Pray that we will be keen to support this strategic ministry and that it would grow us in our passion for God's great mission!
 - Pray for Luke and the leadership team that they will speak the truth in love.
 - Pray that God will be working in the hearts of those who come along to hear and understand that Jesus is their Lord and Saviour



DEREK AND ANNA BROTHERSON

with Liam, Jasmine and Juliet in South East Asia.

They are working in theological education and cross-cultural worker mobilization, as well as seeking to teach the good news of Jesus to the people they meet in their community.

Prayer Points

- Pray for the family as they face challenges of living in a different culture. Ask for good physical and mental health
- The students at the colleges, and local Christian more generally that they will respond to Jesus' call to reach the lost and to take that news out.
- The millions of unreached Muslims in the country, that they might meet Christians, hear the good news, repent and believe.

Here are some ideas of how you can support them:

- Sign up to their email newsletter: <http://eepurl.com/OxaAD>
- Email them! Let them know you are praying and about what is going on here.
- Send them a care package
- Write them a card
- Skype them
- Pray for them