



my grandma time

...doing simple things together!

Week 15, Day 1 --- 1 Samuel 4-8

Week 15, Day 2 --- 1 Samuel 9-12

Week 15, Day 3 --- 1 Samuel 13-14

Week 15, Day 4 --- 1 Samuel 15-17

Week 15, Day 5 --- Psalm 11 - 1 Samuel 18-20 - Psalm 59

Week 15, Day 6 --- 1 Samuel 21-24

Week 15, Day 7 --- Psalm 7 - Psalm 27 - Psalm 31 - Psalm 34 - Psalm 52

Day 1 --- 1 Samuel 4-8

We desire to worship something we can see, understand, and control. The Philistines understood their god Dagon, so even when they recognized the power of the God of Israel they wanted nothing to do with Him. All they had ever worshipped were idols, so it is easy to understand why they thought Israel's God was in the Ark of the Covenant.

The reaction of the Philistines is understandable. Unfortunately, so is the reaction of the Israelites when the Ark is returned. They had become so used to worshipping other idols that they made an idol of the Ark. The ark was normally hidden behind a curtain so that it wouldn't be seen as an object of worship, an idol. It will be a long time before the Ark is returned to the tabernacle.

Samuel was a great leader in Israel. He was the first leader in a long time to lead the people back to God. Still, he wasn't able to pass on his love for God and justice to his sons. I don't know why Israel thought a king's sons would be better than Samuel's. God gives them warning, but they are so anxious to be like everyone else that they ignore the warning.

- Why did 70 men die for looking at or into the ark?
- What do you learn about God in these chapters?

Day 2 --- 1 Samuel 9-12

Saul begins as a very reluctant king. He is the kind of person who would be the normal choice for king at this time. He is big, strong, and wealthy. God even gives him a great victory to help in pulling the people together. At the same time God's choice is interesting because of the tribe that Saul is from. Remember that Benjamin was the smallest tribe because they had been slaughtered by the rest of Israel for their unwillingness to deal with sin in their tribe.

When Samuel transfers power to Saul he has some very important reminders for the people. The Israelites are never to forget that God rescued them from Egypt. They are also reminded that their prosperity is not dependent on their king, but on their obedience to God. Samuel's parting comment is a promise to continue praying for all Israel. They will need it.

- Have our reasons for picking leaders changed?
- God tells us that the purpose of a king is to restrain the people?
- Why do we need restraining?

- What would we do if we didn't have government?

Day 3 --- 1 Samuel 13-14

This section is an overview of the life and reign of Saul. There is an important lesson in chapter 13. Saul and the Israelite army are in a difficult situation. They know that they need God on their side to win the victory. Saul thinks that he can gain God's help and approval by offering a sacrifice. He knows that Samuel should be the one to do that, but Samuel doesn't come when Saul wants him to. Saul attempts to please God with the sacrifice, but doesn't trust God enough to wait. By doing this he demonstrates that his heart is only concerned with his personal agenda. He has not placed God first and God tells him that he will be the last king from his family.

This passage also explains why the Israelites so desperately needed God's help. They didn't have metal weapons. The only way they would get them is from Philistine soldiers that they killed. Jonathan is a courageous man of faith and he will do many great things during his life. If he has any flaw it is that he does not respect his father.

- What is Jonathan's greatest sin in this section?
- When have you been unwilling to wait for God?

Day 4 --- 1 Samuel 15-17

1 Samuel 15: 22,23 is worth memorizing. It reveals that God desires obedience more than anything else. As you read through the Bible you'll notice that this never changes. Saul rebels against God and David obeys. The timing in this section may seem confusing, but 1 Samuel 17:14,15 explains that David is going back and forth between his home and Saul's camp.

This section presents a dramatic comparison of two powerful men. Saul is a great warrior, but he fears the people more than he fears God. David is a young shepherd who loves and fears God more than anyone or anything. Both achieve great victories, but God's response is very different because of their different attitudes towards Him.

- Why did Saul and the soldiers keep the best of the sheep and the cattle after defeating the Amalekites?
- How is the phrase, "It is easier to ask forgiveness, then to get permission.", similar to Saul's attitude?

Day 5 --- Psalm 11 - 1 Samuel 18-20 - Psalm 59

Saul cannot accept the fact that God is going to take the kingdom away from him. He cannot rejoice in the victories that David is providing for Israel, because he quickly recognizes that David is the future king. The only solution Saul can think of is to kill David. This rivalry between Saul and David will last as long as Saul lives.

David and Jonathan had a very special friendship. It was very typical for a new king to kill all his rivals. David is not going to do that, because of the promise that he makes to Jonathan. The Psalms are an expression of love and emotion. It is a book of poetry or songs. Today's psalms express David's trust in God.

- What are the most important characteristics of God to David?
- What would you like to tell God today?

Day 6 --- 1 Samuel 21-24

David is on the run for his life from Saul. This is probably the best time of David's life. The contrast between Saul and David is dramatic. Saul has innocent people killed while David defends the unwanted. There is no question that David could have killed Saul in the cave. He doesn't do that and even keeps his men from killing Saul for him.

Remember that the ephod contained the Urim and Thummim. We don't know exactly what these were, but we suspect they were two stones that were identical except for their color. When the priest was asked a yes or no question to present to God he would reach in and pull out one of the stones. One stone stood for yes and the other for no. There was no chance involved. God spoke through the stones that were chosen. David always sought God's advice and help while Saul sought the advice and help of selfish men.

- If you were evaluating the armies of Saul and David like you would evaluate a sports team, who had the better army?
- Whose advice do you seek when you are in a difficult situation?

Day 7 --- Psalm 7 - Psalm 27 - Psalm 31 - Psalm 34 - Psalm 52

In addition to being a great warrior, David was also a great poet and musician. He wrote and played songs that he played to calm Saul's spirit. I doubt that any of today's psalms were in the group David played for Saul.

Hebrew poetry is different from our poetry. In Hebrew poetry the key form is the repetition of an idea in slightly different words. In this reading plan the psalms are matched up with the story either by the introduction or by the topic. So, today's psalms were all written during a time when David was on the run for his life. As you read the psalms notice how many times they mention things that will come true in Jesus' life. For example, 'bones will not be broken'.

- What parts of God's character give David confidence during his time of trouble?
- What is the most important thing you have discovered while reading these psalms?