

1 Samuel

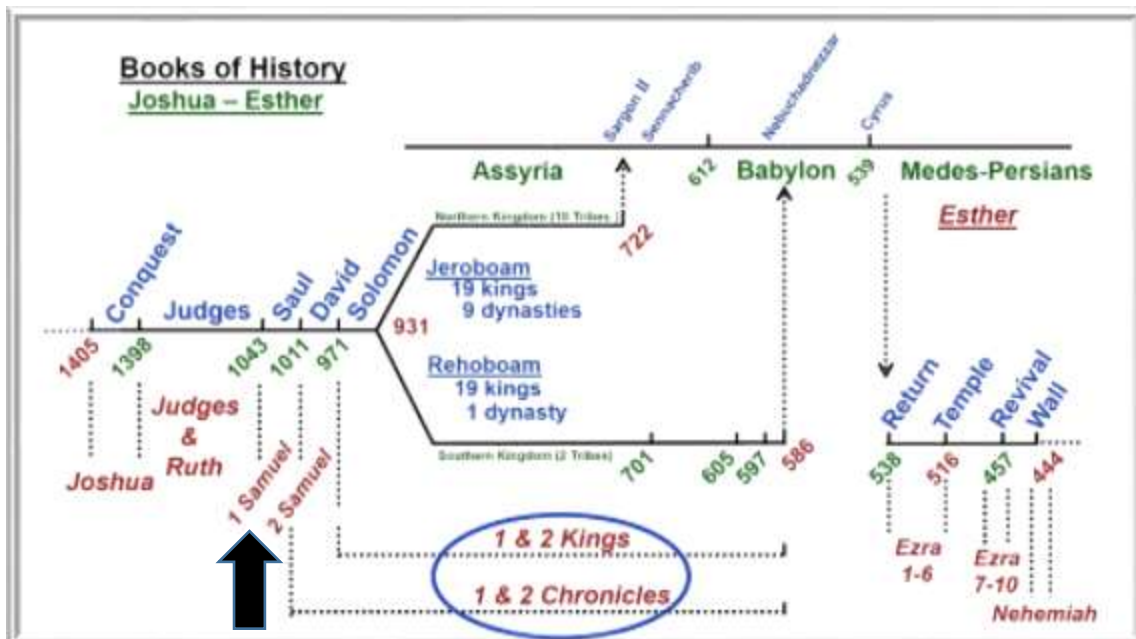
Israel demands a king. This is the history of Israel from Samuel to Saul and the story of David and Goliath among others.

Author: 1 Chron. 29:29 hints at authors from the schools of Samuel, Nathan and Gad.

In 1 Samuel – Jesus is the All in One, He is the Prophet/Priest/King

1 Samuel 16:7 "The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."

TEACHER: 31 CHAPTERS This timeline will help guide you as to where we are as we read the history books.



The books of 1st & 2nd Samuel, along with Kings and Chronicles, were all single books in the original. They were separated in the Septuagint several hundred years before Christ, and have remained that way ever since. Samuel was a Judge and Prophet. You will remember the man who opposed Moses named Korah from the Book of Numbers. He led a resistance against Moses. Korah said why are you our leader? Maybe I should be the leader or someone else? Moses responded "If you die of natural causes, fine, you are correct, God did not call me as your leader, but if something new happens that never before happened, and the ground opens up and swallows you and all that belongs to you and kills you all, then God has called me. And the ground opened up and swallowed the resistance whole. The Samuel that wrote this book, comes from the line of Korah. Whatever has gone wrong in your family tree, whatever generational the curse, you have a God that judges you by your heart. Not someone else's heart. This wonderful prophet is proof. Chapter 1 talks of his birth.

CH. 1

STUDENT:

There was a man named Elkanah, from the tribe of Ephraim, who lived in the town of Ramah in the hill country of Ephraim.

² Elkanah had two wives, Hannah and Peninnah. Peninnah had children, but Hannah did not. ³ Every year Elkanah went from Ramah to worship and offer sacrifices to the LORD Almighty at Shiloh, where Hophni and Phinehas, the two sons of Eli, were priests of the LORD.

⁴ Each time Elkanah offered his sacrifice, he would give one share of the meat to Peninnah and one share to each of her children. ⁵ And even though he loved Hannah very much he would give her only one share, because the LORD had kept her from having children.

⁶ Peninnah, her rival, would torment and humiliate her, because the LORD had kept her childless. ⁷ This went on year after year; whenever they went to the house of the LORD, Peninnah would upset Hannah so much that she would cry and refuse to eat anything.

⁸ Her husband Elkanah would ask her, "Hannah, why are you crying? Why won't you eat? Why are you always so sad? Don't I mean more to you than ten sons?" (GNT)

TEACHER:

One time as they were there, Hannah makes a promise to God.

STUDENT:

"LORD Almighty, look at me, your servant! See my trouble and remember me! Don't forget me! If you give me a son, I promise that I will dedicate him to you for his whole life and that he will never have his hair cut."

¹² Hannah continued to pray to the LORD for a long time, and Eli watched her lips. ¹³ She was praying silently; her lips were moving, but she made no sound. So Eli thought that she was drunk, ¹⁴ and he said to her, "Stop making a drunken show of yourself Stop your drinking and sober up!"

¹⁵ "No, I'm not drunk, sir," she answered. "I haven't been drinking! I am desperate, and I have been praying, pouring out my troubles to the LORD. ¹⁶ Don't think I am a worthless woman. I have been praying like this because I'm so miserable." ¹⁷ "Go in peace," Eli said, "and may the God of Israel give you what you have asked him for." ¹⁸ "May you always think kindly of me," she replied. Then she went away, ate some food, and was no longer sad. (GNT)

TEACHER:

God answers her prayer and she has a baby boy. She names him Samuel. The next Passover she skips the ceremony because Samuel isn't yet weaned. She has purposed to take him the next year, and leave him there for life.

STUDENT:

"As soon as the child is weaned, I will take him to the house of the LORD, where he will stay all his life."

²³ Elkanah answered, "All right, do whatever you think best; stay at home until you have weaned him. And may the LORD make your promise come true." So Hannah stayed at home and nursed her child.

²⁴ After she had weaned him, she took him to Shiloh, taking along a three-year-old bull, a bushel of flour, and a leather bag full of wine. She took Samuel, young as he was, to the house of the LORD at Shiloh. ²⁵ After they had killed the bull, they took the child to Eli. ²⁶ Hannah said to him, "Excuse me, sir. Do you remember me? I am the woman you saw standing here, praying to the LORD. ²⁷ I asked him for this child, and he gave me what I asked for. ²⁸ So I am dedicating him to the LORD. As long as he lives, he will belong to the LORD."

Then they worshiped the LORD there. (GNT)

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TEACHER:

Hannah laid everything she had at the feet of almighty God. The result was pure joy. Listen to the 1st 2 verses of her prayer.

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STUDENT:

“The LORD has filled my heart with joy;
how happy I am because of what he has done!
I laugh at my enemies;
how joyful I am because God has helped me!
² “No one is holy like the LORD;
there is none like him,
no protector like our God. (GNT)

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TEACHER:

The Tabernacle was not the spiritual center you might suspect it to be during this time. Chronologically we are within the generation directly after the end of Judges. Israel is still under the rule of the Philistines that fought with Samson.

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STUDENT:

¹² The sons of Eli were scoundrels. They paid no attention to the LORD ¹³ or to the regulations concerning what the priests could demand from the people. Instead, when someone was offering a sacrifice, the priest's servant would come with a three-pronged fork. While the meat was still cooking, ¹⁴ he would stick the fork into the cooking pot, and whatever the fork brought out belonged to the priest. All the Israelites who came to Shiloh to offer sacrifices were treated like this. (GNT)

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TEACHER:

When the people protested, they were treated with disdain.

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STUDENT:

¹⁶ If the person answered, “Let us do what is right and burn the fat first; then take what you want,” the priest's servant would say, “No! Give it to me now! If you don't, I will have to take it by force!”

¹⁷ This sin of the sons of Eli was extremely serious in the LORD's sight, because they treated the offerings to the LORD with such disrespect. (GNT)

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TEACHER:

Hannah was not forgotten after her gift though. God gave her 3 more sons and 2 daughters. Samuel was a “biological tithe” to the Lord. Samuel remained in service at the tabernacle. The High Priest Eli's sons were evil. But Samuel grew in the Lord even as a young boy with such horrible role models. Everybody loved Samuel.

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STUDENT:

²² Eli was now very old. He kept hearing about everything his sons were doing to the Israelites and that they were even sleeping with the women who worked at the entrance to the Tent of the LORD's presence. ²³ So he said to them, "Why are you doing these things? Everybody tells me about the evil you are doing. ²⁴ Stop it, my sons! This is an awful thing the people of the LORD are talking about! ²⁵ If anyone sins against someone else, God can defend the one who is wrong; but who can defend someone who sins against the LORD?"

But they would not listen to their father, for the LORD had decided to kill them.

²⁶ The boy Samuel continued to grow and to gain favor both with the LORD and with people. (GNT)

TEACHER:

A prophet comes to Eli with a devastating prophesy. God say's "I will honor them who honor Me, and I will treat with contempt those who treat Me with contempt." Here are the judgements edited into a list from verses 31-36.

STUDENT:

Listen, the time is coming when:

1. I will kill all the young men in your family and your clan
 2. No man in your family will live to be old.
 3. You will be troubled and look with envy on all the blessings I will give to the other people of Israel
 4. No one in your family will ever again live to old age.
 5. I will keep one of your descendants alive, and he will serve me as priest. But he will become blind and lose all hope
 6. All your other descendants will die a violent death.
 7. your two sons Hophni and Phinehas both die on the same day
 8. I will choose a priest who will be faithful to me and do everything I want him to. I will give him descendants, who will always serve in the presence of my chosen king.
 9. Any of your descendants who survive will have to go to that priest and ask him for money and food, and beg to be allowed to help the priests, in order to have something to eat."
- (GNT edited into a list by the Author)

TEACHER:

In chapter 3 Eli is old and almost completely blind. Verse 1 say's visions and word's from God were rare. Eli is asleep in his bed late at night and Samuel was asleep in the room by the Ark of the Covenant.

STUDENT:

Samuel was lying down in the house of the LORD, where the ark of God was. ⁴ Then the LORD called Samuel. Samuel answered, "Here I am." ⁵ And he ran to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me."
But Eli said, "I did not call; go back and lie down."
So he went and lay down. ⁶ Again the LORD called, "Samuel!"
And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me." (NIV)



STUDENT:

"My son," Eli said, "I did not call; go back and lie down." ⁷ Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD: The word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. ⁸ A third time the LORD called, "Samuel!" And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me." Then Eli realized that the LORD was calling the boy. ⁹ So Eli told Samuel, "Go and lie down, and if he calls you, say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place. ¹⁰ The LORD came and stood there, calling as at the other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" Then Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening." (NIV)

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TEACHER:

God pronounces judgement on the house of Eli. Samuel lays down, afraid to tell Eli. Eli insists, and Samuel tells him. Eli accepts the word from God, knowing God is right to judge him and his family.

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STUDENT:

¹⁹ The LORD was with Samuel as he grew up, and he let none of Samuel's words fall to the ground. ²⁰ And all Israel from Dan to Beersheba recognized that Samuel was attested as a prophet of the LORD. ²¹ The LORD continued to appear at Shiloh, and there he revealed himself to Samuel through his word. (NIV)

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TEACHER:

"He revealed himself to Samuel through His word." Beautiful sentence. Chapter 4 opens with "And Samuel's word came to all Israel." Before Samuel would take his place as Judge and Spiritual leader of Israel, God had some house cleaning to do. And as in times past, He would use Israel's arch enemies the Philistines. At the opening round of the battle, the Philistines kill 4,000 men. The Israeli army brings the Ark of the Covenant to the battlefield. The Philistines kill 30,000 foot soldiers and capture the Ark. The men report to Eli.

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CH. 4

STUDENT:

¹² That same day a Benjamite ran from the battle line and went to Shiloh with his clothes torn and dust on his head. ¹³ When he arrived, there was Eli sitting on his chair by the side of the road, watching, because his heart feared for the ark of God. When the man entered the town and told what had happened, the whole town sent up a cry.

¹⁴ Eli heard the outcry and asked, "What is the meaning of this uproar?"

The man hurried over to Eli, ¹⁵ who was ninety-eight years old and whose eyes had failed so that he could not see. ¹⁶ He told Eli, "I have just come from the battle line; I fled from it this very day."

Eli asked, "What happened, my son?"

¹⁷ The man who brought the news replied, "Israel fled before the Philistines, and the army has suffered heavy losses. Also your two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, are dead, and the ark of God has been captured."

¹⁸ When he mentioned the ark of God, Eli fell backward off his chair by the side of the gate. His neck was broken and he died, for he was an old man, and he was heavy. He had led Israel forty years. (NIV)

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TEACHER:

The Philistines were a powerful race. Well organized and well equipped. They were well capitalized and well trained. But, this time, they bit off more than they could chew. Wherever they put the Ark it caused great hardship.

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CH. 5

STUDENT: The Temple of Dagon

they carried the ark into Dagon's temple and set it beside Dagon. ³ When the people of Ashdod rose early the next day, there was Dagon, fallen on his face on the ground before the ark of the LORD! They took Dagon and put him back in his place. ⁴ But the following morning when they rose, there was Dagon, fallen on his face on the ground before the ark of the LORD! His head and hands had been broken off and were lying on the threshold; only his body remained. (NIV)

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STUDENT: The Region of Ashdod

⁶ The LORD's hand was heavy on the people of Ashdod and its vicinity; he brought devastation on them and afflicted them with tumors. ⁷ When the people of Ashdod saw what was happening, they said, "The ark of the god of Israel must not stay here with us, because his hand is heavy on us and on Dagon our god." ⁸ So they called together all the rulers of the Philistines and asked them, "What shall we do with the ark of the god of Israel?" (NIV)

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STUDENT: Gath

They answered, "Have the ark of the god of Israel moved to Gath." So they moved the ark of the God of Israel. ⁹ But after they had moved it, the LORD's hand was against that city, throwing it into a great panic. He afflicted the people of the city, both young and old, with an outbreak of tumors. (NIV)

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STUDENT: Ekron

¹⁰ So they sent the ark of God to Ekron. As the ark of God was entering Ekron, the people of Ekron cried out, "They have brought the ark of the god of Israel around to us to kill us and our people." ¹¹ So they called together all the rulers of the Philistines and said, "Send the ark of the god of Israel away; let it go back to its own place, or it will kill us and our people." For death had filled the city with panic; God's hand was very heavy on it. ¹² Those who did not die were afflicted with tumors, and the outcry of the city went up to heaven. (NIV)

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TEACHER:

7 months after the Philistines captured the Ark, they had enough. They ask Israel what to do and Israel tells them to send a gift of 5 gold tumors, and 5 gold rats to symbolize the 5 cities and kings of the philistines. They send the Ark as instructed by Israel on a cart with the gifts in tow, pulled by 2 oxen. The cows walked un-guided to Beth Shemesh.

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CH. 6

STUDENT:

¹⁹ But God struck down some of the inhabitants of Beth Shemesh, putting seventy of them to death because they looked into the ark of the LORD. The people mourned because of the heavy blow the LORD had dealt them. ²⁰ And the people of Beth Shemesh asked, "Who can stand in the presence of the LORD, this holy God? To whom will the ark go up from here?" ²¹ Then they sent messengers to the people of Kiriath Jearim, saying, "The Philistines have returned the ark of the LORD. Come down and take it up to your town." (NIV)

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TEACHER:

The Ark would stay at Kiriath Jearim for 20 years. As a result all the people return to the Lord. Samuel tells them to clean house.

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CH. 7

STUDENT:

"If you are returning to the LORD with all your hearts, then rid yourselves of the foreign gods and the Ashtoreths and commit yourselves to the LORD and serve him only, and he will deliver you out of the hand of the Philistines." ⁴ So the Israelites put away their Baals and Ashtoreths, and served the LORD only. (NIV)

TEACHER:

Samuel calls Israel to Mizpah for confession and prayer. As they were praying, the Philistines approached and Israel instead of facing off, tells Samuel to keep praying. He offers a sacrifice, and keeps praying, and.....

STUDENT:

The LORD thundered with loud thunder against the Philistines and threw them into such a panic that they were routed before the Israelites. ¹¹ The men of Israel rushed out of Mizpah and pursued the Philistines, slaughtering them along the way to a point below Beth Kar. (NIV)

STUDENT:

¹³ So the Philistines were subdued and they stopped invading Israel's territory. Throughout Samuel's lifetime, the hand of the LORD was against the Philistines. ¹⁴ The towns from Ekron to Gath that the Philistines had captured from Israel were restored to Israel, and Israel delivered the neighboring territory from the hands of the Philistines. And there was peace between Israel and the Amorites. (NIV)

TEACHER:

Samuel, acted as prophet and judge for the rest of his life. He appointed his sons as leaders in Israel, but they didn't serve God like he did. Bribes, dishonest gain, perverted justice etc. So Israel started to desire a king.

CH. 8

STUDENT:

"You are old, and your sons do not follow your ways; now appoint a king to lead us, such as all the other nations have."

⁶ But when they said, "Give us a king to lead us," this displeased Samuel; so he prayed to the LORD. ⁷ And the LORD told him: "Listen to all that the people are saying to you; it is not you they have rejected, but they have rejected me as their king. ⁸ As they have done from the day I brought them up out of Egypt until this day, forsaking me and serving other gods, so they are doing to you. ⁹ Now listen to them; but warn them solemnly and let them know what the king who will reign over them will claim as his rights." (NIV)

TEACHER:

Samuel argues to no avail. "Give us a king" "everyone else has a king" "we will be like other nations" Reminds me of when I was a kid, "everyone else has one" Mom would say "if they all jumped off a bridge....." God says. "Listen to them and give them a king" Enter Saul in chapter 9

CH. 9

STUDENT:

There was a Benjamite, a man of standing, whose name was Kish....

Kish had a son named Saul, as handsome a young man as could be found anywhere in Israel, and he was a head taller than anyone else....³ Now the donkeys belonging to Saul's father Kish were lost, and Kish said to his son Saul, "Take one of the servants with you and go and look for the donkeys." ⁴ So he passed through the hill country.....but they did not find them..... (NIV)

STUDENT:

Saul said to the servant who was with him, "Come, let's go back, or my father will stop thinking about the donkeys and start worrying about us."

⁶ But the servant replied, "Look, in this town there is a man of God; he is highly respected, and everything he says comes true. Let's go there now. Perhaps he will tell us what way to take."

¹⁰ "Good," Saul said to his servant. "Come, let's go." So they set out for the town where the man of God was. (NIV)

TEACHER:

The day before God had told Samuel he would meet the man who would be king. When Samuel sees Saul, God whispers "This is the man...." Saul approaches Samuel and asks where is the seer? (at the time prophets were called seers in some places. A "seer" was someone who could see God's plans.)

STUDENT:

"I am the seer," Samuel replied. "Go up ahead of me to the high place, for today you are to eat with me, and in the morning I will send you on your way and will tell you all that is in your heart. ²⁰ As for the donkeys you lost three days ago, do not worry about them; they have been found. And to whom is all the desire of Israel turned, if not to you and your whole family line?" (NIV)

TEACHER:

They share a meal, Saul spends the night with Samuel. They have a long talk before retiring for the night. The next day they walk together to the gates of the city, and Samuel sends the servant on ahead, he has a word from God for Saul.

CH. 10

STUDENT: Samuels word from God for Saul.

Then Samuel took a flask of olive oil and poured it on Saul's head and kissed him, saying, "Has not the LORD anointed you ruler over his inheritance? ² When you leave me today, you will meet two men near Rachel's tomb, at Zelzah on the border of Benjamin. They will say to you, 'The donkeys you set out to look for have been found. And now your father has stopped thinking about them and is worried about you. He is asking, "What shall I do about my son?"'

³ "Then you will go on from there until you reach the great tree of Tabor. Three men going up to worship God at Bethel will meet you there. One will be carrying three young goats, another three loaves of bread, and another a skin of wine. (NIV)

STUDENT:

⁴ They will greet you and offer you two loaves of bread, which you will accept from them.

⁵ "After that you will go to Gibeah of God, where there is a Philistine outpost. As you approach the town, you will meet a procession of prophets coming down from the high place with lyres, timbrels, pipes and harps being played before them, and they will be prophesying. ⁶ The Spirit of the LORD will come powerfully upon you, and you will prophesy with them; and you will be changed into a different person. ⁷ Once these signs are fulfilled, do whatever your hand finds to do, for God is with you.

⁸ "Go down ahead of me to Gilgal. I will surely come down to you to sacrifice burnt offerings and fellowship offerings, but you must wait seven days until I come to you and tell you what you are to do." (NIV)

TEACHER:

Verse 9 says, "God changed Saul's heart." Saul spends the next several days 1st prophesying and then praying in the high place. 7 days later Samuel comes to his city, having called all of Israel there. He throws lots to pick the tribe, clan, and family, all the way down to Saul.

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STUDENT:

....as he stood among the people he was a head taller than any of the others. ²⁴ Samuel said to all the people, "Do you see the man the LORD has chosen? There is no one like him among all the people."

Then the people shouted, "Long live the king!"

²⁵ Samuel explained to the people the rights and duties of kingship. He wrote them down on a scroll and deposited it before the LORD. Then Samuel dismissed the people to go to their own homes. (NIV)

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TEACHER:

The Ammonites went up and besieged Jabesh Gilead, Saul was furious. Verse 6 says the fury came from God. Saul musters 330,000 men and they utterly destroy the Ammonites. At the end of the previous chapter we omitted a sentence for brevity so we could mention it here. Some men complained about Saul being chosen as king. Now after the victory, some who heard it, wanted them put to death.

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CH. 11

STUDENT:

¹³ But Saul said, "No one will be put to death today, for this day the LORD has rescued Israel."

¹⁴ Then Samuel said to the people, "Come, let us go to Gilgal and there renew the kingship." ¹⁵ So all the people went to Gilgal and made Saul king in the presence of the LORD. There they sacrificed fellowship offerings before the LORD, and Saul and all the Israelites held a great celebration. (NIV)

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TEACHER:

Samuel testifies, as he is old and gray, and Israel now has a king to follow. He indicates God will back up his words with a miracle. He prays "I will call on the Lord to send thunder and rain" and BOOM. Thunder and rain. The people thought they were going to die. Samuel speaks...

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CH. 12

STUDENT:

²⁰ "Do not be afraid," Samuel replied. "You have done all this evil; yet do not turn away from the LORD, but serve the LORD with all your heart. ²¹ Do not turn away after useless idols. They can do you no good, nor can they rescue you, because they are useless. ²² For the sake of his great name the LORD will not reject his people, because the LORD was pleased to make you his own. ²³ As for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD by failing to pray for you. And I will teach you the way that is good and right. ²⁴ But be sure to fear the LORD and serve him faithfully with all your heart; consider what great things he has done for you. ²⁵ Yet if you persist in doing evil, both you and your king will perish." (NIV)

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TEACHER:

Saul was 30 years old when he became king. His rule would last 42 years. Saul kept a standing force around him of 2,000 men, and another 1,000 men around and under the command of Jonathan his son. Jonathan picks a fight with a philistine outpost, and all the philistines unite. Then under Saul, all of Israel unites. Israel is outgunned and they know it. Saul's soldiers start to scatter and Saul offers a burnt offering. The separation of church and state has been violated. This mistake would cost Saul's family, and his legacy.

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CH. 13

STUDENT:

¹³ “You have done a foolish thing,” Samuel said. “You have not kept the command the LORD your God gave you; if you had, he would have established your kingdom over Israel for all time. ¹⁴ But now your kingdom will not endure; the LORD has sought out a man after his own heart and appointed him ruler of his people, because you have not kept the LORD’s command.” (NIV)

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TEACHER:

The philistine rulers would not allow any blacksmiths in Israel. Because of this, no one had any weapons in Israel, only Saul and Jonathan had some. Jonathan gets anxious for a fight, and sneaks by the philistine outpost, and says that if they call for me to come over, it is a sign that God will deliver them into my hand, if not, I will stay on my land. When he approaches, they call.

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STUDENT:

¹² The men of the outpost shouted to Jonathan and his armor-bearer, “Come up to us and we’ll teach you a lesson.”

So Jonathan said to his armor-bearer, “Climb up after me; the LORD has given them into the hand of Israel.”

¹³ Jonathan climbed up, using his hands and feet, with his armor-bearer right behind him. The Philistines fell before Jonathan, and his armor-bearer followed and killed behind him. ¹⁴ In that first attack Jonathan and his armor-bearer killed some twenty men in an area of about half an acre. (NIV)

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TEACHER:

The bible says it was a “panic sent by God.” Saul had said “cursed is anyone who eats until sundown.” Jonathan didn’t hear it, and ate some of the wild honey that was abundant there, and a comrade told him what Saul had said. Jonathan disagreed with what his father had said, and was vocal about it. Jonathan was condemned to die, but the men defended him because of the victory. He was spared, but Israel stopped the battle.

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STUDENT:

⁵² All the days of Saul there was bitter war with the Philistines, and whenever Saul saw a mighty or brave man, he took him into his service. (NIV)

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TEACHER:

In chapter 15 Samuel tells Saul God will use him to judge the Amalekites for waylaying Israel after the Exodus. They were to destroy every last one of them. Infants to old men. All cattle as well. Saul wins the war with the Amalekites but keeps the king as a prisoner, and the best of the livestock they keep.

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STUDENT:

¹⁰ Then the word of the LORD came to Samuel: ¹¹ “I regret that I have made Saul king, because he has turned away from me and has not carried out my instructions.” Samuel was angry, and he cried out to the LORD all that night.

¹² Early in the morning Samuel got up and went to meet Saul, but he was told, “Saul has gone to Carmel. There he has set up a monument in his own honor and has turned and gone on down to Gilgal.” (NIV)

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TEACHER:

Samuel confronts Saul. Saul claims he followed God’s orders, and Samuel replies, “what then is this bleating in my ears?” Saul claims he saved the best for sacrifices to God.

CH. 14

CH. 15

CH. 15

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STUDENT:

²² But Samuel replied:

“Does the LORD delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the LORD?

To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams.

²³ For rebellion is like the sin of divination, and arrogance like the evil of idolatry.

Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, he has rejected you as king.”

²⁴ Then Saul said to Samuel, “I have sinned. I violated the LORD’s command and your instructions. I was afraid of the men and so I gave in to them. ²⁵ Now I beg you, forgive my sin and come back with me, so that I may worship the LORD.”

²⁶ But Samuel said to him, “I will not go back with you. You have rejected the word of the LORD, and the LORD has rejected you as king over Israel!” (NIV)

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TEACHER:

Samuel kills Agag the captured king, Saul makes one last plea.

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STUDENT:

²⁷ As Samuel turned to leave, Saul caught hold of the hem of his robe, and it tore. ²⁸ Samuel said to him, “The LORD has torn the kingdom of Israel from you today and has given it to one of your neighbors—to one better than you. ²⁹ He who is the Glory of Israel does not lie or change his mind; for he is not a human being, that he should change his mind.” (NIV)

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TEACHER:

This would be the last time Saul and Samuel were together. Samuel is broken hearted over Saul’s failures, and the Lord calls him on it. “How long will you mourn for Saul, since I have rejected him as king....?” God sends Samuel to the house of Jesse in Bethlehem. He has Jesse line up his sons.

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STUDENT:

⁶ When they arrived, Samuel saw Eliab and thought, “Surely the LORD’s anointed stands here before the LORD.”

⁷ But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him.

The LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.” ⁸ Then Jesse called Abinadab and had him pass in front of Samuel. But Samuel said, “The LORD has not chosen this one either.” ⁹ Jesse then had Shammah pass by, but Samuel said, “Nor has the LORD chosen this one.” ¹⁰ Jesse had seven of his sons pass before Samuel, but Samuel said to him, “The LORD has not chosen these.” ¹¹ So he asked Jesse, “Are these all the sons you have?”

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STUDENT:

“There is still the youngest,” Jesse answered. “He is tending the sheep.”

Samuel said, “Send for him; we will not sit down until he arrives.”

¹² So he sent for him and had him brought in. He was glowing with health and had a fine appearance and handsome features.

Then the LORD said, “Rise and anoint him; this is the one.”

¹³ So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the LORD came powerfully upon David. Samuel then went to Ramah. (NIV)

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TEACHER:

The Spirit leaves Saul, and he is sorely vexed with an evil spirit. The Spirit lays powerfully on David, and everyone knows it. Saul asks if anyone knows someone who can play soothing music to him, and one of his men knew that David was perfect for the job.

STUDENT:

"I have seen a son of Jesse of Bethlehem who knows how to play the lyre. He is a brave man and a warrior. He speaks well and is a fine-looking man. And the LORD is with him."

¹⁹ Then Saul sent messengers to Jesse and said, "Send me your son David, who is with the sheep." ²⁰ So Jesse took a donkey loaded with bread, a skin of wine and a young goat and sent them with his son David to Saul.

²¹ David came to Saul and entered his service. Saul liked him very much, and David became one of his armor-bearers. ²² Then Saul sent word to Jesse, saying, "Allow David to remain in my service, for I am pleased with him."

²³ Whenever the spirit from God came on Saul, David would take up his lyre and play. Then relief would come to Saul; he would feel better, and the evil spirit would leave him. (NIV)

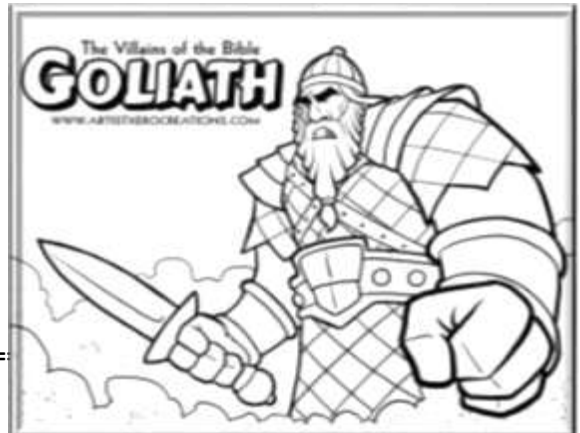
TEACHER:

Another battle. Arguably the most famous single battle in world history. Between a boy and a giant. Picture in your mind, 2 hills. 1 army on 1 hill, the enemy army on the other. Between them a valley.

STUDENT:

⁴ A man named Goliath, from the city of Gath, came out from the Philistine camp to challenge the Israelites. He was over nine feet tall ⁵ and wore bronze armor that weighed about 125 pounds and a bronze helmet. ⁶ His legs were also protected by bronze armor, and he carried a bronze javelin slung over his shoulder. ⁷ His spear was as thick as the bar on a weaver's loom, and its iron head weighed about fifteen pounds.

(GNT)



TEACHER:

Goliath must have been a sight to see.

STUDENT:

A soldier walked in front of him carrying his shield. ⁸ Goliath stood and shouted at the Israelites, "What are you doing there, lined up for battle? I am a Philistine, you slaves of Saul! Choose one of your men to fight me. ⁹ If he wins and kills me, we will be your slaves; but if I win and kill him, you will be our slaves. ¹⁰ Here and now I challenge the Israelite army. I dare you to pick someone to fight me!" ¹¹ When Saul and his men heard this, they were terrified. (GNT)

TEACHER:

David's father was very old. Jesse had 8 sons all together, and 3 of them were soldiers in Saul's army. David was a member of Saul's household because of his lyre playing, but would go back and forth between Saul's house and his father's house. Goliath challenged Israel every morning and every evening for 40 days. Jesse sends David to see how his older brothers are doing, with some food as a gift for the commander. While David is visiting his

brothers, Goliath comes forward. Saul had promised his daughter in marriage, a large reward, and no taxes for the father's family for any man who could defeat Goliath.

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STUDENT:

David asked the men who were near him, "What will the man get who kills this Philistine and frees Israel from this disgrace? After all, who is this heathen Philistine to defy the army of the living God?" ²⁷ They told him what would be done for the man who killed Goliath. (GNT)

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TEACHER:

David's brothers get upset with him, and Saul hears about what David is saying. Saul calls for David.

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STUDENT:

³¹ Some men heard what David had said, and they told Saul, who sent for him. ³² David said to Saul, "Your Majesty, no one should be afraid of this Philistine! I will go and fight him."

³³ "No," answered Saul. "How could you fight him? You're just a boy, and he has been a soldier all his life!"

³⁴ "Your Majesty," David said, "I take care of my father's sheep. Any time a lion or a bear carries off a lamb, ³⁵ I go after it, attack it, and rescue the lamb. And if the lion or bear turns on me, I grab it by the throat and beat it to death. ³⁶ I have killed lions and bears, and I will do the same to this heathen Philistine, who has defied the army of the living God. ³⁷ The LORD has saved me from lions and bears; he will save me from this Philistine." (GNT)

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TEACHER:

Saul agrees and offers David his own armor. David tries on the armor, but it doesn't suit him.

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STUDENT:

David strapped Saul's sword over the armor and tried to walk, but he couldn't, because he wasn't used to wearing them. "I can't fight with all this," he said to Saul. "I'm not used to it." So he took it all off. ⁴⁰ He took his shepherd's stick and then picked up five smooth stones from the stream and put them in his bag. With his sling ready, he went out to meet Goliath. (GNT)

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STUDENT:

⁴¹ The Philistine started walking toward David, with his shield bearer walking in front of him. He kept coming closer, ⁴² and when he got a good look at David, he was filled with scorn for him because he was just a nice, good-looking boy. ⁴³ He said to David, "What's that stick for? Do you think I'm a dog?" And he called down curses from his god on David. ⁴⁴ "Come on," he challenged David, "and I will give your body to the birds and animals to eat." (GNT)

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STUDENT:

⁴⁵ David answered, "You are coming against me with sword, spear, and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the LORD Almighty, the God of the Israelite armies, which you have defied. ⁴⁶ This very day the LORD will put you in my power; I will defeat you and cut off your head. And I will give the bodies of the Philistine soldiers to the birds and animals to eat. Then the whole world will know that Israel has a God, ⁴⁷ and everyone here will see that the LORD does not need swords or spears to save his people. He is victorious in battle, and he will put all of you in our power." (GNT)

STUDENT:

⁴⁸ Goliath started walking toward David again, and David ran quickly toward the Philistine battle line to fight him. ⁴⁹ He reached into his bag and took out a stone, which he slung at Goliath. It hit him on the forehead and broke his skull, and Goliath fell face downward on the ground. ⁵⁰ And so, without a sword, David defeated and killed Goliath with a sling and a stone! ⁵¹ He ran to him, stood over him, took Goliath's sword out of its sheath, and cut off his head and killed him. (GNT)



TEACHER:

The philistines head for the hills, and Israel chases them and kill many. Saul tells Abner to get him. When David came in to Saul, he was still holding Goliath's head. After this scene, Jonathan, Saul's son, loved and admired David greatly. From then on Saul kept David close to him. David became an officer and everywhere Saul sent him, he was victorious. The whole army loved and respected David. Then Saul gets jealous.

STUDENT:

⁶ As David was returning after killing Goliath and as the soldiers were coming back home, women from every town in Israel came out to meet King Saul. They were singing joyful songs, dancing, and playing tambourines and lyres. ⁷ In their celebration the women sang, "Saul has killed thousands, but David tens of thousands." ⁸ Saul did not like this, and he became very angry. He said, "For David they claim tens of thousands, but only thousands for me. They will be making him king next!" ⁹ And so he was jealous and suspicious of David from that day on. (GNT)

TEACHER:

Saul was weird. Sorry. He tries to get David to marry his daughter, but David says no. So she marries another. Micah, his younger daughter is in love with David, so he tries again. He gets his best officials to talk David into marrying Micah. Saul was really just trying to get the philistines to kill David in battle so he wouldn't have to kill David himself, on account of his jealousy. The officials tell him of a proposal from Saul.

STUDENT:

"All the king wants from you as payment for the bride are the foreskins of a hundred dead Philistines, as revenge on his enemies." (This was how Saul planned to have David killed by the Philistines.) ²⁶ Saul's officials reported to David what Saul had said, and David was delighted with the thought of becoming the king's son-in-law. Before the day set for the wedding, ²⁷ David and his men went and killed two hundred Philistines. He took their foreskins to the king and counted them all out to him, so that he might become his son-in-law. So Saul had to give his daughter Michal in marriage to David. (GNT)

TEACHER:

Told you Saul was weird. Who thinks that stuff up? That is how a mind works when God exits the building. Every time David fought the philistines, Israel won. David became very famous. Saul became very jealous as a result. Jonathan warns David and intercedes with his father Saul. "Blessed are the peacemakers." The fix is temporary.

CH. 19

STUDENT:

⁸ War with the Philistines broke out again. David attacked them and defeated them so thoroughly that they fled. ⁹ One day an evil spirit from the LORD took control of Saul. He was sitting in his house with his spear in his hand, and David was there, playing his harp. ¹⁰ Saul tried to pin David to the wall with his spear, but David dodged, and the spear stuck in the wall. David ran away and escaped. (GNT)

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TEACHER:

Saul makes several attempts on David's life. In chapters 18-19 alone, at least 12 times. 1 stands out.

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STUDENT:

¹⁸ David escaped and went to Samuel in Ramah and told him everything that Saul had done to him. Then he and Samuel went to Naioth and stayed there. ¹⁹ Saul was told that David was in Naioth in Ramah, ²⁰ so he sent some men to arrest him. They saw the group of prophets dancing and shouting, with Samuel as their leader. Then the spirit of God took control of Saul's men, and they also began to dance and shout. When Saul heard of this, he sent more messengers, and they also began to dance and shout. He sent messengers the third time, and the same thing happened to them. Then he himself started out to Ramah. When he came to the large well in Secu, he asked where Samuel and David were and was told that they were at Naioth. As he was going there, the spirit of God took control of him also, and he danced and shouted all the way to Naioth. He took off his clothes and danced and shouted in Samuel's presence, and lay naked all that day and all that night. (This is how the saying originated, "Has even Saul become a prophet?") (GNT)

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TEACHER:

David visits Jonathan secretly to find out what he has done to make Saul so angry. They discuss a way for Jonathan to learn Saul's heart. If Saul is mad that David isn't at the new moon feast, Saul wants to kill him. If he isn't mad, then Saul will not continue to try to kill David. (You should know the new moon feast is the Jewish Rosh Hodesh, marking the new moon and the new month, as Israel was on a lunar calendar. See Numbers 28:11) At Rosh Hodesh Saul notices David is absent and asks Jonathan about it the next day. He became so furious that Jonathan gave David leave, he tried to kill Jonathan. Jonathan meets David where he is hiding.

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CH. 20

STUDENT:

David got up from behind the pile of stones, fell on his knees and bowed with his face to the ground three times. Both he and Jonathan were crying as they kissed each other; David's grief was even greater than Jonathan's. ⁴² Then Jonathan said to David, "God be with you. The LORD will make sure that you and I, and your descendants and mine, will forever keep the sacred promise we have made to each other." Then David left, and Jonathan went back to the town. (GNT)

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TEACHER:

In chapter 21 David eats the shew bread. Jesus validates this Himself in Matthew 12:4.

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CH. 21

STUDENT:

David went to the priest Ahimelech in Nob. Ahimelech came out trembling to meet him and asked, "Why did you come here all by yourself?" ² "I am here on the king's business," David answered. "He told me not to let anyone know what he sent me to do. As for my men, I have told them to meet me at a certain place. ³ Now, then, what supplies do you have? Give me five loaves of bread or anything else you have." (GNT)

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STUDENT:

⁴The priest said, "I don't have any ordinary bread, only sacred bread; you can have it if your men haven't had sexual relations recently." ⁵"Of course they haven't," answered David. "My men always keep themselves ritually pure even when we go out on an ordinary mission; how much more this time when we are on a special mission!"

⁶So the priest gave David the sacred bread, because the only bread he had was the loaves offered to God, which had been removed from the sacred table and replaced by fresh bread. (GNT)

TEACHER:

David continues to run from Saul, even going to Philistine cities. As he ran, many dissatisfied men joined him. About 400 in all. David goes to Judah. The priest that gave David the Shew Bread is questioned by Saul, and Saul has him and his family all killed. 85 priests died that day.

CH. 22

STUDENT:

On that day he killed eighty-five priests who were qualified to carry the ephod. ¹⁹Saul also had all the other inhabitants of Nob, the city of priests, put to death: men and women, children and babies, cattle, donkeys, and sheep—they were all killed. ²⁰But Abiathar, one of Ahimelech's sons, escaped, and went and joined David. ²¹He told him how Saul had slaughtered the priests of the LORD. ²²David said to him, "When I saw Doeg there that day, I knew that he would be sure to tell Saul. So I am responsible for the death of all your relatives. ²³Stay with me and don't be afraid. Saul wants to kill both you and me, but you will be safe with me." (GNT)

TEACHER:

God puts it in David's heart to attack the philistines who were raiding a Jewish town near him. David saves the town, and collects some provisions from the spoils. But God tells him if Saul comes, they will turn him in, so he runs again. Saul doesn't pursue. David's camp now numbers 600 men. Jonathan comes to meet him.

CH. 23

STUDENT:

"Don't be afraid. My father Saul won't be able to harm you. He knows very well that you are the one who will be the king of Israel and that I will be next in rank to you." ¹⁸The two of them made a sacred promise of friendship to each other. David stayed at Horesh, and Jonathan went home. (GNT)

TEACHER:

Saul continues to plot and chase David, but is frustrated at every turn. In chapter 24 Saul is chasing David and goes into a cave to rest. It is the very cave David and his men were in! Saul lays down and David cuts off a piece of his robe. After Saul wakes, he heads out and David confronts him.

CH. 24

STUDENT:

Saul got up, left the cave, and started away. ⁸Then David went out after him and called to him, "Your Majesty!" Saul turned around, and David bowed down to the ground in respect ⁹and said, "Why do you listen to people who say that I am trying to harm you? ¹⁰You can see for yourself that just now in the cave the LORD put you in my power. Some of my men told me to kill you, but I felt sorry for you and said that I would not harm you in the least, because you are the one whom the LORD chose to be king. ¹¹Look, my father, look at the piece of your robe I am holding! I could have killed you, but instead I only cut this off. This should convince you that I have no thought of rebelling against you or of harming you. You are hunting me down to kill me, even though I have not done you any wrong. ¹²May the LORD judge which one of us is wrong! (GNT)

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TEACHER:

Saul repents.

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STUDENT:

Saul said, "Is that really you, David my son?" And he started crying. ¹⁷ Then he said to David, "You are right, and I am wrong. You have been so good to me, while I have done such wrong to you! ¹⁸ Today you have shown how good you are to me, because you did not kill me, even though the LORD put me in your power. ¹⁹ How often does someone catch an enemy and then let him get away unharmed? The LORD bless you for what you have done to me today! ²⁰ Now I am sure that you will be king of Israel and that the kingdom will continue under your rule. ²¹ But promise me in the LORD's name that you will spare my descendants, so that my name and my family's name will not be completely forgotten." ²² David promised that he would. (GNT)

=====

TEACHER:

They parted ways. Chapter 25 starts with the passing away of Samuel. Then the story of Nabal, one of Caleb's descendants. He was very rich. Caleb was 1 of the good spies Moses sent into Canaan after the Exodus. David comes upon some of his flocks and shepherds and sends men to ask for provisions of Nabal. Nabal refused. David tells his men to "lock and load" and heads to Nabal with 400 of the men. The servants who worked for Nabal told Abigail his wife that David protected them and helped them, and Nabal insulted him. Abigail springs into action.

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STUDENT:

CH. 25

¹⁸ Abigail quickly gathered two hundred loaves of bread, two leather bags full of wine, five roasted sheep, two bushels of roasted grain, a hundred bunches of raisins, and two hundred cakes of dried figs, and loaded them on donkeys. ¹⁹ Then she said to the servants, "You go on ahead and I will follow you." But she said nothing to her husband. ²⁰ She was riding her donkey around a bend on a hillside when suddenly she met David and his men coming toward her. ²¹ David had been thinking, "Why did I ever protect that fellow's property out here in the wilderness? Not a thing that belonged to him was stolen, and this is how he pays me back for the help I gave him! ²² May God strike me dead if I don't kill every last one of those men before morning!"

²³ When Abigail saw David, she quickly dismounted and threw herself on the ground ²⁴ at David's feet, and said to him, "Please, sir, listen to me! Let me take the blame. ²⁵ Please, don't pay any attention to Nabal, that good-for-nothing! He is exactly what his name means—a fool! (GNT)

=====

TEACHER:

Nabal is back home getting drunk, so she doesn't tell him what she did until the next day. He was so mad he had a stroke and died. Not to waste an opportunity, David marries Abigail. In chapter 26 Saul is up to his old tricks chasing David. Camped near David's men, Saul is asleep and David sneaks in and finds himself standing over a sleeping King Saul. The men want to kill Saul, but David forbids it. Instead he takes Saul's spear, and water jug. David goes back to his camp and starts yelling.

=====

CH. 26

STUDENT:

David answered, "Abner, aren't you the greatest man in Israel? So why aren't you protecting your master, the king? Just now someone entered the camp to kill your master. ¹⁶You failed in your duty, Abner! I swear by the living LORD that all of you deserve to die, because you have not protected your master, whom the LORD made king. Look! Where is the king's spear? Where is the water jar that was right by his head?" ¹⁷Saul recognized David's voice and asked, "David, is that you, my son?" "Yes, your Majesty," David answered. ¹⁸And he added, "Why, sir, are you still pursuing me, your servant? What have I done? What crime have I committed? (GNT)

=====

TEACHER:

They part ways again. David is fed up with running, so he flees to the city of Gath, Goliath's hometown. David had both Abigail and Abinoam, his wives with him. Micah, Saul's daughter was given to someone else after David left the castle. David stays in Gath for 16 months. He would raid philistine villages and kill everyone so there would be no witnesses.

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CH. 27

STUDENT:

David would kill everyone, men and women, so that no one could go back to Gath and report what he and his men had really done. This is what David did the whole time he lived in Philistia. ¹²But Achish trusted David and said to himself, "He is hated so much by his own people the Israelites that he will have to serve me all his life." (GNT)

=====

TEACHER:

Sometime later Philistia gathers to war with Israel. Saul seeks God's advice but gets none. What does he do? He goes to a witch. If you don't get a word from God, and scripture isn't clear, don't do anything. Wait.

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"It is wrong to make decisions based on what you think is right.

Only a fool does that.

***Make decisions on what you know is right."* DH**

=====

TEACHER:

Saul should have waited for God's word, or remembered what God told him in the past. He never would have been in this position in the 1st place had he not chased David out of jealousy and rage. The mistake he made when he 1st became king by saving the best livestock from the Amalekites for a sacrifice because he thought it was a good thing, is here again repeated by seeking a witch when God didn't answer him. Saul asks the witch to call Samuel, and Samuel comes.

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CH. 28

STUDENT:

Samuel said, "Why do you call me when the LORD has abandoned you and become your enemy? ¹⁷The LORD has done to you what he told you through me: he has taken the kingdom away from you and given it to David instead. ¹⁸You disobeyed the LORD's command and did not completely destroy the Amalekites and all they had. That is why the LORD is doing this to you now. ¹⁹He will give you and Israel over to the Philistines. Tomorrow you and your sons will join me, and the LORD will also give the army of Israel over to the Philistines." (GNT)

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TEACHER:

Samuel tells Saul that he and his sons will die tomorrow. The next day, the philistine army is preparing ranks for the battle with Saul, and David is among them. The other kings didn't trust David, so they told King Achish to send him home. Listen to his testimony.

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CH. 29

STUDENT:

David answered, "What have I done wrong, sir? If, as you say, you haven't found any fault in me since the day I started serving you, why shouldn't I go with you, my master and king, and fight your enemies?"

⁹ "I agree," Achish replied. "I consider you as loyal as an angel of God. (GNT)

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TEACHER:

When they arrived home in Ziklag, everyone had been captured by the Amalekites. The town was burned to the ground, looted, and everyone enslaved. Even David's 2 wives. God tells David to go after them. David obeys.

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CH. 30

STUDENT:

The raiders were scattered all over the place, eating, drinking, and celebrating because of the enormous amount of loot they had captured from Philistia and Judah. ¹⁷ At dawn the next day David attacked them and fought until evening. Except for four hundred young men who mounted camels and got away, none of them escaped. ¹⁸ David rescued everyone and everything the Amalekites had taken, including his two wives; ¹⁹ nothing at all was missing. David got back all his men's sons and daughters, and all the loot the Amalekites had taken. ²⁰ He also recovered all the flocks and herds; his men drove all the livestock in front of them and said, "This belongs to David!" (GNT)

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TEACHER:

The last chapter leads with Saul's death along with his 3 sons in battle.

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CH. 31

STUDENT:

the Philistines caught up with them and killed three of Saul's sons, Jonathan, Abinadab, and Malchishua. ³ The fighting was heavy around Saul, and he himself was hit by enemy arrows and badly wounded. ⁴ He said to the young man carrying his weapons, "Draw your sword and kill me, so that these godless Philistines won't gloat over me and kill me." But the young man was too terrified to do it. So Saul took his own sword and threw himself on it. ⁵ The young man saw that Saul was dead, so he too threw himself on his own sword and died with Saul. ⁶ And that is how Saul, his three sons, and the young man died; all of Saul's men died that day. (GNT)

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NEXT LESSON 2 SAMUEL

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To obey is better than sacrifice. " 1 Samuel 15:22

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



Breaking the news to Eli of his sons deaths, and the Ark stolen.. could have gone better. **1 Sam 4:14-18**

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



Dagon the 'FISH' god fell and broke in the night... AND all the Phillistine horses and all the Phillistine men couldn't put humpty dumpty Dagon together again. **1 Sam 5:1-5**

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



After a few sleepy chats with Eli.. Samuel realized God was speaking to him. **1 Sam 3**

