

- 1 Be concise.** Please share your thoughts and answers, but be considerate so that others will have time to share their answers also. Be charitable and kind. Be willing to share with the group, but do not try to dominate the conversation. Use the time after the class to find help with any personal issues or problems you may be confronting in your life.

“Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires.”

(James 1:19–20)

- 2 Be thoughtful with your answer.** Consider your words. Do not simply regurgitate what you have always heard. We have the tendency to speak in “Christianese” — words that only people who grew up on the pews would understand. Think about how your words will be heard by others. Will they understand what you are saying? Is what you are about to say going to be useful for the building up of the faith of others? Or will your words be confusing, cause hurt, or worse, damage someone’s faith? Speak without harshness or anger, but with kindness and humility.

“Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.”

(Ephesians 4:29)

- 3 Rely on the scriptures for truth.** It is easy to rely upon conventional, worldly wisdom as truth. Bible study is about seeking God’s answers for our lives, not dispensing the advice of the world. We must consider that our natural answers may be the wrong answers if they are not founded on God’s word.

“For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.”

(1 Corinthians 1:25)

Have you ever read a chapter in the Bible but then could not remember what you had read? Have you ever fallen asleep while reading? An hour after you read, do you retain what you have read? These problems destroy enjoyment in Bible reading and therefore we must use a method of Bible reading that will solve this problem. To read properly we must be keen observers. We must see words and phrases that stand out while at the same time collecting the whole thought. Remember, the important thing is not how many times you have gone through the Bible, but how many times the Bible has gone through you!

Observe // what do I see?

Every time we study the Bible, the first thing to ask is, "What do I see?" This is the crucial skill of observation, which lays the groundwork for your study. The text is given to you so that you will underline, circle, box, and highlight important words as you read. As you read look for comparisons, contrasts, purposes, results, causes, explanations, conclusions, and conditions. Ask yourself who, what, where, when, why, and how as you read. Keep asking these questions as you read to prevent a lazy brain while reading. Look for themes and main ideas from the passage.

Interpret // what does it mean?

Our observation of a passage should stir interesting yet challenging questions, leading us to the second stage of our Bible study: interpretation. Reread through the passage after your observation notations have been made looking to answer what the passage means. Record your explanations of the text in the workbook.

Apply // how does this affect me?

Our Bible study is not over until we apply what we have learned to our everyday lives. Write down lessons that you have learned for you own life especially things that you see you need to change. Only you know your heart and what is happening in your life to be able to apply God's word directly to you. Bible study is fruitless if we do not take the information we have learned and directly change our lives. Write down how the passage affects you. The transformation section in the workbook will help you in this effort.

Share // how can I share my findings with us?

Now we want to share our findings with others. We want to share our observations, interpretations, and applications with others in the Bible class. This is your opportunity to hear what others have found in their studies and for you to share what you found. By doing this we are able to build one another up and grow up in the unity of the faith (Ephesians 4:12-13). If we do not share what we have found then we will be unable to grow together as the family of Christ.

This is a booklet to aid you in your personal study of this book. Read through the text first, discovering God's precious truths for yourself. Write down the main point of each section of text in the space provided. Use the margins on each side of the text and the backside of the page to make notations of the truths you discover and passages you do not understand. When you believe you have seen all there is in text, read and answer the questions in the booklet pertaining to that section of text. The questions are not an exhaustive list of things to look for in the text. The questions are to help you consider the points that the author was trying to convey to his audience. Be prepared to share your findings in class.

1 & 2 Samuel were originally one book that was divided when the Septuagint was translated. The book of 1 Samuel is set in the days of the judges. Eli and Samuel are described as judging Israel in 1 Samuel, which means the days of the judges is winding down.

What horrifying event happened in Judges 19-21?

Turn to Judges 21:25 and record the spiritual condition of Israel at this point:

Judges 21:25 is also indicating what is needed to stop people from doing what is right in their own eyes. Notice the text says, "There was no king in Israel." This is important because obviously there is no king in Israel. Israel has never had a king. It is the days of the judges. But the picture is that Israel will need God to send his anointed to stop people from following what is right in their own eyes and return to following the ways of the Lord.

The book is not a mere retelling of history. God has chosen to record events that offer important typology. The book is going to show the means by which God will save Israel. The three main people in the book are Samuel, Saul, and David. As you study each of them, be looking for how they represent how God will establish his kingdom and save the world when God's anointed, Jesus, comes.

OUTLINING 1 SAMUEL:

_____ (1 Samuel 1-8)

_____ (1 Samuel 9-15)

_____ (1 Samuel 16-31)

Main point: _____

Make additional notes at left and below:

- 1 What tribe is Elkanah from (cf. 1 Chronicles 6:33-38)? How do we reconcile this with the first verse of 1 Samuel?
- 2 Write down the notable barren women of scripture. Who is Hannah being associated with?
- 3 What is Peninnah doing to Hannah? What other women in scriptures had similar experiences? Who is Hannah being associated with?
- 4 What was the cause of Hannah's barrenness? Explain.
- 5 Describe Hannah's prayer (1:10-16). What is unique about how she is praying?
- 6 What do we learn about Eli? Who is he? How spiritually aware is he?
- 7 What changes Hannah's disposition (1:18)? What can we learn from this?

TRANSFORMATION:

How does this relationship change your relationship with God? What did you learn about him? What will you do differently in your life?

1 SAMUEL

1 19-2:11

Main point: _____

Make additional notes at left and below:

- 1 Does Hannah do as she vowed? What is she giving up? What is her perspective about it? Explain.

It is important to observe that Hannah's prayer in the first ten verses can be seen as a table of contents for the whole book.

- 2 What does Hannah praise at the beginning of her prayer song (2:1-3)?

- 3 What does Hannah declare God has done (2:4-5)?

- 4 What else does Hannah declare God has done (2:6-8)?

- 5 What is Hannah's hope in the Lord (2:9-10)?

- 6 What does Hannah expect the Lord to do regarding a king (2:10)?

- 7 Compare this to Mary's song in Luke 1:46-55. What similarities do you see?

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1 SAMUEL

2:12-36

Main point: _____

Make additional notes at left and below:

- 1 Describe Eli's sons (2:12-18). What exactly are they doing wrong? What would happen if the people protested?
- 2 By contrast, describe Samuel and what he is doing (2:19-21).
- 3 What sins were Eli's sons also committing (2:22-26)? What does Eli do toward his sons? What should have Eli done? How is Samuel contrasted to Eli's sons?
- 4 What is the man of God's message of sin to Eli (2:27-29)?
- 5 What is the judgment for Eli and his sons' sins (2:30-33)?
- 6 What will be the sign that these things will be accomplished (2:34)? Carefully notice what is being predicted.
- 7 What does God say he will do (2:35-36)?

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Main point: _____

Make additional notes at left and below:

- 1 Why is verse 1 important to know? What does this say about the condition of Israel?
- 2 Where is Samuel sleeping (3:2-3)? How is this distinguished from Eli's sons and what they have been doing?
- 3 What is God's message to Samuel (3:11-14)? How was Eli condemned in this? What is the lesson we learn?
- 4 What was Eli's response to the message (3:15-18)? Explain his response. Is it a positive or negative response?
- 5 What are verses 19-21 telling us about Samuel? How was Israel to look at Samuel?

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Main point: _____

Make additional notes at left and below:

- 1 What should have Israel known about God when they were defeated by the Philistines (4:1-4)?

- 2 What does Israel think they need to solve why they were defeated (4:3-4)?

- 3 What ominous reminder is given to us in verse 4?

- 4 Did Israel's solution help (4:5-11)? What happened?

- 5 What happens to Eli (4:12-18)? How?

- 6 What happens to Eli's daughter-in-law (4:19-22)?

- 7 What is the repeated message to Israel (4:21-22)?

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Main point: _____

Make additional notes at left and below:

- 1 Who is Dagon (5:1-5)? What is God showing about himself regarding Dagon? What is the message to Israel and to the Philistines?

- 2 What does God do to the Philistines (5:6-12)?

- 3 What is the response of the Philistines?

- 4 When the ark of the covenant comes to Ekron, what do the people think (5:10-11)?

TRANSFORMATION:

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Main point: _____

Make additional notes at left and below:

- 1 What is the Philistines' plan (6:1-9)? How are they ensuring that the plagues were not a coincidence with the ark of the covenant? How would these things prove it was not a coincidence?

- 2 What did the cows do (6:10-12)?

- 3 What was the response of the Israelites in Beth-shemesh (6:13-18)?

- 4 What else did the people of Beth-shemesh do (6:19-21)?

- 5 What did God do in response (6:19-21)?

- 6 What was the response of the people to what God did (6:19-21)?

- 7 Where is the ark of the covenant sent (6:21-7:2)? How long is ark sent away? What does this mean regarding God and Israel? What is the message?

TRANSFORMATION:

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Main point: _____

Make additional notes at left and below:

- 1 How long does Israel ignore God and his ark (7:1-2)? What does this tell us about the spiritual condition of Israel?

- 2 How does Samuel describe the necessary repentance for Israel (7:3)? What do we learn?

- 3 What is Samuel doing on behalf of Israel (7:4-10)? Who does he sound like from Israel's past? How is Israel's faith being tested?

- 4 What does God do because of the repentance of Israel and the intercession of Samuel (7:10-11)? What parallels do we have today?

- 5 What does Samuel do so the people will not forget (7:12)? What does he want them to remember? What are the "Ebenezers" in place for Christians to never forget?

- 6 What else does God do for Israel (7:13-17)?

TRANSFORMATION:

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Main point: _____

Make additional notes at left and below:

- 1 How is Saul described (9:1-2)? What point is being made about him?
- 2 How does God move Saul to find and meet Samuel (9:3-14)? How does God use a series of ordinary events to bring about his will? What do we learn?
- 3 What will God appoint Saul to do (9:15-16)?
- 4 What is Saul's response to Samuel's message that he will be Israel's king (9:21)?
- 5 What else is Saul's purpose for Israel (10:1)? What signs were given to Saul that he would be king (10:2-8)?
- 6 What else happens to Saul (10:9-13)? What is the message?
- 7 Summarize Samuel's sermon to Israel (10:17-19)?
- 8 Where is Saul during the coronation (10:20-24)?
- 9 What do the worthless fellows think of Saul (10:25-27)?

TRANSFORMATION:

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1 SAMUEL

1-12

Main point: _____

Make additional notes at left and below:

- 1 What are the terms of the treaty (11:1-4)? What is the response of the people of Jabesh?
- 2 What is God's response (11:5-11)? What is Saul's response?
- 3 What does Saul say about those who called him worthless (11:12-15)? How does this reflect God's king?
- 4 What happened to the kingdom (11:12-15)? What point is being made? What was the response of Israel?
- 5 How does Samuel begin his farewell address (12:1-5)? Could people say the same thing about us?
- 6 What point does Samuel make in 12:6-13?
- 7 What does he say the king and the people must do and not do (12:14-15)?
- 8 What happens in verses 16-18? What is the point?
- 9 What warning does Samuel give in conclusion (12:19-25)?

TRANSFORMATION:

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1 SAMUEL

13-14

Main point: _____

Make additional notes at left and below:

- 1 Why are the people afraid (13:1-7)?
- 2 Why does Saul start offering the sacrifices (13:8-9)?
- 3 What has Saul done wrong, according to Samuel (13:13)? What was the command?
- 4 What would have God done for Saul (13:13)? Explain.
- 5 What will God now do (13:14)?
- 6 What were disadvantages against Israel for battling the Philistines (13:15-23)?
- 7 Who were the only ones with weapons (13:22-23)?
- 8 What does Jonathan do (14:1-15)? What does God do through him?
- 9 Write down all of Saul's failures in this chapter (14:16-52).

TRANSFORMATION:

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Main point: _____

Make additional notes at left and below:

- 1 What was the Lord's command (15:1-3)?

- 2 What did Saul and the people do (15:4-9)?

- 3 What was God's response (15:10-11)? What does this mean?

- 4 Why does Saul think he has obeyed the Lord (15:12-21)? How is he looking at this? What do we learn from this?

- 5 What is Samuel's message in 15:17-19?

- 6 What is Samuel's message in 15:22-23? What do we learn?

- 7 What is wrong with Saul's repentance (15:24-31)? What do we learn?

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Main point: _____

Make additional notes at left and below:

- 1 What is Samuel afraid Saul will do (16:1-2)? What does this tell you about Saul at this point?

- 2 What does it tell you about David that Jesse did not call him when Samuel came to anoint the next king (16:5-11)?

- 3 Who does Samuel think will be the next king (16:6)? Why?

- 4 What does the Lord teach (16:7)? What does this mean? Why is this important?

- 5 What happens with the Spirit of the Lord to David and to Saul (16:13-15)?

- 6 Who is able to give Saul peace from his tormenting spirit?

- 7 Looking back over the chapter, write down all of the aspects of David that are foreshadowing the kind of king God will use to save the world.

TRANSFORMATION:

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Main point: _____

Make additional notes at left and below:

- 1 What is the reader supposed to understand about Goliath after reading the first 11 verses?
- 2 What is ironic about Saul being afraid and unwilling to fight? Why was Saul selected to be king? Why did Israel want a king in the first place?
- 3 How is David contrasted with Goliath in verses 12-18?
- 4 What does David want to know (17:24-27)? What faith does he proclaim?
- 5 What does David proclaim he will do on behalf of Israel (17:31-37)? Where does his faith rest?
- 6 What is Saul's faith in (17:38-40)?
- 7 What statements of faith does David make in verses 41-47?
- 8 After David kills Goliath, what does the rest of Israel do (17:52-53)?
- 9 Write down how David represents the work Christ will accomplish. Write down how Israel represents us.

TRANSFORMATION:

How does this relationship change your relationship with God? What did you learn about him? What will you do differently in your life?

Main point: _____

Make additional notes at left and below:

- 1 What is Jonathan showing David (18:1-5)? Why is this important?

- 2 Why is Saul upset (18:6-16)? What does he believe is going to happen?

- 3 Write down the different ways Saul tries to kill David or have David killed (18:10-29).

- 4 How does Jonathan rescue David (19:1-7)? What is ironic about this?

- 5 How long does this last (19:8-10)?

- 6 How does Michal rescue David (19:11-17)? What is ironic about this?

- 7 How does the Spirit of the Lord rescue David (19:18-24)?

TRANSFORMATION:

How does this relationship change your relationship with God? What did you learn about him? What will you do differently in your life?

Main point: _____

Make additional notes at left and below:

- 1 What does David say Saul is doing (20:1,3)? Does Jonathan think his father is doing this (20:2)?

- 2 What plan do David and Jonathan come up with to determine Saul's intentions (20:4-23)?

- 3 What is the response of Saul (20:24-34)? What does Jonathan understand?

- 4 What does Jonathan do (20:35-42)?

- 5 What story does David tell to Ahimelech (21:1-6)?

- 6 Why does David need to concoct this story (21:7)?

- 7 What does Ahimelech give David?

- 8 Read Matthew 12:1-8. How does Jesus use what David did to explain what he is doing?

- 9 What is the message?

TRANSFORMATION:

How does this relationship change your relationship with God? What did you learn about him? What will you do differently in your life?

Main point: _____

Make additional notes at left and below:

- 1 Who comes to David (22:1-2)? How does this foreshadow Jesus?
- 2 Does God allow David to stay in the stronghold in Moab (22:3-5)? What is God doing?
- 3 What does Doeg tell Saul (22:6-10)? Was David right to be concerned about this man?
- 4 What is Ahimelech's defense (22:11-15)?
- 5 What does Saul command (22:16-19)? Who carried out the command? Who refused to carry it out?
- 6 What does David say he knew when he saw Doeg in Nob (22:20-23)?
- 7 What does David do for Keilah (23:1-5)? Will the people of Keilah be loyal to David or betray him (23:6-14)? How does this foreshadow Jesus?
- 8 Who betrays David now (23:15-24)?
- 9 How is David rescued (23:25-29)? What is God showing?

TRANSFORMATION:

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Main point: _____

Make additional notes at left and below:

- 1 Where is David (25:2)?
- 2 Describe Nabal. Describe Abigail (25:2-3).
- 3 What is David's request (25:4-8)? Is this a fair request? Consider 25:14-16 in your answer.
- 4 What is Nabal's response (25:9-12)? What is David's response to this (25:13)?
- 5 What does Nabal's servant say about him (25:17)? Is this true about us?
- 6 What does Abigail do (25:18-31)? Explain what she is doing and the basis for her pleadings.
- 7 How does David response to Abigail (25:32-35)?
- 8 What does God do (25:36-39)? What is the message?
- 9 What negative message about David is given (25:39-44)?

TRANSFORMATION:

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Main point: _____

Make additional notes at left and below:

- 1 Where is David (26:1-2)?

- 2 What does Abishai tell David to do (26:8)?

- 3 What is David's response (26:9-12)? Has David learned from the last temptation to strike down Saul? What do we learn?

- 4 What is the key message in 26:9? How does this apply to Jesus and the message of the apostles in the New Testament (cf. Acts 2:22-36; Acts 3:13-19; 4:8-12)

- 5 What does David tell Abner (26:13-16)?

- 6 What does David tell Saul (26:17-20)?

- 7 What is Saul's response (26:18-21)?

- 8 What does David say (26:23-24)? What key truths are declared?

- 9 What does Saul confess (26:25)?

TRANSFORMATION:

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Main point: _____

Make additional notes at left and below:

- 1 Though David knows the promises concerning himself, what does he think (27:1)? How does this help us during our difficult times?
- 2 What does David do (27:2-12)?
- 3 What do we see Saul do (28:1-14)? Why was this another bad decision for Saul?
- 4 What is Samuel's answer to Saul (28:15-19)?
- 5 What do the Philistines think of David (29:1-11)? Why?
- 6 What happens to David's family and the families of his men while they are away (30:1-15)? What did his men almost do (30:6)? Who else had this nearly happen to him? Where did David get his strength (30:6-7)?
- 7 How are David and Saul contrasted regarding the Lord's response?
- 8 Who else does David conquer (30:16-31)? What does David do with the spoils of victory? How does Jesus do the same for us (cf. Ephesians 4:7-16)?
- 9 What is the message learned regarding Saul's death in chapter 31?

TRANSFORMATION:

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1 SAMUEL



PICTURES OF GOD'S SALVATION
THROUGH HIS KING

SELF-STUDY WORKBOOK

by: Brent Kercheville