

MASTER THE CONTENT OF SCRIPTURE



The Book of 1st Samuel

(Observe, Interpret, Apply & Go)

Armando Rodríguez

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

In our studies of the Bible, we will be using an inductive approach. This approach is a fun and exciting way to study the Bible! It's like being a detective. Instead of starting with a conclusion, you look at the details and clues in the text to discover the meaning for yourself.

Here's how you can do it:

1. **Observation:** First, you look closely at the Bible passage. You pay attention to:

- a. Who is in the story
- b. What is happening
- c. Where it is taking place
- d. When it is happening
- e. Why things are happening
- f. How they are happening.

You write down or make a mental note of all the details you notice.

2. **Interpretation:** Next, you try to understand what those details mean.

- a. You think about why the characters did what they did
- b. You think about what the important words and phrases mean.
- c. You may need to look up some words or ask questions to understand better.

3. **Application:** Finally, you think about how the story applies to our lives. What truth does it communicate?

- a. **What does it teach us about God?**
- b. What does it teach us about ourselves?
- c. What action (s) does it call us to take?

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

CHAPTER 1

Summary of Chapter

Chapter 1 of 1 Samuel introduces the story of Hannah, a woman deeply distressed due to her inability to have children. She prays earnestly at the tabernacle in Shiloh, promising to dedicate her son to God if He grants her a child. God hears her plea, and she gives birth to Samuel. True to her vow, Hannah dedicates Samuel to the Lord, leaving him in the care of Eli, the priest. This chapter sets the stage for Samuel's significant role in Israel's history as a prophet and judge.

Opening Question

1. Why do you think Hannah was so desperate to have a child?
 2. How does Hannah's prayer and vow demonstrate her faith and commitment to God?
-

Outline

1. Hannah's Distress and Prayer (1:1-18)

- Elkanah's two wives, Hannah and Peninnah; Peninnah's provocation of Hannah (1:1-7).
- Hannah's deep sorrow and fervent prayer for a son at the tabernacle in Shiloh (1:8-16).
- Eli the priest mistakenly thinks Hannah is drunk but then blesses her when he understands her distress (1:17-18).

Application Questions:

- How can we find comfort in prayer when we are distressed?
- What can we learn from Hannah about perseverance in faith?

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

2. The Birth and Dedication of Samuel (1:19-28)

- God answers Hannah's prayer; Samuel is born (1:19-20).
- Hannah fulfills her vow by bringing Samuel to the tabernacle to serve God (1:21-28).

Application Questions:

- What does Hannah's fulfillment of her vow teach us about keeping promises to God?
 - How can we show our gratitude to God when our prayers are answered?
-

Possible Activities

1. Memory Verse Challenge

- Memorize 1 Samuel 1:27: "I prayed for this child, and the LORD has granted me what I asked of him." Practice reciting the verse in pairs and discuss its meaning in the context of Hannah's story.

2. Role-Playing Activity

- Role-play the conversation between Hannah and Eli at the tabernacle. One student plays Hannah, and another plays Eli. Discuss how each character might have felt during this interaction and what we can learn from their responses.

3. Discussion Activity

- Discuss the concept of making vows to God. Should we make vows? What are the potential challenges and blessings that come with fulfilling a vow? Reflect on modern-day scenarios where people might make promises to God and how they can honor those promises.
-

Quiz

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

1. Who were Elkanah's two wives?
 - A. Ruth and Naomi
 - B. Hannah and Peninnah
 - C. Sarah and Rebekah
 - D. Esther and Vashti
2. Why was Hannah distressed?
 - A. She was unable to find food
 - B. She could not have children
 - C. She was persecuted by Philistines
 - D. She lost her home
3. Where did Hannah go to pray for a child?
 - A. Jerusalem
 - B. Jericho
 - C. Shiloh
 - D. Bethlehem
4. What did Eli initially think when he saw Hannah praying?
 - A. She was lost
 - B. She was drunk
 - C. She was singing
 - D. She was a prophet
5. What vow did Hannah make to God?
 - A. To become a nun
 - B. To offer a sacrifice
 - C. To dedicate her son to God
 - D. To give up all her wealth
6. What was the name of Hannah's son?
 - A. Elijah
 - B. Samuel

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

- C. David
 - D. Saul
7. Who was the priest at the tabernacle in Shiloh?
- A. Samuel
 - B. Eli
 - C. Nathan
 - D. Aaron
8. How did Hannah show her gratitude to God after Samuel was born?
- A. By building an altar
 - B. By dedicating Samuel to the Lord
 - C. By offering ten bulls
 - D. By fasting for a week
9. What does the name "Samuel" mean?
- A. Asked of God
 - B. Gift of Life
 - C. Chosen One
 - D. Servant of the Lord
10. How often did Hannah visit Samuel at the tabernacle after dedicating him to the Lord?
- A. Weekly
 - B. Monthly
 - C. Yearly
 - D. Daily

Answers: 1-B, 2-B, 3-C, 4-B, 5-C, 6-B, 7-B, 8-B, 9-A, 10-C

Fill in the Blank

1. Hannah was unable to have children and prayed to the Lord at the _____ in Shiloh.
2. Eli, the priest, initially thought Hannah was _____ when he saw her praying.
3. Hannah promised to dedicate her son to the Lord if He granted her a _____.

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

4. After her prayer was answered, Hannah gave birth to a son named _____.
5. Every year, Hannah would visit Samuel at the _____ where he served under Eli.

Answers: 1. tabernacle, 2. drunk, 3. child, 4. Samuel, 5. tabernacle

Vocabulary Words

1. **Shiloh** (שִׁלּוֹ) - The city where the tabernacle was located during the time of Hannah and Samuel.
2. **Nazirite** (נָזִיר) - A person who is consecrated to God, often involving specific vows, such as Samuel's dedication.
3. **Tabernacle** (מִשְׁכָּן) - A portable sanctuary where the Israelites worshiped God during their journey in the wilderness and early days in Canaan.
4. **Vow** (נֶדָר) - A solemn promise made to God, as Hannah made regarding her son Samuel.
5. **Priest** (כֹּהֵן) - A person who performs religious ceremonies and duties, like Eli in the tabernacle at Shiloh.

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

CHAPTER 2

Summary of Chapter

Chapter 2 of 1 Samuel features Hannah's prayer of thanksgiving, a poetic expression of praise and prophecy. It also introduces the sinful actions of Eli's sons, Hophni and Phinehas, who abused their priestly duties. A man of God delivers a prophetic judgment against Eli's household due to their sins. Meanwhile, Samuel, growing up in the Lord's service, finds favor with God and men. This chapter contrasts the righteousness of Hannah and Samuel with the wickedness of Eli's sons, setting up the narrative for God's judgment and the rise of Samuel as a faithful servant.

Opening Question

1. How does Hannah's prayer reflect her understanding of God's character and power?
 2. What lessons can we learn from the contrast between Samuel's obedience and Eli's sons' disobedience?
-

Outline

1. Hannah's Prayer of Thanksgiving (2:1-10)

- Hannah exalts God's greatness, expressing gratitude and faith in His justice (2:1-10).

Application Questions:

- How can we express our gratitude to God in our daily lives?
- What can we learn from Hannah's prayer about trusting in God's justice?

2. The Sinfulness of Eli's Sons (2:11-17)

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

- The wicked actions of Hophni and Phinehas, who disrespected the sacrifices of the Lord (2:12-17).

Application Questions:

- Why is it important to respect the traditions and rituals of our faith?
- How can we ensure we do not take our responsibilities lightly, as Eli's sons did?

3. Samuel's Faithful Service and Favor (2:18-21)

- Samuel serves faithfully before the Lord, and Hannah is blessed with more children (2:18-21).

Application Questions:

- In what ways can we serve faithfully in our own communities?
- How does God's blessing on Hannah and Samuel inspire us to live righteously?

4. God's Judgment Against Eli's Household (2:22-36)

- Eli rebukes his sons, but they do not listen; a man of God pronounces judgment on Eli's house (2:22-36).

Application Questions:

- What are the consequences of ignoring God's warnings?
- How can we heed the lessons from Eli's failure to discipline his sons?

Possible Activities

1. Memory Verse Challenge

- Memorize 1 Samuel 2:2: "There is no one holy like the LORD; there is no one besides you; there is no Rock like our God." Students can form pairs to recite the verse to each other and discuss its significance in the context of Hannah's prayer.

2. Role-Playing Activity

- Role-play a scene where Eli rebukes his sons, Hophni and Phinehas. Discuss what Eli could have done differently and how his sons could have responded better.

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

This activity will help students explore the themes of responsibility and obedience.

3. Discussion Activity

- Hold a discussion on the theme of God's justice as seen in Hannah's prayer and the judgment on Eli's house. Encourage students to think about how justice is portrayed in the Bible and how it applies to their lives today.

Quiz

1. What is the main theme of Hannah's prayer in Chapter 2?
 - A. Wealth and Prosperity
 - B. God's Holiness and Justice
 - C. Revenge on Enemies
 - D. Building the Temple
2. Who were Eli's sons?
 - A. Samuel and David
 - B. Hophni and Phinehas
 - C. Jonathan and Saul
 - D. Moses and Aaron
3. How did Eli's sons abuse their priestly duties?
 - A. By offering the wrong sacrifices
 - B. By taking the best portions of the sacrifices for themselves
 - C. By praying to foreign gods
 - D. By building altars in their homes
4. What was Samuel's role in the tabernacle?
 - A. Priest
 - B. Prophet

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

- C. Servant
 - D. King
5. How did the people view Samuel as he grew up?
 - A. With disdain
 - B. With fear
 - C. With favor
 - D. With jealousy
 6. Who delivered a message of judgment against Eli's household?
 - A. A prophetess
 - B. A man of God
 - C. Samuel
 - D. An angel
 7. What was Eli's reaction to his sons' behavior?
 - A. He ignored it
 - B. He rebuked them
 - C. He punished them severely
 - D. He left the priesthood
 8. What was the outcome for Eli's household as prophesied by the man of God?
 - A. They would become kings
 - B. They would lose the priesthood
 - C. They would prosper
 - D. They would be exiled
 9. How does God show favor to Hannah after Samuel's dedication?
 - A. By giving her wealth
 - B. By giving her more children
 - C. By making her a prophetess
 - D. By making her a queen
 10. What is the significance of the phrase "There is no Rock like our God" in Hannah's prayer?

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

- A. It emphasizes God's strength and reliability
- B. It refers to a physical rock in Shiloh
- C. It is a metaphor for Samuel
- D. It signifies wealth

Answers: 1-B, 2-B, 3-B, 4-C, 5-C, 6-B, 7-B, 8-B, 9-B, 10-A

Fill in the Blank

1. Hannah's prayer in Chapter 2 is a song of _____ and praise.
2. The sons of Eli, _____ and _____, were wicked in their priestly duties.
3. Samuel grew up serving at the _____ and was favored by God and the people.
4. A man of God prophesied that Eli's household would be cut off from the _____.
5. Hannah was blessed with additional _____ after dedicating Samuel to the Lord.

Answers: 1. thanksgiving, 2. Hophni, Phinehas, 3. tabernacle, 4. priesthood, 5. children

Vocabulary Words

1. **Thanksgiving** (תּוֹדָה) - An expression of gratitude, often in the form of prayer or song, as demonstrated by Hannah in her prayer.
2. **Priesthood** (כֹּהֲנָה) - The office or position of a priest, particularly those serving in the tabernacle or temple.
3. **Prophecy** (נְבִיאָה) - A divine message or prediction, such as the one delivered against Eli's household.
4. **Judgment** (מִשְׁפָּט) - The act of making a decision or delivering a verdict, especially by God, as seen in the judgment against Eli's sons.
5. **Favor** (חֵן) - Approval or support, often given by God, as seen in Samuel's life where he found favor with both God and men.

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

CHAPTER 3

Summary of Chapter

Chapter 3 of 1 Samuel describes the calling of young Samuel by God while he is serving under Eli at the tabernacle in Shiloh. Samuel hears God's voice calling him three times, but initially mistakes it for Eli's. Eli eventually realizes it is the Lord and instructs Samuel to respond. God then reveals to Samuel a prophecy of judgment against Eli's household due to the sins of his sons. Samuel faithfully delivers the message, and from this point, he is recognized as a prophet throughout Israel. This chapter marks the beginning of Samuel's prophetic ministry.

Opening Question

1. How would you respond if you heard God calling your name in the night?
 2. What can we learn from Samuel's obedience and willingness to serve God from a young age?
-

Outline

1. The Calling of Samuel (3:1-10)

- Samuel hears the Lord's call but thinks it is Eli; Eli instructs him to respond to the Lord (3:1-9).
- Samuel responds to God's call, saying, "Speak, for your servant is listening" (3:10).

Application Questions:

- How can we be more attentive to God's voice in our daily lives?
- What steps can we take to better understand when God is speaking to us?

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

2. God's Message to Samuel (3:11-14)

- God reveals to Samuel the coming judgment against Eli's house because of the sins of his sons (3:11-14).

Application Questions:

- Why is it important to act on God's warnings?
- How should we handle difficult messages or truths that God reveals to us?

3. Samuel Delivers God's Message (3:15-21)

- Samuel is hesitant to share the prophecy but does so at Eli's insistence (3:15-18).
- Eli accepts the judgment; Samuel is established as a prophet in Israel (3:19-21).

Application Questions:

- What can we learn from Samuel's courage to speak the truth, even when it's hard?
 - How can we encourage one another to be faithful in delivering God's messages?
-

Possible Activities

1. Memory Verse Challenge

- Memorize 1 Samuel 3:10: "The LORD came and stood there, calling as at the other times, 'Samuel! Samuel!' Then Samuel said, 'Speak, for your servant is listening.'" Have students practice reciting the verse and reflect on its significance in Samuel's call.

2. Role-Playing Activity

- Role-play the scene where Samuel hears God's call and goes to Eli. One student acts as Samuel, another as Eli, and a third as the voice of God. Discuss the feelings and reactions of each character and what it means to hear and respond to God's voice.

3. Discussion Activity

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

- Discuss the importance of being open to God's guidance and how to recognize His voice in today's world. Encourage students to share their thoughts on how they feel God might speak to them in their own lives.
-

Quiz

1. Who was Samuel serving under in the tabernacle?
 - A. Saul
 - B. David
 - C. Eli
 - D. Nathan
2. How many times did God call Samuel before Eli realized it was the Lord?
 - A. Once
 - B. Twice
 - C. Three times
 - D. Four times
3. What was Samuel's response when he realized it was God calling him?
 - A. "Here I am"
 - B. "I am listening"
 - C. "Speak, for your servant is listening"
 - D. "Go away"
4. What did God reveal to Samuel?
 - A. The future of Israel
 - B. A new king for Israel
 - C. Judgment against Eli's house
 - D. Instructions for building the temple
5. Why was God's judgment against Eli's house pronounced?
 - A. Because of Eli's old age

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

- B. Because of the sins of Eli's sons
 - C. Because of a drought
 - D. Because of a lost battle
6. How did Samuel feel about delivering God's message to Eli?
- A. Excited
 - B. Afraid
 - C. Indifferent
 - D. Angry
7. How did Eli react to the message of judgment?
- A. He rejoiced
 - B. He rebelled
 - C. He accepted it
 - D. He ignored it
8. What role did Samuel take on after God's call?
- A. Priest
 - B. King
 - C. Prophet
 - D. Judge
9. How did Israel recognize Samuel after this chapter?
- A. As a farmer
 - B. As a leader
 - C. As a prophet
 - D. As a warrior
10. What does the phrase "Speak, for your servant is listening" signify?
- A. Samuel's obedience
 - B. Samuel's anger
 - C. Samuel's curiosity
 - D. Samuel's rebellion

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

Answers: 1-C, 2-C, 3-C, 4-C, 5-B, 6-B, 7-C, 8-C, 9-C, 10-A

Fill in the Blank

1. Samuel was serving under _____ in the tabernacle at Shiloh.
2. God called Samuel _____ times before he realized it was the Lord.
3. When Samuel finally realized it was God calling, he responded, "Speak, for your servant is _____."
4. God revealed to Samuel the coming _____ against Eli's house.
5. After hearing God's message, Samuel was recognized throughout Israel as a _____.

Answers: 1. Eli, 2. three, 3. listening, 4. judgment, 5. prophet

Vocabulary Words

1. **Prophet** (נָבִיא) - A person chosen by God to deliver His messages to the people, such as Samuel.
2. **Judgment** (מִשְׁפָּט) - A decision or verdict from God, especially concerning punishment or consequences for actions.
3. **Tabernacle** (מִשְׁכָּן) - The portable sanctuary where the Israelites worshiped before the temple was built.
4. **Servant** (עֲבָד) - One who serves another, particularly God, as Samuel described himself when responding to God.
5. **Revelation** (הַתְגַּלוּת) - A divine or supernatural disclosure to humans, like the message God gave to Samuel about Eli's household.

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

CHAPTER 4

Summary of Chapter

Chapter 4 of 1 Samuel recounts the tragic defeat of the Israelites by the Philistines. The Israelites, hoping to ensure victory, bring the Ark of the Covenant from Shiloh to the battlefield. However, instead of securing God's favor, the presence of the Ark does not prevent their defeat. The Philistines capture the Ark, and the sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, are killed. Upon hearing the news, Eli falls backward, breaks his neck, and dies. This chapter marks a significant loss for Israel, highlighting the consequences of misplaced trust and the severity of God's judgment on Eli's house.

Opening Question

1. Why do you think the Israelites believed bringing the Ark of the Covenant would guarantee their victory?
 2. What can we learn from the Israelites' defeat about the importance of where we place our trust?
-

Outline

1. **Israel's Defeat by the Philistines (4:1-2)**
 - The Israelites go to battle against the Philistines and suffer a significant defeat, losing about 4,000 men (4:1-2).

Application Questions:

 - What can we learn from the Israelites' initial defeat about preparing ourselves spiritually before facing challenges?

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

- How might pride and overconfidence affect our decision-making, as seen in this battle?

2. The Decision to Bring the Ark (4:3-5)

- The elders of Israel decide to bring the Ark of the Covenant from Shiloh, believing it will help them defeat the Philistines (4:3-5).

Application Questions:

- Why is it important to seek God's guidance rather than relying on symbols or rituals?
- How can we ensure that our actions are aligned with God's will and not just our own desires?

3. The Capture of the Ark and Deaths of Hophni and Phinehas (4:6-11)

- The Philistines, initially afraid of the Ark, decide to fight bravely and defeat Israel; Hophni and Phinehas are killed, and the Ark is captured (4:6-11).

Application Questions:

- What are the dangers of misunderstanding or underestimating God's power?
- How can we respond when our expectations about God's help or intervention do not match reality?

4. Eli's Death and the Aftermath (4:12-22)

- A Benjamite runs to Shiloh to report the news; Eli, upon hearing of the Ark's capture and his sons' death, falls and dies (4:12-18).
- Phinehas' wife, upon hearing the news, goes into labor and names her son Ichabod, signifying the departure of God's glory from Israel (4:19-22).

Application Questions:

- How should we handle tragic or unexpected news with faith?
 - What does the response of Phinehas' wife teach us about recognizing God's presence in our lives?
-

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

Possible Activities

1. Memory Verse Challenge

- Memorize 1 Samuel 4:22: “She said, ‘The Glory has departed from Israel, for the ark of God has been captured.’” Have students practice reciting the verse and discuss its meaning regarding the loss and consequences faced by Israel.

2. Role-Playing Activity

- Role-play the scene where the elders of Israel decide to bring the Ark to the battlefield. Discuss why they might have thought this was a good idea and what lessons can be learned from their decision-making process.

3. Discussion Activity

- Discuss the concept of misplaced trust. Encourage students to think about where they place their trust today and how they can ensure that their faith is genuinely placed in God rather than in symbols or rituals.
-

Quiz

1. Who did the Israelites battle in Chapter 4?
 - A. Egyptians
 - B. Philistines
 - C. Moabites
 - D. Amalekites
2. What did the Israelites bring to the battlefield, believing it would bring them victory?
 - A. A golden calf
 - B. The Ark of the Covenant
 - C. The Ten Commandments
 - D. A sacred stone

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

3. How did the Philistines react initially upon hearing the Ark was in the Israelite camp?
 - A. They rejoiced
 - B. They fled in fear
 - C. They were afraid but decided to fight
 - D. They made peace
4. What happened to the Ark of the Covenant during the battle?
 - A. It was destroyed
 - B. It was captured by the Philistines
 - C. It was returned to Shiloh
 - D. It was hidden by the Israelites
5. Who were killed in the battle alongside the capture of the Ark?
 - A. Samuel and Saul
 - B. Hophni and Phinehas
 - C. Eli and Samuel
 - D. Moses and Aaron
6. How did Eli die?
 - A. In battle
 - B. By illness
 - C. By falling backward and breaking his neck
 - D. From a heart attack
7. What news caused Eli to fall and die?
 - A. The defeat of Israel
 - B. The death of his sons
 - C. The capture of the Ark
 - D. All of the above
8. What name was given to the son born to Phinehas' wife, and what did it signify?
 - A. Samuel, meaning "God has heard"
 - B. Ichabod, meaning "The glory has departed"

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

- C. Saul, meaning "Asked for"
- D. Jonathan, meaning "Gift of God"
- 9. What does the Ark of the Covenant symbolize in this chapter?
 - A. Israel's military strength
 - B. God's presence and power
 - C. The wealth of Israel
 - D. The wisdom of the elders
- 10. What lesson can we learn from the Israelites' defeat?
 - A. Trust in physical symbols guarantees victory
 - B. Genuine faith and obedience to God are essential
 - C. Strategic planning is more important than faith
 - D. The Ark is more powerful than God

Answers: 1-B, 2-B, 3-C, 4-B, 5-B, 6-C, 7-D, 8-B, 9-B, 10-B

Fill in the Blank

- 1. The Israelites went to battle against the _____ and were defeated.
- 2. The elders of Israel decided to bring the _____ to the battlefield, hoping it would secure a victory.
- 3. During the battle, the Ark of the Covenant was _____ by the Philistines.
- 4. _____ and _____, Eli's sons, were killed during the battle.
- 5. Phinehas' wife named her son _____, signifying the departure of God's glory from Israel.

Answers: 1. Philistines, 2. Ark of the Covenant, 3. captured, 4. Hophni, Phinehas, 5. Ichabod

Vocabulary Words

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

1. **Ark of the Covenant** (אָרוֹן הַבְּרִית) - A sacred chest that held the tablets of the Ten Commandments, symbolizing God's presence among the Israelites.
2. **Philistines** (פְּלִשְׁתִּים) - An ancient people who were often enemies of Israel and captured the Ark in this chapter.
3. **Glory** (קְבוֹד) - A term referring to the honor and majesty of God, which departed from Israel when the Ark was captured.
4. **Judgment** (מִשְׁפָּט) - A divine decision or decree, especially regarding punishment, as seen in the defeat of Israel and the deaths of Hophni and Phinehas.
5. **Ichabod** (אֵי קְבוֹד) - A name meaning "No Glory" or "The Glory has Departed," given by Phinehas' wife to her son after hearing of the Ark's capture.

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

CHAPTER 5

Summary of Chapter

Chapter 5 of 1 Samuel describes the consequences the Philistines face after capturing the Ark of the Covenant. The Ark is brought to Ashdod and placed in the temple of Dagon, where the idol of Dagon falls and is broken. Subsequently, the people of Ashdod suffer from a plague of tumors. The Ark is moved to Gath and then to Ekron, but each city is afflicted with the same plague. Realizing the power of the God of Israel, the Philistines decide to return the Ark, acknowledging the severity of God's judgment against them for taking the sacred object.

Opening Question

1. Why do you think the Philistines experienced such severe consequences after capturing the Ark of the Covenant?
 2. What does the reaction of the Philistines to the presence of the Ark reveal about their understanding of God?
-

Outline

1. **The Ark in the Temple of Dagon (5:1-5)**
 - The Philistines place the Ark in the temple of Dagon in Ashdod; the idol of Dagon falls twice, breaking the second time (5:1-5).

Application Questions:

 - What does the fall of Dagon's idol signify about the power of the true God?
 - How should we respond when we see evidence of God's power in our own lives?
2. **Plague in Ashdod (5:6-7)**

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

- The Lord afflicts the people of Ashdod with a plague of tumors, causing them to realize the presence of the Ark brings disaster (5:6-7).

Application Questions:

- What can we learn from the Philistines' experience about respecting what is sacred?
- How can we avoid bringing trouble upon ourselves by disregarding God's commands?

3. The Ark in Gath and Ekron (5:8-12)

- The Ark is moved to Gath, where the same affliction occurs, and then to Ekron, where the people fear and demand its removal (5:8-12).

Application Questions:

- How do we sometimes try to shift our problems instead of facing them directly, as seen with the Philistines?
 - What actions can we take to seek reconciliation or correction when we are confronted with God's judgment?
-

Possible Activities

1. Memory Verse Challenge

- Memorize 1 Samuel 5:11: “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.’” Students can work in pairs to memorize and discuss the significance of the verse in understanding the power and holiness of God.

2. Role-Playing Activity

- Role-play a meeting of the Philistine leaders discussing what to do with the Ark after the plagues begin. Students can debate the reasons for moving the Ark and

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

the eventual decision to return it. This activity can help students understand different perspectives and the gravity of the situation.

3. Discussion Activity

- Discuss the concept of God's holiness and how it was perceived by the Philistines. Encourage students to share their thoughts on how we should approach things that are considered sacred in our faith today.
-

Quiz

1. Where was the Ark of the Covenant first taken by the Philistines?
 - A. Jerusalem
 - B. Ashdod
 - C. Gath
 - D. Ekron
2. What happened to the idol of Dagon in its temple?
 - A. It was stolen
 - B. It fell face down before the Ark
 - C. It was worshiped by the Philistines
 - D. It was taken to Israel
3. What occurred after the idol of Dagon fell for the second time?
 - A. It was restored to its place
 - B. It was broken into pieces
 - C. It was worshipped more fervently
 - D. It was sold
4. What plague afflicted the people of Ashdod?
 - A. Frogs
 - B. Tumors

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

- C. Locusts
 - D. Darkness
5. After Ashdod, where was the Ark moved next?
- A. Jerusalem
 - B. Ekron
 - C. Gath
 - D. Shiloh
6. What happened to the people of Gath when the Ark was brought there?
- A. They rejoiced
 - B. They worshipped it
 - C. They suffered from tumors
 - D. They built a new temple
7. How did the people of Ekron react when the Ark was brought to their city?
- A. They welcomed it
 - B. They sent it back immediately
 - C. They feared for their lives
 - D. They ignored it
8. What did the Philistines decide to do with the Ark after all the plagues?
- A. Keep it as a trophy
 - B. Destroy it
 - C. Return it to Israel
 - D. Bury it
9. What lesson did the Philistines learn from their experience with the Ark?
- A. The Ark has no power
 - B. The God of Israel is powerful
 - C. Dagon is the only true god
 - D. Idols can protect against plagues
10. How did the Philistines show their acknowledgment of God's power?
- A. By building a new temple for the Ark

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

- B. By offering sacrifices to the Ark
- C. By returning the Ark to Israel
- D. By converting to Judaism

Answers: 1-B, 2-B, 3-B, 4-B, 5-C, 6-C, 7-C, 8-C, 9-B, 10-C

Fill in the Blank

1. The Ark of the Covenant was first taken to the city of _____ by the Philistines.
2. The idol of _____ fell twice before the Ark in its temple.
3. After falling the second time, the idol was _____ into pieces.
4. The people of Ashdod were afflicted with _____ after the Ark was brought to their city.
5. The Philistines eventually decided to _____ the Ark back to Israel due to the plagues.

Answers: 1. Ashdod, 2. Dagon, 3. broken, 4. tumors, 5. return

Vocabulary Words

1. **Ark of the Covenant** (אָרוֹן הַבְּרִית) - A sacred chest that held the tablets of the Ten Commandments, representing God's presence and power among the Israelites.
2. **Dagon** (דָּגוֹן) - The chief god of the Philistines, represented by an idol that fell before the Ark of the Covenant.
3. **Tumor** (טֹמֹר) - A growth or swelling on the body; used in this chapter to describe the plague that struck the Philistines.
4. **Holiness** (קִדְּשָׁה) - The state of being holy, set apart, or sacred, as demonstrated by the Ark of the Covenant.

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

5. **Plague** (דָּבָר) - A sudden outbreak of disease or disaster, as the Philistines experienced after capturing the Ark.

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

CHAPTER 6

Summary of Chapter

Chapter 6 of 1 Samuel describes the return of the Ark of the Covenant to Israel by the Philistines. After suffering from plagues, the Philistines consult their priests and decide to send the Ark back with a guilt offering of gold tumors and mice. They place the Ark on a cart pulled by two cows and send it toward Beth Shemesh. The Israelites rejoice upon receiving the Ark but face God's judgment when some of them look inside it, resulting in a deadly plague. The people of Beth Shemesh send the Ark to Kiriath Jearim to be kept safely.

Opening Question

1. Why did the Philistines decide to return the Ark of the Covenant to Israel?
 2. What lessons can we learn about respecting what is holy from the actions of the people of Beth Shemesh?
-

Outline

1. **The Philistines' Decision to Return the Ark (6:1-6)**
 - The Philistines, suffering from plagues, consult their priests and decide to return the Ark with a guilt offering (6:1-6).

Application Questions:

- Why is it important to seek guidance when faced with difficult situations?
 - How can we recognize and respond to God's discipline in our lives?
2. **The Ark's Return to Beth Shemesh (6:7-12)**

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

- The Ark is placed on a cart pulled by two cows, which head directly to Beth Shemesh, confirming to the Philistines that their suffering was caused by God (6:7-12).

Application Questions:

- What does the journey of the cows to Beth Shemesh teach us about God's control over all creation?
- How should we react when we witness clear signs of God's intervention?

3. Rejoicing and Judgment in Beth Shemesh (6:13-19)

- The people of Beth Shemesh rejoice upon seeing the Ark but are struck by a plague after looking inside it (6:13-19).

Application Questions:

- What does this event teach us about the importance of reverence and obedience to God?
- How can we show proper respect for what is sacred in our own lives?

4. The Ark is Sent to Kiriath Jearim (6:20-21)

- The people of Beth Shemesh send messengers to Kiriath Jearim to take the Ark, recognizing the need to handle it properly (6:20-21).

Application Questions:

- How can we ensure that we are appropriately handling responsibilities that involve God's work?
- What steps can we take to safeguard the sacred aspects of our faith?

Possible Activities

1. Memory Verse Challenge

- Memorize 1 Samuel 6:13: "Now the people of Beth Shemesh were harvesting their wheat in the valley, and when they looked up and saw the ark, they rejoiced

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

at the sight.” Encourage students to discuss the significance of rejoicing at God’s presence and how they can show joy in their faith.

2. **Role-Playing Activity**

- Role-play the scene where the people of Beth Shemesh see the Ark returning and decide to look inside. Discuss what they might have been thinking and how they should have acted instead. This activity helps students explore the concepts of reverence and obedience.

3. **Discussion Activity**

- Discuss the importance of respecting sacred objects and spaces in today's context. Encourage students to share their thoughts on how we can honor God in both our actions and attitudes.
-

Quiz

1. Why did the Philistines decide to return the Ark of the Covenant?
 - A. They wanted to exchange it for gold
 - B. They were suffering from plagues
 - C. They needed help in battle
 - D. They were instructed by a prophet
2. What did the Philistines include with the Ark as a guilt offering?
 - A. Silver coins
 - B. Gold tumors and mice
 - C. Bronze idols
 - D. Sacred scrolls
3. How was the Ark transported back to Israel?
 - A. On a camel caravan
 - B. By a group of soldiers

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

- C. On a cart pulled by two cows
- D. By hand
- 4. Where did the cows take the Ark?
 - A. Jerusalem
 - B. Shiloh
 - C. Beth Shemesh
 - D. Ekron
- 5. How did the people of Beth Shemesh react when they saw the Ark?
 - A. They were frightened
 - B. They rejoiced
 - C. They ignored it
 - D. They destroyed it
- 6. What caused a deadly plague in Beth Shemesh after the Ark arrived?
 - A. The Philistines' attack
 - B. The Ark's presence alone
 - C. Some people looked inside the Ark
 - D. A natural disaster
- 7. What did the people of Beth Shemesh decide to do with the Ark after the plague?
 - A. Send it back to the Philistines
 - B. Move it to Kiriath Jearim
 - C. Hide it in their temple
 - D. Destroy it
- 8. Who did the people of Beth Shemesh call to take care of the Ark?
 - A. The Levites of Shiloh
 - B. The priests of Jerusalem
 - C. The men of Kiriath Jearim
 - D. The Philistines
- 9. What lesson did the Israelites learn from the Ark's return?
 - A. The Ark is a tool for war

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

- B. God's holiness requires respect
 - C. The Ark has no power
 - D. The Philistines are stronger than Israel
10. What does the reaction of the people of Beth Shemesh teach us?
- A. The importance of curiosity
 - B. The danger of disrespecting holy things
 - C. The need for more festivals
 - D. The value of strength

Answers: 1-B, 2-B, 3-C, 4-C, 5-B, 6-C, 7-B, 8-C, 9-B, 10-B

Fill in the Blank

1. The Philistines decided to return the Ark of the Covenant to Israel after suffering from _____.
2. The Ark was placed on a cart pulled by two _____, which led it to Beth Shemesh.
3. The people of Beth Shemesh were harvesting _____ when they saw the Ark returning.
4. A deadly plague struck the people of Beth Shemesh after some of them _____ inside the Ark.
5. The Ark was eventually sent to _____ to be kept safely.

Answers: 1. plagues, 2. cows, 3. wheat, 4. looked, 5. Kiriath Jearim

Vocabulary Words

1. **Guilt Offering** (זֶבַח חַטָּאת) - A sacrificial offering made to atone for sins, which the Philistines sent along with the Ark to Israel.

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

2. **Beth Shemesh** (בֵּית שֶׁמֶשׁ) - A town in Israel where the Ark was received with joy but later faced a deadly plague.
3. **Tumor** (עֲפָל) - A swelling or growth on the body; in this chapter, a plague sent by God as punishment to the Philistines.
4. **Reverence** (יִרְאַה) - Deep respect for something sacred, as should have been shown by the people of Beth Shemesh regarding the Ark.
5. **Kiriath Jearim** (קִרְיַת יְעָרִים) - The town where the Ark was sent after the incident in Beth Shemesh to be kept under careful watch.

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

CHAPTER 7

Summary of Chapter

Chapter 7 of 1 Samuel recounts the Israelites' return to the Lord under Samuel's leadership. After the Ark is placed in Kiriath Jearim, Samuel urges Israel to repent and turn away from foreign gods. The Israelites gather at Mizpah, where Samuel prays and offers a sacrifice. During a Philistine attack, God intervenes with a mighty thunder, causing confusion among the Philistines, leading to their defeat by Israel. Samuel sets up a stone named Ebenezer to commemorate the victory. This chapter highlights the importance of repentance, prayer, and God's deliverance in times of need.

Opening Question

1. Why do you think it was important for the Israelites to turn away from foreign gods before God delivered them from their enemies?
 2. How does the story of Samuel and the Israelites encourage us to trust in God's power and guidance?
-

Outline

1. **The Ark in Kiriath Jearim (7:1-2)**
 - The Ark of the Covenant is brought to Kiriath Jearim, and the Israelites lament after the Lord for 20 years (7:1-2).

Application Questions:

- How should we react when we realize we have distanced ourselves from God?

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

- What steps can we take to seek God's presence in our lives after a period of spiritual neglect?

2. Samuel Calls for Repentance (7:3-6)

- Samuel instructs the Israelites to rid themselves of foreign gods and return to the Lord with all their hearts (7:3-4).
- The Israelites gather at Mizpah to repent, fast, and pray for deliverance (7:5-6).

Application Questions:

- Why is repentance an essential step in returning to a relationship with God?
- How can we demonstrate true repentance in our daily actions?

3. God's Deliverance at Mizpah (7:7-11)

- The Philistines attack Israel at Mizpah; Samuel offers a sacrifice, and God causes thunder to confuse the Philistines, leading to their defeat (7:7-11).

Application Questions:

- What does this event teach us about the power of prayer in difficult situations?
- How can we rely on God's strength rather than our own abilities when facing challenges?

4. Samuel Sets Up Ebenezer (7:12-17)

- Samuel sets up a stone named Ebenezer to commemorate the victory; Israel experiences peace, and Samuel judges Israel all his life (7:12-17).

Application Questions:

- Why is it important to remember and celebrate God's help in our lives?
- How can we create our own "Ebenezers" to remind us of God's faithfulness?

Possible Activities

1. Memory Verse Challenge

- Memorize 1 Samuel 7:12: "Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen. He named it Ebenezer, saying, 'Thus far the LORD has helped

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

us.” Students can pair up to recite the verse and discuss how they can recognize God’s help in their lives.

2. Role-Playing Activity

- Role-play the scene where Samuel calls the Israelites to repent at Mizpah. Students can act out the responses of different groups: those who were quick to repent and those who were hesitant. This activity encourages discussion on the importance of repentance and unity in faith.

3. Discussion Activity

- Hold a discussion on the significance of setting up monuments or symbols to remember God's help, like Samuel did with Ebenezer. Encourage students to think about what symbols or practices could help them remember God’s faithfulness in their own lives.

Quiz

1. Where was the Ark of the Covenant kept after being returned by the Philistines?
 - A. Jerusalem
 - B. Shiloh
 - C. Kiriath Jearim
 - D. Bethlehem
2. How long did the Ark remain in Kiriath Jearim?
 - A. 10 years
 - B. 20 years
 - C. 5 years
 - D. 40 years
3. What did Samuel ask the Israelites to do to return to the Lord?
 - A. Build a temple
 - B. Offer sacrifices

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

- C. Rid themselves of foreign gods
- D. Go to battle
- 4. Where did Samuel gather the Israelites to repent and pray?
 - A. Mizpah
 - B. Gilgal
 - C. Bethel
 - D. Hebron
- 5. What did Samuel offer as a sacrifice during the Philistine attack?
 - A. A bull
 - B. A lamb
 - C. A dove
 - D. A goat
- 6. How did God intervene during the battle with the Philistines at Mizpah?
 - A. He sent rain
 - B. He caused thunder to confuse them
 - C. He sent an angel
 - D. He blinded them
- 7. What was the result of the Philistines' confusion?
 - A. They won the battle
 - B. They retreated in fear
 - C. They were defeated by Israel
 - D. They made peace with Israel
- 8. What did Samuel name the stone he set up to commemorate Israel's victory?
 - A. Bethel
 - B. Ebenezer
 - C. Mizpah
 - D. Gilgal
- 9. What does the name "Ebenezer" mean?
 - A. Stone of Help

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

- B. God is Great
- C. House of God
- D. Place of Peace

10. What role did Samuel serve in Israel after the victory at Mizpah?

- A. King
- B. Priest
- C. Judge
- D. Prophet

Answers: 1-C, 2-B, 3-C, 4-A, 5-B, 6-B, 7-C, 8-B, 9-A, 10-C

Fill in the Blank

1. The Ark of the Covenant was kept in _____ after being returned by the Philistines.
2. Samuel called the Israelites to _____ and turn away from foreign gods.
3. The Israelites gathered at _____ to repent and seek God's help against the Philistines.
4. God caused _____ to confuse the Philistines during the battle at Mizpah.
5. Samuel set up a stone named _____ to commemorate Israel's victory.

Answers: 1. Kiriath Jearim, 2. repent, 3. Mizpah, 4. thunder, 5. Ebenezer

Vocabulary Words

1. **Repentance** (תשובה) - The act of turning away from sin and returning to God, as Samuel called the Israelites to do.
2. **Mizpah** (מִצְפָּה) - The place where Samuel gathered the Israelites for repentance and prayer.

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

3. **Ebenezer** (אֶבְנֵי הַעֲזָרָה) - A stone set up by Samuel to commemorate the Lord's help, meaning "Stone of Help."
4. **Judge** (שׁוֹפֵט) - A leader and ruler in Israel before the time of the kings, Samuel served as a judge over Israel.
5. **Thunder** (רָעַם) - A loud noise caused by lightning; in this chapter, it was used by God to confuse the Philistines during battle.

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

CHAPTER 8

Summary of Chapter

Chapter 8 of 1 Samuel describes the Israelites' demand for a king to lead them, rejecting the leadership of Samuel and his sons. Despite Samuel's warning about the potential consequences of having a king, including heavy taxation and forced labor, the people insist on being like other nations. Samuel prays, and God instructs him to heed their request, although it signifies a rejection of God's direct rule. This chapter marks a significant shift in Israel's governance from judges to monarchy, highlighting the tension between human desires and divine will.

Opening Question

1. Why do you think the Israelites wanted a king instead of continuing under Samuel's leadership?
 2. What are the potential dangers of desiring to be like everyone else instead of following God's unique plan for us?
-

Outline

1. The Demand for a King (8:1-5)

- Samuel grows old, and his sons, Joel and Abijah, are appointed judges but are corrupt; the Israelites demand a king to lead them like other nations (8:1-5).

Application Questions:

- What can we learn about the importance of integrity from the failure of Samuel's sons?
- How should we respond when we see leadership failing around us?

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

2. Samuel's Warning About a King (8:6-18)

- Samuel is displeased and prays to God; God tells him to listen to the people but to warn them about the consequences of having a king (8:6-9).
- Samuel warns the Israelites that a king will draft their sons for war, take their daughters for service, seize their lands, and tax their produce (8:10-18).

Application Questions:

- Why is it important to consider the long-term consequences of our desires and decisions?
- How can we learn to trust God's guidance over our own understanding?

3. The People Insist on a King (8:19-22)

- Despite Samuel's warnings, the people insist on having a king to lead them and to fight their battles; God instructs Samuel to grant their request (8:19-22).

Application Questions:

- What does this decision reveal about the Israelites' trust in God?
- How can we avoid the mistake of insisting on our own way when God's plan differs?

Possible Activities

1. Memory Verse Challenge

- Memorize 1 Samuel 8:7: "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.'" Discuss the meaning of this verse and its implications for our relationship with God.

2. Role-Playing Activity

- Role-play a scene where Samuel speaks to the Israelites about the consequences of having a king. Students can take on different roles, including Samuel, elders,

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

and regular Israelites, to discuss their perspectives and reasons for or against the request.

3. Discussion Activity

- Discuss the concept of leadership and governance from a biblical perspective. Encourage students to think about what qualities make a good leader and how they can develop these qualities in their own lives.
-

Quiz

1. Why did the Israelites ask for a king?
 - A. They wanted to be like other nations
 - B. They needed a king for a festival
 - C. They wanted to build a new temple
 - D. They were forced by neighboring tribes
2. Who were Samuel's sons?
 - A. Joel and Abijah
 - B. Hophni and Phinehas
 - C. Aaron and Moses
 - D. Joshua and Caleb
3. What was the character of Samuel's sons as judges?
 - A. Honest and just
 - B. Corrupt and took bribes
 - C. Strong and courageous
 - D. Humble and poor
4. How did Samuel feel about the people's request for a king?
 - A. Joyful
 - B. Indifferent

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

- C. Displeased
 - D. Supportive
5. What did God tell Samuel about the people's request?
 - A. To refuse their request
 - B. To listen to the people and warn them
 - C. To immediately appoint a king
 - D. To go to war against them
 6. What were some of the warnings Samuel gave about having a king?
 - A. He would bring prosperity
 - B. He would draft sons and daughters for service
 - C. He would build more temples
 - D. He would give everyone land
 7. How did the people respond to Samuel's warnings about a king?
 - A. They changed their minds
 - B. They insisted on having a king
 - C. They prayed for guidance
 - D. They offered sacrifices
 8. What did the people's insistence on having a king signify?
 - A. Their wisdom
 - B. Their rejection of God as their king
 - C. Their loyalty to Samuel
 - D. Their wealth and power
 9. What did God instruct Samuel to do after the people insisted on a king?
 - A. Appoint Saul as king
 - B. Send them to battle
 - C. Grant their request
 - D. Flee to another city
 10. What lesson can we learn from the Israelites' demand for a king?
 - A. Always follow the crowd

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

- B. Consider the consequences of rejecting God's plan
- C. Seek power at all costs
- D. Trust in human leadership over divine guidance

Answers: 1-A, 2-A, 3-B, 4-C, 5-B, 6-B, 7-B, 8-B, 9-C, 10-B

Fill in the Blank

1. The Israelites asked for a _____ to lead them like other nations.
2. Samuel's sons, _____ and _____, were corrupt judges.
3. Samuel warned the Israelites that a king would take their sons for _____ and daughters for service.
4. Despite Samuel's warnings, the people _____ on having a king.
5. God instructed Samuel to _____ their request for a king.

Answers: 1. king, 2. Joel, Abijah, 3. war, 4. insisted, 5. grant

Vocabulary Words

1. **King** (מֶלֶךְ) - A male ruler of a nation, especially significant as the Israelites requested one to lead them like other nations.
2. **Judge** (שׁוֹפֵט) - A leader in Israel before the time of the kings; Samuel served as the last judge before the monarchy.
3. **Bribe** (שֹׁחַד) - A payment given in exchange for influence or favorable treatment, as was done by Samuel's sons.
4. **Consequences** (תּוֹצְאוֹת) - The results or effects of an action; Samuel warned the Israelites of the negative consequences of having a king.
5. **Rejection** (מַצָּא) - The act of refusing to accept or consider; God tells Samuel that the people's demand for a king was a rejection of Him as their true king.

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

CHAPTER 9

Summary of Chapter

Chapter 9 of 1 Samuel introduces Saul, the son of Kish from the tribe of Benjamin. Saul is sent by his father to find their lost donkeys. After a long search, Saul and his servant decide to seek the guidance of Samuel, the prophet, in the town of Ramah. Meanwhile, God reveals to Samuel that Saul is the man chosen to be the first king of Israel. When Saul meets Samuel, Samuel informs him of his divine appointment as king and assures him that the donkeys have been found. This chapter sets the stage for Saul's anointing as Israel's first monarch.

Opening Question

1. What qualities do you think made Saul an appealing choice to be Israel's first king?
 2. How does this story show the importance of seeking guidance from God in times of uncertainty?
-

Outline

1. Introduction of Saul and the Lost Donkeys (9:1-5)

- Saul, a handsome young man from the tribe of Benjamin, is introduced; his father, Kish, sends him to find their lost donkeys (9:1-2).
- Saul and his servant search unsuccessfully across several regions for the donkeys (9:3-5).

Application Questions:

- How do we handle situations when we are faced with challenging or unexpected tasks?

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

- What does Saul's willingness to search for the donkeys reveal about his character?

2. The Decision to Seek Samuel's Guidance (9:6-14)

- Saul's servant suggests seeking Samuel, a man of God, for guidance; they decide to go to the town of Ramah (9:6-10).
- Saul and his servant meet young women who guide them to Samuel's location (9:11-14).

Application Questions:

- Why is it important to seek spiritual guidance in times of uncertainty?
- How can we be more open to receiving advice from others, especially those who are spiritually mature?

3. God's Revelation to Samuel (9:15-17)

- God reveals to Samuel that He will send a man from Benjamin to be the leader of Israel; Samuel understands this to be Saul (9:15-17).

Application Questions:

- What does this revelation teach us about God's sovereign plans for leadership?
- How can we better align our actions with God's will for our lives?

4. Saul's Meeting with Samuel (9:18-27)

- Saul approaches Samuel; Samuel invites him to a feast and tells him about his future role as king and that the donkeys have been found (9:18-21).
- Samuel takes Saul to a place of honor at the feast and later speaks privately with him about God's plans (9:22-27).

Application Questions:

- How does Saul's humility in this situation reflect a key quality needed for leadership?
 - In what ways can we prepare ourselves to receive God's calling or purpose for our lives?
-

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

Possible Activities

1. Memory Verse Challenge

- Memorize 1 Samuel 9:17: “When Samuel caught sight of Saul, the LORD said to him, ‘This is the man I spoke to you about; he will govern my people.’” Students can work in groups to memorize the verse and discuss the significance of divine appointment and guidance.

2. Role-Playing Activity

- Role-play the scene where Saul and his servant decide to seek Samuel’s guidance and their subsequent meeting with Samuel. This activity can help students explore the themes of obedience, seeking God’s guidance, and humility.

3. Discussion Activity

- Discuss the qualities of a good leader as seen in Saul’s initial introduction. Encourage students to think about the importance of humility, seeking guidance, and being open to God’s direction in their own lives.

Quiz

1. What tribe was Saul from?
 - A. Judah
 - B. Ephraim
 - C. Benjamin
 - D. Levi
2. What task was Saul initially sent to accomplish?
 - A. Find lost sheep
 - B. Search for lost donkeys
 - C. Lead an army
 - D. Build an altar

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

3. Who suggested seeking guidance from Samuel?
 - A. Saul's father
 - B. Saul himself
 - C. Saul's servant
 - D. A neighboring farmer
4. Where was Samuel when Saul and his servant sought him?
 - A. Shiloh
 - B. Jerusalem
 - C. Ramah
 - D. Hebron
5. What did God reveal to Samuel before Saul arrived?
 - A. That Saul would be a great warrior
 - B. That Saul would be the king of Israel
 - C. That Saul would find the donkeys
 - D. That Saul would become a prophet
6. How did Saul respond when Samuel spoke to him about being king?
 - A. He was eager and ready
 - B. He was doubtful and humble
 - C. He rejected the idea
 - D. He laughed
7. What did Samuel do for Saul at the feast?
 - A. Gave him a special seat of honor
 - B. Ignored him
 - C. Asked him to leave
 - D. Made him serve food
8. What assurance did Samuel give to Saul regarding the donkeys?
 - A. They were stolen
 - B. They were found

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

- C. They were lost forever
- D. They were sold
- 9. What did Samuel do after the feast with Saul?
 - A. Anointed him with oil
 - B. Sent him away immediately
 - C. Spoke privately about God's plans
 - D. Took him to war
- 10. What lesson can we learn from Saul's experience in this chapter?
 - A. Always rely on your own wisdom
 - B. Seek guidance and be open to God's plans
 - C. Avoid listening to others
 - D. Never trust strangers

Answers: 1-C, 2-B, 3-C, 4-C, 5-B, 6-B, 7-A, 8-B, 9-C, 10-B

Fill in the Blank

- 1. Saul was from the tribe of _____.
- 2. Saul and his servant were searching for lost _____.
- 3. They decided to seek guidance from _____, the prophet.
- 4. God revealed to _____ that Saul would be the king of Israel.
- 5. Samuel took Saul to a place of _____ at the feast.

Answers: 1. Benjamin, 2. donkeys, 3. Samuel, 4. Samuel, 5. honor

Vocabulary Words

- 1. **Prophet** (נָבִיא) - A person chosen by God to deliver His messages to the people; Samuel was a prophet in Israel.

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

2. **Tribe** (שִׁבְט) - A group of families or clans with a common ancestor; Saul was from the tribe of Benjamin.
3. **Donkey** (חֲמֹר) - A domesticated animal; Saul was sent to find his father's lost donkeys.
4. **Revelation** (הַתְגַּלוּת) - A divine disclosure or communication of God's will, as God revealed Saul's kingship to Samuel.
5. **Humility** (עֲנָוָה) - The quality of being humble and modest; Saul initially showed humility when approached by Samuel.

CHAPTER 10

Summary of Chapter

Chapter 10 of 1 Samuel describes the anointing of Saul as the first king of Israel. Samuel privately anoints Saul with oil and gives him several prophetic signs to confirm his new role. These signs come to pass, affirming God's choice of Saul. Later, Samuel calls the people together at Mizpah to publicly proclaim Saul as king. Despite some resistance, Saul is chosen by lot, and the people shout their acceptance. However, a group of dissenters questions Saul's ability to lead. This chapter highlights the themes of divine appointment, leadership, and the mixed reactions to God's choices.

Opening Question

1. What do you think it means to be chosen by God for a special purpose, like Saul was?
 2. How do you handle situations where not everyone agrees with a decision or choice that is made?
-

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

Outline

1. Saul's Anointing by Samuel (10:1-8)

- Samuel anoints Saul with oil and gives him prophetic signs to confirm his kingship; Saul is told he will meet two men at Rachel's tomb and three men at Tabor (10:1-4).
- Saul is to join a group of prophets and experience the Spirit of God coming upon him (10:5-8).

Application Questions:

- What does Saul's anointing teach us about God's preparation for those He calls?
- How can we be attentive to the signs and confirmations God provides in our own lives?

2. Fulfillment of the Prophetic Signs (10:9-16)

- All the signs Samuel foretold come true; Saul meets the prophets, and the Spirit of God comes upon him, changing his heart (10:9-13).
- Saul returns home but keeps the matter of the kingdom to himself, even when questioned by his uncle (10:14-16).

Application Questions:

- How should we respond when God's promises and plans begin to unfold in our lives?
- Why might Saul have chosen to keep the news of his kingship private initially?

3. Saul Proclaimed King at Mizpah (10:17-24)

- Samuel gathers the Israelites at Mizpah to announce God's choice of Saul as king; Saul is chosen by lot and presented to the people (10:17-24).

Application Questions:

- What can we learn about God's sovereignty in choosing leaders?
- How should we respond when God's choices for leadership differ from our expectations?

4. Mixed Reactions to Saul's Kingship (10:25-27)

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

- Some people accept Saul as king with joy, while others doubt his ability to lead; Saul remains silent in the face of opposition (10:25-27).

Application Questions:

- How can we deal with criticism or doubt when stepping into new roles or responsibilities?
 - What does Saul's response to dissenters teach us about handling opposition gracefully?
-

Possible Activities

1. Memory Verse Challenge

- Memorize 1 Samuel 10:24: "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!'" Students can form groups to memorize the verse and discuss what it means to be chosen by God.

2. Role-Playing Activity

- Role-play the scene at Mizpah where Saul is proclaimed king. Assign students roles such as Samuel, Saul, the dissenters, and the supporters. Discuss the different perspectives and how each group might have felt during this event.

3. Discussion Activity

- Discuss the concept of leadership and being chosen by God. Encourage students to reflect on times when they felt called to a specific task or role and how they responded to that calling.
-

Quiz

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

1. What did Samuel use to anoint Saul?
 - A. Water
 - B. Oil
 - C. Wine
 - D. Sand
2. What signs did Samuel give to confirm Saul's anointing?
 - A. Meeting two men at Rachel's tomb
 - B. Meeting three men at Tabor
 - C. Prophesying with a group of prophets
 - D. All of the above
3. What happened to Saul when he met the group of prophets?
 - A. He ran away
 - B. The Spirit of God came upon him
 - C. He fought them
 - D. He ignored them
4. How did Saul respond to his uncle's questions about his meeting with Samuel?
 - A. He told him everything
 - B. He said nothing about the kingdom
 - C. He lied
 - D. He laughed
5. Where did Samuel gather the Israelites to proclaim Saul as king?
 - A. Jerusalem
 - B. Shiloh
 - C. Mizpah
 - D. Bethlehem
6. How was Saul chosen as king in front of the people?
 - A. By popular vote
 - B. By lot

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

- C. By prophecy
- D. By battle
- 7. How did the people react when Saul was presented as king?
 - A. They rejected him
 - B. They shouted, “Long live the king!”
 - C. They were indifferent
 - D. They mocked him
- 8. What did some dissenters say about Saul’s ability to lead?
 - A. “He is too young”
 - B. “How can this man save us?”
 - C. “He is the best choice”
 - D. “He is too weak”
- 9. How did Saul handle the dissenters?
 - A. He punished them
 - B. He ignored them
 - C. He argued with them
 - D. He exiled them
- 10. What lesson can we learn from Saul’s initial response to being chosen as king?
 - A. Seek power aggressively
 - B. Respond to criticism with humility
 - C. Always fight back against opposition
 - D. Ignore God’s calling

Answers: 1-B, 2-D, 3-B, 4-B, 5-C, 6-B, 7-B, 8-B, 9-B, 10-B

Fill in the Blank

1. Samuel anointed Saul with _____ to signify his kingship.
2. Saul was told he would meet two men at _____’s tomb as a sign.
3. When Saul met the group of prophets, the _____ of God came upon him.

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

4. Saul was proclaimed king in front of the people at _____.
5. Some people doubted Saul's ability to _____ Israel.

Answers: 1. oil, 2. Rachel, 3. Spirit, 4. Mizpah, 5. lead

Vocabulary Words

1. **Anoint** (מָשַׁח) - To pour oil upon someone as a sign of consecration or appointment to a special role, such as Saul's anointing as king.
2. **Prophet** (נָבִיא) - A person chosen by God to deliver His messages; Samuel was a prophet who anointed Saul.
3. **Spirit** (רוּחַ) - Refers to the Spirit of God, which came upon Saul, signifying divine empowerment.
4. **Lot** (גּוֹרֵל) - A method used to make a decision or choice, such as the selection of Saul as king.
5. **Dissenters** (מִתְנַגְּדִים) - Those who disagree or oppose a decision; some Israelites were dissenters to Saul's kingship.

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

CHAPTER 11

Summary of Chapter

Chapter 11 of 1 Samuel recounts Saul's first major act as king, rescuing the city of Jabesh Gilead from the Ammonites. Nahash, the Ammonite king, besieges Jabesh Gilead, threatening to gouge out the right eyes of its inhabitants. The people of Jabesh Gilead send messengers for help, and Saul, filled with the Spirit of God, rallies the Israelites and leads them to a decisive victory against the Ammonites. After the victory, Saul is reaffirmed as king in Gilgal, and the people rejoice. This chapter illustrates Saul's early success and the importance of unity and leadership in times of crisis.

Opening Question

1. How do you think the people of Jabesh Gilead felt when they were threatened by Nahash, the Ammonite?
 2. What can we learn from Saul's response to the crisis that can help us in our own lives?
-

Outline

1. **The Siege of Jabesh Gilead (11:1-3)**
 - Nahash the Ammonite besieges Jabesh Gilead and demands the right eyes of the inhabitants as a condition for peace (11:1-2).
 - The elders of Jabesh request a seven-day respite to seek help from Israel (11:3).
- Application Questions:**
- How do we react when faced with seemingly impossible demands or threats?
 - Why is it important to seek help from others when we are in difficult situations?

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

2. Saul's Call to Arms (11:4-7)

- The messengers reach Gibeah, and Saul, hearing their plea, is filled with the Spirit of God and calls the Israelites to arms (11:4-6).
- Saul cuts oxen into pieces and sends them throughout Israel to rally the tribes, leading to a unified response (11:7).

Application Questions:

- What can we learn from Saul's decisive action and leadership in response to a crisis?
- How can we encourage unity and cooperation in our communities when facing challenges?

3. The Defeat of the Ammonites (11:8-11)

- Saul leads a surprise attack against the Ammonites at dawn, resulting in a significant victory and the scattering of the enemy (11:8-11).

Application Questions:

- Why is strategic planning important when facing opposition?
- How does this victory demonstrate the power of God working through leaders who seek His guidance?

4. Saul's Kingship Reaffirmed (11:12-15)

- Following the victory, the people reaffirm Saul's kingship at Gilgal; they celebrate with sacrifices and rejoicing (11:12-15).

Application Questions:

- Why is it important to acknowledge and celebrate moments of victory and unity?
- How can we show support for our leaders who work for the good of the community?

Possible Activities

1. Memory Verse Challenge

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

- Memorize 1 Samuel 11:13: “But Saul said, ‘No one will be put to death today, for this day the LORD has rescued Israel.’” Discuss the importance of recognizing God's hand in our successes and victories.

2. Role-Playing Activity

- Role-play the scene where the elders of Jabesh Gilead send messengers to Israel for help, and Saul responds by rallying the tribes. This activity will help students understand the dynamics of leadership, courage, and unity in a crisis.

3. Discussion Activity

- Hold a discussion on the qualities of a good leader as demonstrated by Saul in this chapter. Encourage students to reflect on how they can develop these qualities in their own lives, especially in times of crisis.

Quiz

1. Who besieged the city of Jabesh Gilead?
 - A. Philistines
 - B. Ammonites
 - C. Moabites
 - D. Edomites
2. What did Nahash the Ammonite demand from the people of Jabesh Gilead?
 - A. Their gold
 - B. Their livestock
 - C. Their right eyes
 - D. Their land
3. How many days did the elders of Jabesh request to seek help?
 - A. Three days
 - B. Seven days

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

- C. Ten days
- D. Forty days
- 4. How did Saul respond when he heard the news from Jabesh Gilead?
 - A. He ignored it
 - B. He prayed silently
 - C. He was filled with the Spirit of God and called Israel to arms
 - D. He negotiated with Nahash
- 5. What did Saul do to rally the tribes of Israel?
 - A. He sent letters
 - B. He held a meeting
 - C. He cut oxen into pieces and sent them throughout Israel
 - D. He made a public speech
- 6. How did the Israelites respond to Saul's call to arms?
 - A. They refused to fight
 - B. They rallied together in unity
 - C. They fled to the mountains
 - D. They argued among themselves
- 7. When did Saul launch the attack against the Ammonites?
 - A. At midnight
 - B. At dawn
 - C. In the afternoon
 - D. At sunset
- 8. What was the outcome of the battle against the Ammonites?
 - A. Israel was defeated
 - B. The battle was inconclusive
 - C. The Ammonites were completely defeated and scattered
 - D. A peace treaty was signed
- 9. Where did the Israelites reaffirm Saul's kingship?
 - A. Shiloh

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

B. Gilgal

C. Jerusalem

D. Bethel

10. What was the reaction of the people after Saul's victory over the Ammonites?

A. They demanded more battles

B. They rejoiced and offered sacrifices

C. They doubted Saul's leadership

D. They fled from Saul

Answers: 1-B, 2-C, 3-B, 4-C, 5-C, 6-B, 7-B, 8-C, 9-B, 10-B

Fill in the Blank

1. The city of _____ was besieged by Nahash the Ammonite.
2. Nahash demanded that the people of Jabesh Gilead surrender their _____ eyes.
3. Saul rallied the Israelites by sending pieces of _____ throughout the land.
4. Saul's leadership led to a decisive victory against the _____ at dawn.
5. After the victory, Saul's kingship was reaffirmed by the people at _____.

Answers: 1. Jabesh Gilead, 2. right, 3. oxen, 4. Ammonites, 5. Gilgal

Vocabulary Words

1. **Besiege** (צָרַר) - To surround a city or stronghold with armed forces in order to capture it; as Nahash did to Jabesh Gilead.
2. **Ammonites** (עַמּוֹנִים) - A people frequently at odds with Israel; Nahash, the Ammonite king, besieged Jabesh Gilead.
3. **Spirit of God** (רוּחַ אֱלֹהִים) - The divine presence and power that filled Saul, inspiring him to lead Israel to victory.

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

CHAPTER 12

Summary of Chapter

Chapter 12 of 1 Samuel features Samuel's farewell address to Israel. Samuel reminds the people of his integrity and service as their leader and challenges them to testify against him if he has wronged anyone. He then recounts God's faithfulness in delivering Israel despite their repeated disobedience. Samuel warns the people and King Saul to serve the Lord faithfully, or they will face severe consequences. To reinforce his message, Samuel calls upon God, who sends a thunderstorm during the wheat harvest, demonstrating His power. The people repent, and Samuel assures them of God's mercy if they remain faithful.

Opening Question

1. Why do you think Samuel reminded the Israelites of God's faithfulness throughout their history?
 2. How can we apply Samuel's warning to serve God faithfully in our own lives?
-

Outline

1. Samuel's Integrity and Leadership (12:1-5)

- Samuel declares his retirement as Israel's leader and asks the people to testify if he has wronged anyone; the people affirm his integrity (12:1-5).

Application Questions:

- Why is it important for leaders to have integrity and be accountable to those they lead?
- How can we cultivate a life of integrity in our own interactions with others?

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

2. **Recounting God's Faithfulness (12:6-12)**

- Samuel recounts Israel's history, highlighting God's faithfulness in delivering them from Egypt, the judges, and recent enemies despite their disobedience (12:6-12).

Application Questions:

- What does remembering God's past faithfulness teach us about trusting Him in the present?
- How can we remind ourselves of God's faithfulness in our daily lives?

3. **Warning and Call to Obedience (12:13-18)**

- Samuel warns the people and their new king, Saul, to serve the Lord faithfully; he calls for a sign from God, and a thunderstorm occurs (12:13-18).

Application Questions:

- Why is it important to heed warnings from spiritual leaders?
- How do we respond when we see signs of God's power in our lives?

4. **The People's Repentance and Samuel's Assurance (12:19-25)**

- The people repent, asking Samuel to pray for them; Samuel reassures them of God's mercy if they remain faithful and serves as their spiritual guide (12:19-25).

Application Questions:

- How should we respond when we realize we have strayed from God's commands?
- What steps can we take to ensure we remain faithful to God's guidance?

Possible Activities

1. **Memory Verse Challenge**

- Memorize 1 Samuel 12:24: "But be sure to fear the LORD and serve him faithfully with all your heart; consider what great things he has done for you."

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

Discuss what it means to serve God faithfully and how we can do so in our daily lives.

2. Role-Playing Activity

- Role-play the scene where Samuel addresses the Israelites, recounting God's faithfulness and calling them to repentance. This activity will help students understand the importance of leadership, accountability, and obedience to God.

3. Discussion Activity

- Hold a discussion on the importance of remembering God's faithfulness and how it impacts our trust in Him. Encourage students to share personal stories of how they have experienced God's faithfulness.

Quiz

1. What was the purpose of Samuel's speech to the Israelites?
 - A. To announce a war
 - B. To retire as their leader and remind them of God's faithfulness
 - C. To ask for money
 - D. To build a temple
2. How did the Israelites respond when Samuel asked if he had wronged them?
 - A. They accused him
 - B. They remained silent
 - C. They affirmed his integrity
 - D. They demanded his resignation
3. What did Samuel recount in his speech to the Israelites?
 - A. His personal achievements
 - B. Israel's history of disobedience and God's faithfulness
 - C. The laws of Moses
 - D. A prophecy about the future

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

4. What sign did Samuel call upon God to give during his speech?
 - A. An earthquake
 - B. A thunderstorm during wheat harvest
 - C. A flood
 - D. A pillar of fire
5. How did the people react to the thunderstorm that Samuel called for?
 - A. They were terrified and repented
 - B. They ignored it
 - C. They celebrated
 - D. They blamed Samuel
6. What did Samuel warn the Israelites and King Saul about?
 - A. The dangers of war
 - B. The consequences of disobedience to God
 - C. The need to build an altar
 - D. The importance of wealth
7. What did the Israelites ask Samuel to do after the thunderstorm?
 - A. Lead them in battle
 - B. Pray for them
 - C. Give them a new king
 - D. Return to leadership
8. How did Samuel assure the people after they repented?
 - A. He scolded them
 - B. He ignored them
 - C. He assured them of God's mercy if they remained faithful
 - D. He promised them riches
9. What did Samuel promise to continue doing for the Israelites?
 - A. Leading them in battle
 - B. Building a temple

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

- C. Praying for them and teaching them the good and right way
 - D. Collecting taxes
10. What lesson can we learn from Samuel's farewell speech?
- A. The importance of gaining power
 - B. The need for wealth and influence
 - C. The significance of integrity, obedience, and remembering God's faithfulness
 - D. The desire for fame

Answers: 1-B, 2-C, 3-B, 4-B, 5-A, 6-B, 7-B, 8-C, 9-C, 10-C

Fill in the Blank

1. Samuel gave a _____ speech to the Israelites, reminding them of God's faithfulness.
2. Samuel asked the people if he had _____ anyone, and they affirmed his integrity.
3. Samuel called for a _____ as a sign from God, which occurred during the wheat harvest.
4. The people were _____ and repented after witnessing the thunderstorm.
5. Samuel assured the people of God's _____ if they remained faithful.

Answers: 1. farewell, 2. wronged, 3. thunderstorm, 4. terrified, 5. mercy

Vocabulary Words

1. **Integrity** (יִשְׁרָ) - The quality of being honest and having strong moral principles; Samuel demonstrated integrity throughout his leadership.
2. **Faithfulness** (נֶאֱמָנוּת) - Being loyal and steadfast; Samuel reminded Israel of God's faithfulness despite their disobedience.

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

3. **Repentance** (תשובה) - The act of feeling remorse for wrongdoing and turning back to God; the Israelites repented after Samuel's warning.
4. **Thunderstorm** (סופה) - A storm with thunder and lightning; God sent a thunderstorm during Samuel's speech as a sign.
5. **Obedience** (ציית) - Compliance with an order or request; Samuel warned Israel of the need for obedience to God's commands.

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

CHAPTER 13

Summary of Chapter

Chapter 13 of 1 Samuel describes King Saul's early reign and his first major military challenge against the Philistines. Saul's son, Jonathan, initiates conflict by attacking a Philistine outpost, prompting the Philistines to mobilize a large army against Israel. In panic, Saul's troops begin to scatter. Fearing further desertion, Saul unlawfully offers a burnt sacrifice instead of waiting for Samuel. When Samuel arrives, he rebukes Saul for his disobedience, declaring that his kingdom will not endure and that God has sought a man after His own heart. This chapter highlights themes of impatience, disobedience, and the consequences of failing to trust in God's timing.

Opening Question

1. Why do you think Saul chose to offer the sacrifice himself instead of waiting for Samuel?
 2. What lessons can we learn from Saul's impatience and its consequences?
-

Outline

1. Jonathan's Attack and the Philistine Threat (13:1-7)

- Jonathan, Saul's son, attacks a Philistine outpost, provoking a massive Philistine response (13:1-4).
- The Philistines gather a large army; the Israelites, outnumbered and fearful, begin to scatter and hide (13:5-7).

Application Questions:

- How do we react when faced with overwhelming challenges or threats?
- What can we learn from Jonathan's courage and initiative in difficult situations?

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

2. Saul's Unlawful Sacrifice (13:8-10)

- Saul waits seven days for Samuel but, seeing his troops scatter, decides to offer a burnt sacrifice himself (13:8-9).
- Just as he finishes the offering, Samuel arrives and questions Saul's actions (13:10).

Application Questions:

- Why is it important to trust in God's timing rather than taking matters into our own hands?
- How can impatience lead to poor decisions in our spiritual and daily lives?

3. Samuel's Rebuke and Saul's Consequences (13:11-15)

- Samuel rebukes Saul for his disobedience and declares that his kingdom will not continue; God has sought a man after His own heart (13:11-14).
- Samuel leaves, and Saul counts his remaining troops, numbering about six hundred men (13:15).

Application Questions:

- How should we respond to correction or rebuke from spiritual leaders?
- What does this chapter teach us about the importance of obedience to God's commands?

4. Israel's Military Disadvantage (13:16-23)

- The Philistines camp in Michmash, and the Israelites are left with few weapons; only Saul and Jonathan have swords (13:16-23).

Application Questions:

- What does this military disadvantage reveal about the Israelites' reliance on God for deliverance?
 - How can we maintain faith and courage when we feel unprepared or disadvantaged?
-

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

Possible Activities

1. Memory Verse Challenge

- Memorize 1 Samuel 13:13: “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.” Discuss the importance of obedience and patience in following God’s commands.

2. Role-Playing Activity

- Role-play the scene where Saul decides to offer the sacrifice and Samuel arrives afterward. This activity will help students explore the themes of impatience, fear, and the consequences of disobedience.

3. Discussion Activity

- Discuss the importance of waiting on God’s timing and the dangers of acting out of fear or impatience. Encourage students to share experiences where they had to wait for something and how they handled the situation.

Quiz

1. Who initiated the conflict with the Philistines?
 - A. Saul
 - B. Samuel
 - C. Jonathan
 - D. David
2. What did the Philistines do in response to Jonathan’s attack?
 - A. They retreated
 - B. They ignored it
 - C. They mobilized a large army
 - D. They made peace

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

3. How did Saul's troops react to the Philistine threat?
 - A. They fought bravely
 - B. They scattered and hid
 - C. They surrendered
 - D. They laughed
4. What did Saul do when Samuel did not arrive on time?
 - A. He waited patiently
 - B. He sent for more troops
 - C. He offered the burnt sacrifice himself
 - D. He negotiated with the Philistines
5. What was Samuel's reaction to Saul's sacrifice?
 - A. He praised Saul
 - B. He ignored it
 - C. He rebuked Saul for disobedience
 - D. He offered another sacrifice
6. What consequence did Samuel declare for Saul's disobedience?
 - A. Saul would lose his army
 - B. Saul would become richer
 - C. Saul's kingdom would not endure
 - D. Saul would be promoted
7. What did Samuel say God had sought after Saul's disobedience?
 - A. A stronger king
 - B. A man after His own heart
 - C. A new prophet
 - D. A new kingdom
8. How many men remained with Saul after the Philistines gathered their army?
 - A. 300
 - B. 600

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

- C. 1,000
- D. 5,000
- 9. Where did the Philistines camp after mobilizing against Israel?
 - A. Gibeah
 - B. Michmash
 - C. Bethlehem
 - D. Hebron
- 10. How many Israelites had swords during the battle with the Philistines?
 - A. All the men
 - B. None
 - C. Only Saul and Jonathan
 - D. A few hundred

Answers: 1-C, 2-C, 3-B, 4-C, 5-C, 6-C, 7-B, 8-B, 9-B, 10-C

Fill in the Blank

- 1. _____ initiated the conflict with the Philistines by attacking an outpost.
- 2. The Philistines responded by gathering a _____ army against Israel.
- 3. Saul offered a _____ sacrifice instead of waiting for Samuel.
- 4. Samuel rebuked Saul for his _____ and declared his kingdom would not endure.
- 5. Only Saul and _____ had swords among the Israelites during the battle.

Answers: 1. Jonathan, 2. large, 3. burnt, 4. disobedience, 5. Jonathan

Vocabulary Words

- 1. **Impatience** (הָסָר סְבִלְנוּת) - A lack of patience; Saul displayed impatience by offering the sacrifice instead of waiting for Samuel.

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

2. **Disobedience** (מִרְדּוּת) - The refusal or failure to obey; Saul's act of offering the sacrifice was considered disobedience to God's command.
3. **Philistines** (פְּלִשְׁתִּים) - A group of people who were often enemies of Israel; they gathered a large army against Israel in this chapter.
4. **Sacrifice** (קָרְבָּן) - An offering made to God, often involving the slaughter of an animal; Saul unlawfully offered a burnt sacrifice.
5. **Endure** (עָמַד) - To last or continue; Samuel declared that Saul's kingdom would not endure due to his disobedience.

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

CHAPTER 14

Summary of Chapter

Chapter 14 of 1 Samuel details Jonathan's bold attack on a Philistine outpost, leading to a surprising victory for Israel. With only his armor-bearer, Jonathan scales a cliff and attacks the Philistines, causing panic. The Philistine army is thrown into confusion, and Saul's troops join the fight, leading to a great victory. Saul makes a rash vow, cursing anyone who eats before evening. Jonathan, unaware, eats honey and is later condemned. The people defend Jonathan, and he is spared. This chapter illustrates the power of faith, the dangers of rash decisions, and the importance of unity among God's people.

Opening Question

1. How do you think Jonathan's faith influenced his decision to attack the Philistine outpost?
 2. What can we learn from Saul's rash vow and its consequences?
-

Outline

1. Jonathan's Bold Attack (14:1-14)

- Jonathan and his armor-bearer decide to attack a Philistine outpost, trusting God to give them victory (14:1-7).
- They scale a cliff and surprise the Philistines, causing confusion and panic (14:8-14).

Application Questions:

- What does Jonathan's boldness teach us about having faith in God's power?

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

- How can we demonstrate similar courage in our own lives when facing challenges?

2. The Battle and Saul's Rash Vow (14:15-23)

- The panic spreads among the Philistines; Saul's troops see the commotion and join the battle, leading to victory (14:15-20).
- Saul makes a rash vow, cursing anyone who eats before evening; the troops grow weary (14:21-23).

Application Questions:

- What are the dangers of making impulsive decisions, especially in leadership?
- How can we ensure our actions are thoughtful and aligned with God's will?

3. Jonathan's Unknowing Disobedience and the People's Defense (14:24-30)

- Jonathan, unaware of Saul's vow, eats honey, gaining strength; he later learns of the curse and is condemned (14:24-30).

Application Questions:

- How should we respond when we unknowingly disobey a command or rule?
- What can we learn from the people's defense of Jonathan about standing up for justice and mercy?

4. Victory and Continued Conflict (14:31-46)

- The Israelites pursue the Philistines, and Saul builds an altar; he inquires of God but receives no answer, prompting him to investigate the sin in the camp (14:31-37).
- The people defend Jonathan, and Saul is persuaded not to carry out his oath; the conflict with the Philistines continues (14:38-46).

Application Questions:

- How do we navigate situations where leadership decisions conflict with fairness or mercy?
- What role does seeking God's guidance play in resolving conflicts within a community?

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

Possible Activities

1. Memory Verse Challenge

- Memorize 1 Samuel 14:6: “Jonathan said to his young armor-bearer, ‘Come, let’s go over to the outpost of those uncircumcised men. Perhaps the LORD will act on our behalf. Nothing can hinder the LORD from saving, whether by many or by few.’” Discuss how this verse reflects trust in God’s power regardless of circumstances.

2. Role-Playing Activity

- Role-play the scene where Jonathan eats the honey, unaware of Saul’s vow, and the subsequent confrontation. This activity will help students explore themes of obedience, leadership, and justice.

3. Discussion Activity

- Hold a discussion on the importance of faith and courage in taking bold actions, like Jonathan, and the consequences of rash decisions, like Saul’s. Encourage students to reflect on times when they needed faith to act or patience to avoid hasty choices.
-

Quiz

1. Who initiated the attack on the Philistine outpost?
 - A. Saul
 - B. Samuel
 - C. Jonathan
 - D. David

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

2. Who accompanied Jonathan on his bold attack?
 - A. His father, Saul
 - B. His armor-bearer
 - C. A group of soldiers
 - D. A prophet
3. What caused confusion among the Philistine army?
 - A. An earthquake
 - B. Jonathan's surprise attack
 - C. A loud trumpet
 - D. A sudden storm
4. What vow did Saul make during the battle?
 - A. To destroy all the Philistines
 - B. To sacrifice his best sheep
 - C. To curse anyone who ate before evening
 - D. To build a new altar
5. What did Jonathan eat, unaware of Saul's vow?
 - A. Bread
 - B. Honey
 - C. Meat
 - D. Figs
6. How did the people react when Saul wanted to punish Jonathan?
 - A. They agreed
 - B. They remained silent
 - C. They defended Jonathan and spared him
 - D. They fled
7. Why did Saul build an altar after the victory?
 - A. To thank God
 - B. To make peace with the Philistines

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

- C. To offer burnt sacrifices
- D. To commemorate the battle
- 8. What did Saul inquire of God after the battle, and what was the response?
 - A. For guidance, but God did not answer
 - B. For rain, and it poured
 - C. For victory, and they won
 - D. For a sign, and a dove appeared
- 9. What did Saul decide to do after receiving no answer from God?
 - A. Attack another Philistine outpost
 - B. Investigate sin in the camp
 - C. Go back to his palace
 - D. Make peace with the Philistines
- 10. What lesson can we learn from Jonathan's actions and Saul's vow?
 - A. Always act impulsively
 - B. Be courageous but avoid rash decisions
 - C. Never trust your leaders
 - D. Seek revenge whenever possible

Answers: 1-C, 2-B, 3-B, 4-C, 5-B, 6-C, 7-C, 8-A, 9-B, 10-B

Fill in the Blank

- 1. Jonathan and his _____ decided to attack a Philistine outpost.
- 2. Jonathan's bold attack caused _____ among the Philistines.
- 3. Saul made a rash vow, cursing anyone who _____ before evening.
- 4. Jonathan unknowingly broke Saul's vow by eating _____.
- 5. The people defended Jonathan and _____ him from Saul's punishment.

Answers: 1. armor-bearer, 2. confusion, 3. ate, 4. honey, 5. spared

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

Vocabulary Words

1. **Armor-bearer** (נִשְׂא כְלִים) - A person who carried additional weapons for a warrior; Jonathan's companion in his attack.
2. **Confusion** (בְּלִבּוּל) - A state of disorder or disarray; caused among the Philistines during Jonathan's surprise attack.
3. **Vow** (נֶדֶר) - A solemn promise or assertion; Saul's vow forbade eating before evening during the battle.
4. **Honey** (דְּבַשׁ) - A sweet substance produced by bees; Jonathan ate honey, unaware of Saul's curse.
5. **Mercy** (חֶסֶד) - Compassion or forgiveness shown toward someone; the people showed mercy by sparing Jonathan.

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

CHAPTER 15

Summary of Chapter

Chapter 15 of 1 Samuel recounts God's command to Saul to completely destroy the Amalekites and their possessions. Saul partially obeys by defeating the Amalekites but spares their king, Agag, and keeps the best livestock. God informs Samuel of Saul's disobedience, and Samuel confronts Saul, who makes excuses and blames his troops. Samuel declares that God has rejected Saul as king due to his disobedience. Samuel then executes Agag to fulfill God's command and mourns over Saul's failure. This chapter emphasizes the importance of complete obedience to God and the consequences of partial compliance and self-justification.

Opening Question

1. Why do you think partial obedience was not acceptable to God in Saul's case?
 2. How can we apply the lesson of complete obedience in our daily lives?
-

Outline

1. God's Command to Destroy the Amalekites (15:1-9)

- Samuel relays God's command to Saul to utterly destroy the Amalekites and all their possessions (15:1-3).
- Saul attacks and defeats the Amalekites but spares King Agag and the best livestock, disobeying God's command (15:4-9).

Application Questions:

- Why is it important to fully obey God's instructions, even when they seem difficult?

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

- What are some areas in our lives where we might be tempted to partially obey God?

2. Samuel Confronts Saul's Disobedience (15:10-21)

- God informs Samuel of Saul's disobedience, and Samuel confronts Saul, who tries to justify his actions and blames his troops (15:10-15).
- Saul claims the spared livestock was intended for sacrifice, but Samuel emphasizes obedience over sacrifice (15:16-21).

Application Questions:

- How should we respond when confronted with our own disobedience or mistakes?
- What does this passage teach us about the importance of taking responsibility for our actions?

3. God's Rejection of Saul as King (15:22-31)

- Samuel declares that God has rejected Saul as king due to his disobedience and partial obedience (15:22-23).
- Saul pleads for forgiveness, but Samuel tells him the kingdom will be given to another; Saul reluctantly acknowledges his sin (15:24-31).

Application Questions:

- How do we handle rejection or discipline from God or leaders?
- Why is it important to genuinely repent rather than just seek to avoid consequences?

4. Execution of Agag and Samuel's Mourning (15:32-35)

- Samuel executes King Agag to fulfill God's command, demonstrating the seriousness of complete obedience (15:32-33).
- Samuel departs, mourning over Saul's failure, and the chapter ends with God regretting making Saul king (15:34-35).

Application Questions:

- How can we ensure that we are fully carrying out God's commands in our lives?
- What lessons can we learn from Samuel's grief over Saul's disobedience?

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

Possible Activities

1. Memory Verse Challenge

- Memorize 1 Samuel 15:22: “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.’” Discuss the importance of obedience over ritual or outward displays of devotion.

2. Role-Playing Activity

- Role-play the confrontation between Samuel and Saul, focusing on Saul’s excuses and Samuel’s response. This activity will help students explore themes of obedience, responsibility, and the consequences of disobedience.

3. Discussion Activity

- Discuss the concept of partial obedience and why it is not sufficient in God’s eyes. Encourage students to share personal experiences where they learned the importance of complete obedience.
-

Quiz

1. Who did God command Saul to destroy completely?
 - A. The Philistines
 - B. The Amalekites
 - C. The Moabites
 - D. The Egyptians
2. What did Saul do instead of fully obeying God's command?
 - A. He destroyed everything
 - B. He spared King Agag and the best livestock

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

- C. He negotiated peace
- D. He built an altar
- 3. Who informed Samuel about Saul's disobedience?
 - A. Saul
 - B. An angel
 - C. God
 - D. A servant
- 4. How did Saul try to justify his actions to Samuel?
 - A. He claimed he did not understand the command
 - B. He blamed his troops and said the livestock was for sacrifice
 - C. He denied any wrongdoing
 - D. He offered Samuel a bribe
- 5. What does Samuel say is better than sacrifice?
 - A. Wealth
 - B. Power
 - C. Obedience
 - D. Fasting
- 6. What was the consequence of Saul's disobedience?
 - A. He became richer
 - B. He was given a second chance
 - C. God rejected him as king
 - D. He was promoted
- 7. Who executed King Agag?
 - A. Saul
 - B. Samuel
 - C. David
 - D. Jonathan
- 8. How did Saul react after Samuel told him that God had rejected him as king?
 - A. He was indifferent

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

- B. He pleaded for forgiveness
 - C. He attacked Samuel
 - D. He immediately stepped down
9. What did Samuel do after his confrontation with Saul?
- A. He returned to his home and mourned over Saul
 - B. He went to war
 - C. He built an altar
 - D. He crowned a new king
10. What does this chapter teach about the nature of obedience to God?
- A. Partial obedience is acceptable
 - B. Complete obedience is necessary and valued over sacrifice
 - C. Disobedience has no real consequences
 - D. God prefers sacrifices over anything else

Answers: 1-B, 2-B, 3-C, 4-B, 5-C, 6-C, 7-B, 8-B, 9-A, 10-B

Fill in the Blank

- 1. God commanded Saul to completely destroy the _____.
- 2. Saul disobeyed by sparing King _____ and the best livestock.
- 3. Samuel told Saul that to obey is better than _____.
- 4. Saul was _____ as king because of his disobedience.
- 5. Samuel mourned over Saul's _____ and God's decision.

Answers: 1. Amalekites, 2. Agag, 3. sacrifice, 4. rejected, 5. failure

Vocabulary Words

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

1. **Obedience** (צִיּוֹת) - The act of following commands or guidance; emphasized as more important than sacrifices in this chapter.
2. **Amalekites** (עַמְלֵקִים) - A group of people God commanded Saul to destroy completely for their opposition to Israel.
3. **Sacrifice** (קָרְבָּן) - An offering made to God, often involving the slaughter of an animal; Saul claimed he spared livestock for this purpose.
4. **Rejection** (מָאַס) - The act of refusing to accept or approve; God rejected Saul as king for his disobedience.
5. **Justify** (הִצְדִּיק) - To show or prove to be right or reasonable; Saul attempted to justify his actions when confronted by Samuel.

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

CHAPTER 16

Summary of Chapter

Chapter 16 of 1 Samuel marks the beginning of David's rise as God's chosen king of Israel. God instructs Samuel to anoint a new king from Jesse's sons in Bethlehem. Despite Samuel's initial inclination to choose based on appearance, God guides him to select David, the youngest son, because of his heart. After David is anointed, the Spirit of the Lord departs from Saul, and an evil spirit torments him. David, known for his skill in music, is brought to Saul's service to play the harp and soothe him. This chapter highlights God's criteria for leadership and the introduction of David's role in Saul's court.

Opening Question

1. Why do you think God chose David, the youngest son, instead of one of his older brothers?
 2. How does the story of David's anointing show that God looks at the heart rather than outward appearances?
-

Outline

1. **God's Instruction to Samuel (16:1-3)**
 - God instructs Samuel to stop mourning for Saul and to go to Bethlehem to anoint a new king from the sons of Jesse (16:1-3).

Application Questions:

- How should we respond when God gives us a new direction or mission?

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

- What can we learn about obedience and trust from Samuel's willingness to follow God's command?

2. Samuel Anoints David (16:4-13)

- Samuel arrives in Bethlehem and meets Jesse's sons, initially thinking Eliab is the chosen one based on appearance (16:4-6).
- God tells Samuel not to look at outward appearances; David, the youngest son, is chosen and anointed as king (16:7-13).

Application Questions:

- Why is it important to consider a person's heart and character over their outward appearance?
- How can we ensure we are looking at others through God's perspective rather than our own biases?

3. David Enters Saul's Service (16:14-23)

- The Spirit of the Lord departs from Saul, and he is tormented by an evil spirit; his servants suggest finding someone to play the harp to soothe him (16:14-16).
- David is recommended for his musical skill and is brought to Saul's service, where his music brings relief to Saul (16:17-23).

Application Questions:

- What does this passage teach us about using our gifts and talents to serve others?
- How can we recognize and respond to opportunities to help those in need, even those who might oppose us?

Possible Activities

1. Memory Verse Challenge

- Memorize 1 Samuel 16:7: "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

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

at the heart.”” Discuss the importance of valuing inner character over outward appearance.

2. **Role-Playing Activity**

- Role-play the scene where Samuel meets Jesse’s sons and is guided by God to anoint David. This activity will help students understand the importance of listening to God’s guidance and looking beyond appearances.

3. **Discussion Activity**

- Hold a discussion on the importance of developing inner qualities such as integrity, humility, and faithfulness. Encourage students to reflect on what qualities God values most and how they can cultivate these in their own lives.

Quiz

1. Who did God instruct Samuel to anoint as the new king?
 - A. Eliab
 - B. Jonathan
 - C. David
 - D. Saul
2. Where was Samuel sent to find the new king?
 - A. Jerusalem
 - B. Hebron
 - C. Bethlehem
 - D. Gibeah
3. How did Samuel initially decide who should be king?
 - A. By outward appearance
 - B. By wealth
 - C. By strength
 - D. By popularity

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

4. What did God tell Samuel about choosing a king?
 - A. Look at the wealth
 - B. Look at the heart, not the outward appearance
 - C. Choose the oldest son
 - D. Look for the tallest
5. Who was the youngest son of Jesse chosen to be king?
 - A. Eliab
 - B. Abinadab
 - C. Shammah
 - D. David
6. What happened to Saul after David was anointed?
 - A. He became stronger
 - B. The Spirit of the Lord departed from him
 - C. He was given more power
 - D. He rejoiced
7. What tormented Saul after the Spirit of the Lord left him?
 - A. A physical illness
 - B. An evil spirit
 - C. A neighboring king
 - D. A wild animal
8. What skill did David use to help Saul?
 - A. Hunting
 - B. Fighting
 - C. Harp playing
 - D. Writing
9. How did Saul react to David's music?
 - A. He became more troubled
 - B. He found relief and felt better

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

- C. He ignored it
 - D. He dismissed David
10. What lesson can we learn from God's choice of David as king?
- A. Appearance is everything
 - B. God values inner qualities over outward appearance
 - C. Age determines ability
 - D. Popularity is most important

Answers: 1-C, 2-C, 3-A, 4-B, 5-D, 6-B, 7-B, 8-C, 9-B, 10-B

Fill in the Blank

1. God instructed Samuel to anoint a new king from the sons of _____.
2. Samuel initially thought _____ was the chosen one based on appearance.
3. God told Samuel not to look at the outward appearance but at the _____.
4. After David was anointed, the Spirit of the Lord _____ from Saul.
5. David played the _____ to soothe Saul when he was tormented by an evil spirit.

Answers: 1. Jesse, 2. Eliab, 3. heart, 4. departed, 5. harp

Vocabulary Words

1. **Anoint** (מָשַׁח) - To pour oil upon someone as a sign of consecration or divine appointment; Samuel anointed David as king.
2. **Heart** (לֵב) - The innermost part of a person, including thoughts and emotions; God looks at the heart rather than outward appearance.
3. **Spirit** (רוּחַ) - Refers to the Spirit of the Lord, which departed from Saul after David was anointed.

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

4. **Torment** (יָסוּר) - Severe suffering or distress; Saul was tormented by an evil spirit after the Spirit of the Lord left him.
5. **Harp** (כַּנּוֹר) - A stringed musical instrument; David played the harp to soothe Saul.

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

CHAPTER 17

Summary of Chapter

Chapter 17 of 1 Samuel tells the famous story of David and Goliath. The Philistine giant, Goliath, challenges the Israelites to send a champion to fight him. Saul and his army are terrified, but young David, visiting his brothers on the battlefield, volunteers to fight. Despite his small stature and lack of armor, David trusts in the Lord's power. Armed only with a sling and five stones, he strikes Goliath on the forehead, killing him. David's victory over Goliath brings glory to God and demonstrates that faith in God can overcome any obstacle.

Opening Question

1. Why do you think David was confident in facing Goliath when others were afraid?
 2. How does the story of David and Goliath show that God can use anyone, regardless of size or experience, to achieve His purposes?
-

Outline

1. Goliath's Challenge (17:1-11)

- The Philistine army gathers at Socoh, and their champion, Goliath, challenges the Israelites to send a warrior to fight him (17:1-7).
- Goliath taunts the Israelites daily, causing fear among Saul and his army (17:8-11).

Application Questions:

- How do we respond to challenges or obstacles that seem insurmountable?
- What can we learn from the Israelites' fear and reluctance to face Goliath?

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

2. David's Decision to Fight (17:12-30)

- David arrives at the battlefield to bring food to his brothers and hears Goliath's challenge; he questions why no one has accepted it (17:12-19).
- David's confidence in God contrasts with the fear of the Israelites; he offers to fight Goliath despite his youth and inexperience (17:20-30).

Application Questions:

- Why is it important to have faith in God's power rather than focusing on our limitations?
- How can we show courage and confidence in God in situations where others might be fearful?

3. David Prepares for Battle (17:31-40)

- Saul doubts David's ability but eventually agrees to let him fight; David refuses Saul's armor and instead chooses his sling and five stones (17:31-40).

Application Questions:

- What does David's refusal of armor teach us about trusting in God's provision rather than human resources?
- How can we prepare ourselves spiritually for the battles we face in life?

4. David Defeats Goliath (17:41-58)

- David confronts Goliath, proclaiming his faith in God; he slings a stone that strikes Goliath in the forehead, killing him instantly (17:41-49).
- The Israelites pursue the fleeing Philistines, and David's victory brings glory to God; Saul inquires about David's lineage (17:50-58).

Application Questions:

- What does David's victory over Goliath teach us about the power of faith and reliance on God?
 - How can we give glory to God in our victories and successes?
-

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

Possible Activities

1. Memory Verse Challenge

- Memorize 1 Samuel 17:45: “David said to the Philistine, ‘You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the LORD Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied.’”
Discuss how this verse demonstrates the importance of relying on God’s strength rather than our own.

2. Role-Playing Activity

- Role-play the scene where David volunteers to fight Goliath and the conversation between David and Saul. This activity will help students explore themes of courage, faith, and trusting in God’s provision.

3. Discussion Activity

- Discuss the qualities that made David a strong candidate to face Goliath, despite his youth and inexperience. Encourage students to think about how they can develop similar qualities of faith and courage in their own lives.

Quiz

1. Who challenged the Israelites to send a warrior to fight him?
 - A. Saul
 - B. Jonathan
 - C. Goliath
 - D. David
2. How often did Goliath taunt the Israelites?
 - A. Once a week
 - B. Twice a day

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

- C. Daily
- D. Never
- 3. Why did David come to the battlefield?
 - A. To fight Goliath
 - B. To bring food to his brothers
 - C. To serve as a soldier
 - D. To deliver a message
- 4. How did David respond to Saul's doubts about his ability to fight Goliath?
 - A. He agreed with Saul
 - B. He insisted on fighting because of his faith in God
 - C. He withdrew his offer
 - D. He challenged Saul instead
- 5. What weapon did David use to defeat Goliath?
 - A. A sword
 - B. A spear
 - C. A sling and a stone
 - D. A javelin
- 6. What happened to Goliath after David's stone struck him?
 - A. He was wounded but survived
 - B. He fell and was killed instantly
 - C. He surrendered
 - D. He fled
- 7. What did the Israelites do after David defeated Goliath?
 - A. They retreated
 - B. They celebrated quietly
 - C. They pursued the fleeing Philistines
 - D. They made peace with the Philistines
- 8. How did David's victory bring glory to God?
 - A. By showing his own strength

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

- B. By demonstrating God's power through faith
 - C. By using Saul's armor
 - D. By avoiding the fight
9. What did Saul ask after David defeated Goliath?
- A. To crown David as king
 - B. About David's lineage
 - C. To imprison David
 - D. For a feast to be held
10. What lesson can we learn from David's battle with Goliath?
- A. Strength and size are the most important factors
 - B. Faith in God can overcome any obstacle
 - C. Never take risks
 - D. Only experienced warriors should fight

Answers: 1-C, 2-C, 3-B, 4-B, 5-C, 6-B, 7-C, 8-B, 9-B, 10-B

Fill in the Blank

- 1. Goliath challenged the _____ to send a warrior to fight him.
- 2. David visited the battlefield to bring food to his _____.
- 3. David trusted in _____ rather than in armor or weapons.
- 4. David defeated Goliath with a _____ and a stone.
- 5. After Goliath was defeated, the Israelites pursued the _____.

Answers: 1. Israelites, 2. brothers, 3. God, 4. sling, 5. Philistines

Vocabulary Words

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

1. **Goliath** (גִּלְיָת) - The Philistine giant who challenged the Israelites and was defeated by David.
2. **Champion** (גִּבּוֹר) - A warrior who fights on behalf of others; Goliath served as the champion for the Philistines.
3. **Sling** (קֶלֶעַ) - A weapon used to throw stones; David used a sling to defeat Goliath.
4. **Faith** (אֱמוּנָה) - Complete trust or confidence in God; David demonstrated faith in God's power to deliver him.
5. **Defy** (הִתְנַגֵּד) - To openly resist or challenge; Goliath defied the armies of Israel and their God.

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

CHAPTER 18

Summary of Chapter

Chapter 18 of 1 Samuel explores the deep friendship between David and Jonathan, Saul's son, and the growing jealousy of King Saul toward David. After David's victory over Goliath, Jonathan makes a covenant with David, and Saul appoints David to a high military position. However, as David becomes more successful and popular, Saul becomes increasingly jealous and fearful of him. Saul attempts to kill David by sending him on dangerous missions, hoping he will be killed in battle. Despite these plots, David continues to succeed, earning the love and respect of the people, while Saul's fear and hatred intensify.

Opening Question

1. What do you think made Jonathan and David's friendship so special, and how can we build similar friendships in our own lives?
 2. How does jealousy affect our relationships and decision-making, as seen in Saul's behavior toward David?
-

Outline

1. The Friendship of David and Jonathan (18:1-4)

- After David's victory over Goliath, Jonathan forms a deep friendship with David and makes a covenant with him, giving David his robe, armor, sword, bow, and belt as a sign of their bond (18:1-4).

Application Questions:

- What qualities do you think are essential for a strong and lasting friendship?

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

- How can we be supportive friends like Jonathan, even when it might cost us something?

2. Saul's Jealousy and Plots Against David (18:5-16)

- David becomes successful in his military endeavors, gaining the admiration of the people; Saul becomes jealous and fearful of David's popularity (18:5-9).
- Saul tries to kill David by throwing a spear at him twice and later sends him on dangerous missions, hoping he will die in battle (18:10-16).

Application Questions:

- How can jealousy and fear drive people to act irrationally or harmfully toward others?
- What steps can we take to guard our hearts against jealousy and envy?

3. David's Success and Saul's Continued Plots (18:17-30)

- Saul offers his daughters, Merab and Michal, in marriage to David as part of his schemes; David humbly declines at first but later marries Michal (18:17-25).
- David's continued success and favor with the people further increase Saul's fear and hatred, while Jonathan remains a loyal friend to David (18:26-30).

Application Questions:

- What does David's humility and integrity in the face of Saul's plots teach us about handling adversity?
- How can we remain faithful to our values and friends when faced with difficult situations or temptations?

Possible Activities

1. Memory Verse Challenge

- Memorize 1 Samuel 18:14: "In everything he did he had great success, because the LORD was with him." Discuss how recognizing God's presence and guidance can lead to success in our endeavors.

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

2. Role-Playing Activity

- Role-play the interactions between Saul, David, and Jonathan, focusing on themes of friendship, jealousy, and loyalty. This activity will help students understand the dynamics of relationships and the impact of emotions like jealousy.

3. Discussion Activity

- Discuss the characteristics that made Jonathan and David's friendship strong and how we can apply those qualities to our friendships today. Encourage students to reflect on the importance of loyalty, trust, and mutual support in their relationships.

Quiz

1. Who became David's close friend after his victory over Goliath?
 - A. Saul
 - B. Samuel
 - C. Jonathan
 - D. Abner
2. What did Jonathan give to David as a sign of their friendship?
 - A. A sword and shield
 - B. His robe, armor, sword, bow, and belt
 - C. A ring and necklace
 - D. His crown
3. How did Saul feel about David's growing popularity?
 - A. Proud
 - B. Jealous and fearful
 - C. Indifferent
 - D. Happy

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

4. What did Saul attempt to do to David out of jealousy?
 - A. Exile him
 - B. Throw a spear at him
 - C. Make him king
 - D. Promote him
5. How did Saul try to get rid of David without directly killing him?
 - A. By sending him on dangerous missions
 - B. By imprisoning him
 - C. By sending him away
 - D. By poisoning him
6. Who did Saul offer to David as a wife initially?
 - A. Michal
 - B. Abigail
 - C. Merab
 - D. Bathsheba
7. Who did David eventually marry?
 - A. Merab
 - B. Michal
 - C. Rizpah
 - D. Ruth
8. Why did Saul offer his daughters in marriage to David?
 - A. Out of love and respect
 - B. As a plot to have David killed by the Philistines
 - C. To reward him for his victories
 - D. To make peace
9. How did David respond to Saul's offers and plots?
 - A. With anger and rebellion
 - B. With humility and integrity

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

- C. With fear and submission
 - D. With indifference
10. What is a key lesson from the relationship between David and Saul?
- A. Success is determined by physical strength
 - B. Jealousy can destroy relationships and lead to irrational decisions
 - C. Friendship should always be based on mutual benefit
 - D. It's important to seek revenge

Answers: 1-C, 2-B, 3-B, 4-B, 5-A, 6-C, 7-B, 8-B, 9-B, 10-B

Fill in the Blank

- 1. Jonathan became a close friend of _____ after his victory over Goliath.
- 2. Saul became _____ and fearful of David's growing popularity.
- 3. Saul attempted to kill David by throwing a _____ at him.
- 4. David married Saul's daughter _____.
- 5. Despite Saul's plots, David responded with _____ and integrity.

Answers: 1. David, 2. jealous, 3. spear, 4. Michal, 5. humility

Vocabulary Words

- 1. **Jealousy** (קִנְיָזָה) - A feeling of resentment against someone because of their success or advantages; Saul felt jealousy towards David.
- 2. **Covenant** (בְּרִית) - A solemn agreement or promise; Jonathan made a covenant with David, symbolizing their deep friendship.
- 3. **Humility** (עֲנָנוּת) - The quality of having a modest view of one's importance; David demonstrated humility in his responses to Saul's plots.

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

4. **Integrity** (יִשְׁרָה) - The quality of being honest and having strong moral principles; David maintained his integrity despite Saul's attempts to harm him.
5. **Loyalty** (נֶאֱמָנוּת) - The quality of being faithful and devoted; Jonathan showed loyalty to David despite his father Saul's opposition.

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

CHAPTER 19

Summary of Chapter

Chapter 19 of 1 Samuel describes King Saul's escalating attempts to kill David due to his growing jealousy and fear. Jonathan, David's friend and Saul's son, warns David of Saul's intentions, helping him to escape. Despite Saul's orders, Michal, David's wife, deceives her father's messengers to protect David. David flees to Samuel at Ramah, but Saul sends men after him. Miraculously, God intervenes, causing Saul's messengers, and eventually Saul himself, to prophesy when they approach Samuel. This chapter highlights themes of loyalty, divine protection, and the power of God's spirit over human intentions.

Opening Question

1. Why do you think Jonathan remained loyal to David even when his father, Saul, wanted to kill him?
 2. How does this chapter show that God can protect and guide us even in difficult circumstances?
-

Outline

1. Jonathan Warns David (19:1-7)

- Saul tells Jonathan and his servants to kill David, but Jonathan warns David and convinces Saul to spare him temporarily (19:1-7).

Application Questions:

- What does Jonathan's loyalty to David teach us about true friendship?
- How can we stand up for what is right, even when it is difficult or risky?

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

2. Saul's Renewed Attempt on David's Life (19:8-10)

- David continues to succeed in battle, but Saul becomes more jealous and attempts to kill him again with a spear (19:8-10).

Application Questions:

- How can jealousy lead to destructive actions, and how can we prevent jealousy in our own hearts?
- What can we learn from David's response to Saul's repeated attacks?

3. Michal Helps David Escape (19:11-17)

- Michal, David's wife, helps him escape through a window and deceives Saul's messengers with a fake idol in David's bed (19:11-17).

Application Questions:

- How do we decide when it is right to take risks to protect others?
- What can we learn from Michal's quick thinking and loyalty to David?

4. God's Intervention at Ramah (19:18-24)

- David flees to Samuel at Ramah; Saul sends men to capture him, but they begin to prophesy under God's influence (19:18-21).
- Even Saul is overcome by God's Spirit and begins to prophesy when he arrives at Ramah (19:22-24).

Application Questions:

- How does this miraculous intervention show God's power over human plans?
- In what ways can we trust God's protection and guidance in our own lives?

Possible Activities

1. Memory Verse Challenge

- Memorize 1 Samuel 19:18: "When David had fled and made his escape, he went to Samuel at Ramah and told him all that Saul had done to him." Discuss how

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

seeking Godly counsel and support can be a source of strength during difficult times.

2. **Role-Playing Activity**

- Role-play the scenes where Jonathan warns David and where Michal helps David escape. This activity will help students explore themes of loyalty, courage, and quick thinking in difficult situations.

3. **Discussion Activity**

- Discuss how God's intervention in this chapter shows His control over all situations. Encourage students to share personal experiences where they felt God's guidance or protection in their lives.

Quiz

1. Who warned David about Saul's intention to kill him?
 - A. Michal
 - B. Samuel
 - C. Jonathan
 - D. Abner
2. What did Saul tell Jonathan and his servants to do?
 - A. Protect David
 - B. Invite David to a feast
 - C. Kill David
 - D. Help David escape
3. How did Jonathan convince Saul not to kill David initially?
 - A. By offering him gifts
 - B. By threatening him
 - C. By reasoning with him and reminding him of David's loyalty
 - D. By hiding David

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

4. What weapon did Saul use in his attempt to kill David?
 - A. A sword
 - B. A spear
 - C. A bow
 - D. A dagger
5. How did Michal help David escape from Saul?
 - A. She fought the guards
 - B. She hid him in a cave
 - C. She lowered him through a window
 - D. She bribed the guards
6. What did Michal place in David's bed to deceive Saul's messengers?
 - A. A pillow
 - B. An idol
 - C. A bag of sand
 - D. A mannequin
7. Where did David flee after escaping from Saul's house?
 - A. Bethlehem
 - B. Jerusalem
 - C. Ramah
 - D. Hebron
8. What happened to the messengers Saul sent to capture David at Ramah?
 - A. They captured David
 - B. They prophesied
 - C. They fled in fear
 - D. They fought Samuel
9. What happened to Saul when he went to Ramah to capture David?
 - A. He captured David
 - B. He was struck by lightning

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

- C. He also began to prophesy
 - D. He was blinded
10. What lesson can we learn from this chapter about God's protection?
- A. God can protect and guide us in unexpected ways
 - B. We should always take matters into our own hands
 - C. There is no need to trust God
 - D. Jealousy is a harmless emotion

Answers: 1-C, 2-C, 3-C, 4-B, 5-C, 6-B, 7-C, 8-B, 9-C, 10-A

Fill in the Blank

- 1. Jonathan warned David about Saul's plan to _____ him.
- 2. Saul tried to kill David with a _____.
- 3. Michal helped David escape through a _____.
- 4. David fled to _____ after escaping from Saul's house.
- 5. God caused Saul and his messengers to _____ when they approached Samuel.

Answers: 1. kill, 2. spear, 3. window, 4. Ramah, 5. prophesy

Vocabulary Words

- 1. **Loyalty** (נֶאֱמָנוּת) - Faithfulness or devotion to a person or cause; Jonathan's loyalty to David is a central theme in this chapter.
- 2. **Prophesy** (נִבִּיאָה) - To speak under divine inspiration; God caused Saul and his messengers to prophesy when they approached Samuel.
- 3. **Jealousy** (קִנְיָה) - A feeling of resentment against someone because of their success; Saul's jealousy drives him to seek David's life.

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

4. **Escape** (פָּרַח) - To get away from a place or situation of danger; David escaped from Saul's attempts to kill him.
5. **Intervene** (הִתְעַרַּב) - To come between so as to prevent or alter a result; God intervened to protect David by causing Saul and his messengers to prophesy.

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

CHAPTER 20

Summary of Chapter

Chapter 20 of 1 Samuel highlights the deep bond between David and Jonathan amidst Saul's growing hostility toward David. David fears for his life and seeks Jonathan's help to discern Saul's intentions. They devise a plan involving a signal with arrows to communicate Saul's mood. During a festival, Saul's anger flares when David is absent, revealing his intent to kill David. Jonathan, grieved by his father's behavior, signals David to flee. The chapter concludes with a heartfelt farewell between David and Jonathan, reaffirming their covenant of friendship and loyalty, showcasing themes of friendship, loyalty, and divine protection.

Opening Question

1. How does the friendship between David and Jonathan demonstrate loyalty and trust, even in difficult times?
 2. Why is it important to seek wise counsel and support when facing challenging situations?
-

Outline

1. **David Seeks Jonathan's Help (20:1-11)**
 - David meets Jonathan in secret and expresses his fear of Saul's intent to kill him; Jonathan promises to find out Saul's true intentions (20:1-4).
 - They agree on a plan to reveal Saul's attitude using a coded signal with arrows (20:5-11).

Application Questions:

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

- What does this meeting teach us about the importance of seeking help and sharing our fears with trusted friends?
- How can we create strategies to navigate difficult situations with wisdom and discretion?

2. The Festival and Saul's Anger (20:12-23)

- During the New Moon festival, David's absence is noticed, and Saul becomes enraged when Jonathan defends David, revealing his murderous intent (20:12-17).
- Jonathan affirms his covenant with David, assuring him of his commitment and setting up the signal plan (20:18-23).

Application Questions:

- How does Jonathan's reaction to Saul's anger demonstrate his loyalty to David?
- What can we learn about standing up for what is right, even against authority figures?

3. Jonathan's Signal to David (20:24-34)

- Jonathan uses the prearranged signal to warn David of Saul's intentions, confirming that David must flee for his safety (20:24-34).

Application Questions:

- Why is it crucial to communicate clearly and effectively in critical situations?
- How can we support our friends and loved ones in times of danger or uncertainty?

4. The Emotional Farewell (20:35-42)

- David and Jonathan meet one last time in the field; they weep and reaffirm their covenant of friendship and loyalty before David departs (20:35-42).

Application Questions:

- What does their emotional farewell teach us about the depth of true friendship?
 - How can we honor our commitments and promises to those we care about, even when circumstances are difficult?
-

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

Possible Activities

1. Memory Verse Challenge

- Memorize 1 Samuel 20:42: “Jonathan said to David, ‘Go in peace, for we have sworn friendship with each other in the name of the LORD, saying, “The LORD is witness between you and me, and between your descendants and my descendants forever.”’” Discuss the significance of covenant friendships and loyalty.

2. Role-Playing Activity

- Role-play the scenes where David and Jonathan discuss Saul’s intentions and Jonathan uses the arrow signal to communicate with David. This activity will help students understand the importance of loyalty, communication, and strategic thinking in friendships.

3. Discussion Activity

- Discuss the qualities that make a strong friendship, as seen in David and Jonathan’s relationship. Encourage students to share examples from their own lives where they have experienced or demonstrated loyalty and trust in friendships.

Quiz

1. Why did David meet Jonathan in secret?
 - A. To plan a surprise party
 - B. To discuss Saul’s intention to kill him
 - C. To ask for money
 - D. To become king
2. What plan did David and Jonathan come up with to discern Saul’s intentions?
 - A. A secret letter

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

- B. A feast
 - C. A signal with arrows
 - D. A hidden message
3. How did Saul react when David was absent from the festival?
- A. He was pleased
 - B. He became angry
 - C. He ignored it
 - D. He laughed
4. What did Jonathan use to signal David about Saul's mood?
- A. A torch
 - B. A horn
 - C. Arrows
 - D. A flag
5. Why did Jonathan defend David to Saul?
- A. He wanted to be king
 - B. Out of loyalty and friendship
 - C. To trick his father
 - D. To gain wealth
6. What was Jonathan's response to Saul's anger during the festival?
- A. He remained silent
 - B. He left the palace in anger
 - C. He attacked Saul
 - D. He laughed it off
7. Where did David and Jonathan have their final meeting?
- A. In the palace
 - B. In the marketplace
 - C. In a field
 - D. In a cave

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

8. What did David and Jonathan do during their final farewell?
 - A. Fought with each other
 - B. Reaffirmed their covenant and wept
 - C. Celebrated with a feast
 - D. Ignored each other
9. What was the covenant between David and Jonathan based on?
 - A. Wealth
 - B. Friendship and loyalty
 - C. Political power
 - D. Military strength
10. What lesson can we learn from the friendship of David and Jonathan?
 - A. Betray friends when necessary
 - B. True friendship is based on loyalty and trust, even in difficult times
 - C. Only seek friendships for personal gain
 - D. Avoid friendships with those in danger

Answers: 1-B, 2-C, 3-B, 4-C, 5-B, 6-B, 7-C, 8-B, 9-B, 10-B

Fill in the Blank

1. David met Jonathan in secret to discuss Saul's _____ toward him.
2. Jonathan and David devised a plan involving _____ to signal Saul's intentions.
3. Saul became _____ when David was absent from the festival.
4. Jonathan used _____ to communicate with David about Saul's mood.
5. David and Jonathan reaffirmed their covenant of _____ before parting ways.

Answers: 1. intentions, 2. arrows, 3. angry, 4. arrows, 5. friendship

Vocabulary Words

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

1. **Covenant** (בְּרִית) - A solemn agreement or promise; Jonathan and David made a covenant of friendship and loyalty.
2. **Intention** (כְּנִיָּה) - A plan or purpose; David sought to understand Saul's intentions toward him.
3. **Signal** (אוֹת) - A gesture or action used to convey information; Jonathan used arrows as a signal to communicate with David.
4. **Loyalty** (נֶאֱמָנוּת) - Faithfulness and devotion; Jonathan's loyalty to David is evident throughout their friendship.
5. **Discern** (הִבִּיחַ) - To recognize or identify as separate and distinct; Jonathan and David worked to discern Saul's true feelings toward David.

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

CHAPTER 21

Summary of Chapter

Chapter 21 of 1 Samuel describes David's flight from Saul and his encounter with Ahimelech, the priest at Nob. David, hungry and desperate, deceives Ahimelech into giving him the consecrated bread and the sword of Goliath. Fleeing from Saul, David then seeks refuge with Achish, the king of Gath, but fears for his safety when recognized by the Philistines. To escape, David pretends to be insane, which leads Achish to dismiss him as harmless. This chapter illustrates David's resourcefulness and the complexities of survival under pressure while highlighting the moral and ethical dilemmas faced in times of danger.

Opening Question

1. What can we learn from David's actions when he is in desperate situations?
 2. How do we balance the need for survival with maintaining integrity and honesty?
-

Outline

1. David at Nob (21:1-6)

- David arrives at Nob and meets Ahimelech the priest. David, hungry and in need, deceives Ahimelech about his mission, claiming he is on a secret assignment from the king (21:1-3).
- Ahimelech gives David the consecrated bread, which is normally reserved for priests, to sustain him (21:4-6).

Application Questions:

- What ethical dilemmas do we face when trying to survive in difficult situations?

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

- How can we maintain integrity while navigating desperate circumstances?

2. David Receives Goliath's Sword (21:7-9)

- David asks Ahimelech for a weapon, and Ahimelech gives him the sword of Goliath, which had been kept in the sanctuary (21:7-9).

Application Questions:

- Why might David have seen significance in receiving Goliath's sword at this moment?
- How do we draw on past experiences of God's faithfulness when facing new challenges?

3. David at Gath and His Feigned Madness (21:10-15)

- David flees to Gath, seeking refuge with Achish, the king. However, he is recognized and feared by the Philistines as a formidable enemy (21:10-12).
- To avoid capture or harm, David pretends to be insane, leading Achish to dismiss him as harmless and not a threat (21:13-15).

Application Questions:

- What can we learn from David's quick thinking in a dangerous situation?
- How do we discern the best course of action when faced with immediate danger or threats?

Possible Activities

1. Memory Verse Challenge

- Memorize 1 Samuel 21:6: "So the priest gave him the consecrated bread, since there was no bread there except the bread of the Presence that had been removed from before the LORD and replaced by hot bread on the day it was taken away." Discuss the significance of receiving spiritual nourishment in times of need.

2. Role-Playing Activity

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

- Role-play the interactions between David and Ahimelech, and David's encounter with Achish at Gath. This activity will help students explore the themes of ethical decision-making, survival, and quick thinking under pressure.
3. **Discussion Activity**
- Discuss the moral and ethical dilemmas faced by David and how we might face similar situations in our lives. Encourage students to think about how they would balance honesty and survival if placed in a similar situation.
-

Quiz

1. Who did David meet at Nob?
 - A. Samuel
 - B. Ahimelech the priest
 - C. Saul
 - D. Jonathan
2. What did David request from Ahimelech?
 - A. Money
 - B. Food and a weapon
 - C. A place to hide
 - D. A blessing
3. What type of bread did Ahimelech give to David?
 - A. Regular bread
 - B. Leavened bread
 - C. Consecrated bread
 - D. Unleavened bread
4. Whose sword did David receive from Ahimelech?
 - A. Saul's sword
 - B. Goliath's sword

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

- C. Jonathan's sword
- D. His own sword
- 5. Where did David flee after leaving Nob?
 - A. Jerusalem
 - B. Bethlehem
 - C. Gath
 - D. Hebron
- 6. Who was the king of Gath that David sought refuge with?
 - A. Saul
 - B. Achish
 - C. Abimelech
 - D. Ahab
- 7. How did David avoid capture when recognized in Gath?
 - A. He fought his way out
 - B. He bribed the guards
 - C. He pretended to be insane
 - D. He ran away
- 8. What was Achish's reaction to David's behavior in Gath?
 - A. He welcomed him
 - B. He imprisoned him
 - C. He dismissed him as harmless
 - D. He executed him
- 9. Why did David deceive Ahimelech about his mission?
 - A. To gain sympathy
 - B. To protect himself
 - C. To gain wealth
 - D. To avoid a long conversation
- 10. What lesson can we learn from David's actions in this chapter?
 - A. Always tell the truth no matter the situation

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

- B. Sometimes survival requires quick thinking and unconventional actions
- C. Never rely on others for help
- D. It's better to give up when in danger

Answers: 1-B, 2-B, 3-C, 4-B, 5-C, 6-B, 7-C, 8-C, 9-B, 10-B

Fill in the Blank

1. David met _____ at Nob and requested food and a weapon.
2. Ahimelech gave David the _____ bread to eat.
3. The weapon David received from Ahimelech was _____'s sword.
4. David fled to _____, a Philistine city, seeking refuge.
5. To avoid harm in Gath, David pretended to be _____.

Answers: 1. Ahimelech, 2. consecrated, 3. Goliath, 4. Gath, 5. insane

Vocabulary Words

1. **Consecrated** (קִדְּשׁוֹ) - Something set apart as holy; David received consecrated bread from Ahimelech.
2. **Deceive** (הָרַג) - To mislead or falsely persuade others; David deceived Ahimelech about his mission.
3. **Sanctuary** (מִקְדָּשׁ) - A sacred place or holy site; the sword of Goliath was kept in the sanctuary at Nob.
4. **Feign** (הִתְחַזֵּזוֹת) - To pretend or fake; David feigned madness to avoid capture in Gath.
5. **Refuge** (מָקֹלֶט) - A place of safety or protection; David sought refuge with Achish in Gath.

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

CHAPTER 22

Summary of Chapter

Chapter 22 of 1 Samuel recounts David's continued flight from King Saul and the increasing support he gains from those discontented with Saul's rule. David takes refuge in the cave of Adullam, where his family and others in distress join him. He then moves to Moab for his parents' safety. Meanwhile, Saul, consumed by paranoia, accuses his servants of conspiracy. When Doeg the Edomite reveals Ahimelech's aid to David, Saul orders the massacre of the priests at Nob. Only Abiathar, a son of Ahimelech, escapes to join David, highlighting themes of loyalty, betrayal, and the consequences of Saul's increasingly violent reign.

Opening Question

1. How do you think David's leadership attracted those who were discontented or distressed?
 2. What can we learn about the impact of fear and paranoia on Saul's decision-making?
-

Outline

1. David Gathers Support at Adullam (22:1-2)

- David escapes to the cave of Adullam, where his family and those in distress, debt, or discontented join him, forming a group of about 400 men (22:1-2).

Application Questions:

- What qualities might David have demonstrated to attract people to follow him?
- How can we provide support and leadership to others during challenging times?

2. David's Move to Moab and God's Guidance (22:3-5)

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

- David moves to Moab for his parents' safety and stays in the stronghold; the prophet Gad advises him to return to Judah, and David obeys (22:3-5).

Application Questions:

- Why is it important to seek and follow God's guidance, even in times of uncertainty?
- How do we balance our concerns for personal safety with trusting in God's direction?

3. Saul's Paranoia and Orders Against the Priests (22:6-19)

- Saul, paranoid and feeling betrayed, accuses his servants and Jonathan of conspiring with David; Doeg the Edomite informs Saul about Ahimelech's assistance to David (22:6-10).
- Saul orders the execution of the priests at Nob, resulting in the death of 85 priests, and the destruction of the town (22:11-19).

Application Questions:

- How does fear and paranoia impact our decisions and relationships?
- What can we learn from the priests' loyalty to God in the face of Saul's unjust orders?

4. Abiathar Joins David (22:20-23)

- Abiathar, the son of Ahimelech, escapes the massacre and joins David, who offers him protection and promises him safety (22:20-23).

Application Questions:

- What does David's response to Abiathar's plight teach us about compassion and leadership?
- How can we offer support to those who have suffered or are in distress?

Possible Activities

1. Memory Verse Challenge

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

- Memorize 1 Samuel 22:23: “Stay with me; don’t be afraid. The man who wants to kill you is trying to kill me too. You will be safe with me.” Discuss the importance of offering protection and support to those in need.

2. Role-Playing Activity

- Role-play the scene where David gathers his followers in the cave of Adullam and the interaction between Saul and his servants. This activity will help students explore themes of leadership, fear, and loyalty.

3. Discussion Activity

- Discuss the impact of Saul’s fear and paranoia on his decisions and the consequences for the people around him. Encourage students to think about how fear can influence actions and how to overcome it with faith and trust in God.
-

Quiz

1. Where did David first seek refuge in this chapter?
 - A. Jerusalem
 - B. The cave of Adullam
 - C. Bethlehem
 - D. Gibeah
2. Who joined David at the cave of Adullam?
 - A. Saul’s soldiers
 - B. His family and those in distress
 - C. Foreign kings
 - D. Only his parents
3. Where did David take his parents for safety?
 - A. Egypt
 - B. Moab

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

- C. Judah
- D. Philistia
- 4. Who advised David to return to Judah from Moab?
 - A. Nathan
 - B. Gad the prophet
 - C. Samuel
 - D. Ahimelech
- 5. What did Saul accuse his servants and Jonathan of doing?
 - A. Plotting to kill him
 - B. Helping David
 - C. Spying for the Philistines
 - D. Conspiring against him
- 6. Who informed Saul about Ahimelech's help to David?
 - A. Jonathan
 - B. Abiathar
 - C. Doeg the Edomite
 - D. Gad
- 7. What did Saul order to be done to the priests at Nob?
 - A. Bless them
 - B. Send them gifts
 - C. Execute them
 - D. Make them his advisors
- 8. How many priests were killed at Nob by Saul's command?
 - A. 50
 - B. 85
 - C. 100
 - D. 120
- 9. Who escaped the massacre of the priests at Nob and joined David?
 - A. Ahimelech

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

B. Samuel

C. Abiathar

D. Jonathan

10. What was David's response to Abiathar when he joined him?

A. Sent him away

B. Offered him protection

C. Ignored him

D. Punished him

Answers: 1-B, 2-B, 3-B, 4-B, 5-D, 6-C, 7-C, 8-B, 9-C, 10-B

Fill in the Blank

1. David first sought refuge in the cave of _____.
2. David moved his parents to _____ for their safety.
3. Saul accused his servants and _____ of conspiring against him.
4. Doeg the Edomite informed Saul about _____'s assistance to David.
5. Abiathar, the son of Ahimelech, escaped to join _____ after the massacre.

Answers: 1. Adullam, 2. Moab, 3. Jonathan, 4. Ahimelech, 5. David

Vocabulary Words

1. **Refuge** (מִקְלָט) - A place of safety or protection; David sought refuge in the cave of Adullam.
2. **Paranoia** (פְּרִיזְוִיָּה) - Irrational suspicion or mistrust of others; Saul's paranoia led him to distrust his servants and order the massacre of the priests.
3. **Loyalty** (נֶאֱמָנוּת) - Faithfulness or devotion to a person or cause; the priests at Nob showed loyalty to David by helping him.

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

4. **Massacre** (מַטְבַּח) - The brutal killing of many people; Saul ordered the massacre of the priests at Nob.
5. **Compassion** (רַחֲמִים) - Sympathetic concern for the sufferings of others; David showed compassion to Abiathar by offering him protection.

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

CHAPTER 23

Summary of Chapter

Chapter 23 of 1 Samuel narrates David's ongoing flight from Saul and his efforts to protect the people of Israel. David learns that the Philistines are attacking the city of Keilah and, after seeking God's guidance, he rescues the city. However, he discovers that Saul plans to capture him there, so he escapes into the wilderness of Ziph. Despite Saul's relentless pursuit, David is encouraged by Jonathan and narrowly escapes capture due to a sudden Philistine raid. This chapter highlights David's reliance on God for guidance, his role as a protector of Israel, and God's providence in safeguarding him.

Opening Question

1. Why do you think David sought God's guidance before taking action to protect Keilah?
 2. How can we trust in God's providence and protection when we face challenges or threats in our lives?
-

Outline

1. **David Saves Keilah (23:1-6)**
 - David learns that the Philistines are attacking Keilah and, after inquiring of the Lord, decides to go and save the city (23:1-2).
 - Despite his men's fears, David reassures them and successfully defeats the Philistines, delivering Keilah (23:3-6).

Application Questions:

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

- What does David's decision to seek God's guidance teach us about making important decisions?
- How can we overcome fear and act courageously to help others in need?

2. Saul's Pursuit and David's Escape (23:7-14)

- Saul learns that David is in Keilah and plans to trap him there, but David again seeks God's counsel and escapes with his men (23:7-9).
- David moves to the wilderness of Ziph to avoid capture, and Saul continues his relentless pursuit (23:10-14).

Application Questions:

- How does seeking God's direction provide clarity and protection in uncertain situations?
- What can we learn from David's strategic retreats about trusting in God's timing and plans?

3. Jonathan Encourages David (23:15-18)

- Jonathan secretly visits David in the wilderness and encourages him to trust in God's promise that he will be king; they reaffirm their covenant (23:15-18).

Application Questions:

- Why is it important to encourage and support our friends in their faith and difficult times?
- How can we be sources of encouragement to those who are struggling or facing challenges?

4. Saul's Continued Pursuit and God's Intervention (23:19-29)

- The Ziphites betray David's location to Saul, but David evades capture with God's help as Saul is called away to fight the Philistines (23:19-24).
- David escapes to the strongholds of En Gedi, demonstrating God's continued protection over him (23:25-29).

Application Questions:

- What does this chapter teach us about God's providence in protecting His people?

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

- How should we respond when we see God's hand at work in our lives, even in difficult circumstances?
-

Possible Activities

1. Memory Verse Challenge

- Memorize 1 Samuel 23:14: "David stayed in the wilderness strongholds and in the hills of the Desert of Ziph. Day after day Saul searched for him, but God did not give David into his hands." Discuss the importance of relying on God's protection and trusting in His timing.

2. Role-Playing Activity

- Role-play the scenes where David consults with God before attacking the Philistines at Keilah and Jonathan's visit to encourage David. This activity will help students understand the importance of seeking divine guidance and the value of friendship.

3. Discussion Activity

- Discuss how David's reliance on God's guidance and his strategic decisions demonstrate trust and faith. Encourage students to share times when they had to trust God in uncertain situations.
-

Quiz

1. Who was attacking the city of Keilah?
 - A. The Amalekites
 - B. The Philistines
 - C. The Moabites
 - D. The Syrians

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

2. What did David do before deciding to help Keilah?
 - A. Gathered more soldiers
 - B. Sought advice from Saul
 - C. Inquired of the Lord
 - D. Fled to another city
3. How did David's men initially feel about going to Keilah?
 - A. Fearful
 - B. Excited
 - C. Indifferent
 - D. Overconfident
4. What did Saul plan to do when he heard David was in Keilah?
 - A. Invite him for a feast
 - B. Capture him by surrounding the city
 - C. Make peace with him
 - D. Send gifts
5. Who encouraged David in the wilderness of Ziph?
 - A. Saul
 - B. Samuel
 - C. Jonathan
 - D. Abiathar
6. What promise did Jonathan reaffirm to David during his visit?
 - A. That David would be king over Israel
 - B. That Saul would never harm him
 - C. That he would defeat the Philistines
 - D. That he would return to his home
7. Who betrayed David's location to Saul in the wilderness?
 - A. The Philistines
 - B. The Ziphites

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

- C. The Moabites
- D. The Amalekites
- 8. What event caused Saul to stop pursuing David in this chapter?
 - A. A plague
 - B. A famine
 - C. A Philistine raid
 - D. A divine warning
- 9. Where did David escape after Saul was called away to fight the Philistines?
 - A. Nob
 - B. Jerusalem
 - C. En Gedi
 - D. Bethlehem
- 10. What does this chapter teach about God's role in David's survival?
 - A. God remained distant and uninvolved
 - B. God actively protected and guided David
 - C. God punished David constantly
 - D. God was indifferent to David's fate

Answers: 1-B, 2-C, 3-A, 4-B, 5-C, 6-A, 7-B, 8-C, 9-C, 10-B

Fill in the Blank

- 1. David saved the city of _____ from the Philistines.
- 2. Before taking action, David _____ of the Lord to seek guidance.
- 3. In the wilderness of Ziph, _____ visited David to encourage him.
- 4. The _____ betrayed David's location to Saul.
- 5. David escaped to _____ after Saul was called away to fight the Philistines.

Answers: 1. Keilah, 2. inquired, 3. Jonathan, 4. Ziphites, 5. En Gedi

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

Vocabulary Words

1. **Providence** (הַהֲשִׁיחַ) - Divine guidance or care; God's providence is evident in His protection of David from Saul.
2. **Inquire** (שָׁאַל) - To ask for information or seek guidance; David inquired of the Lord before making decisions.
3. **Betray** (בָּגַד) - To deliver or expose someone to an enemy by treachery; the Ziphites betrayed David's location to Saul.
4. **Encourage** (עִזָּז) - To give support, confidence, or hope; Jonathan encouraged David in the wilderness.
5. **Stronghold** (מְצודה) - A fortified place of protection; David found refuge in strongholds while fleeing from Saul.

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

CHAPTER 24

Summary of Chapter

Chapter 24 of 1 Samuel describes a crucial encounter between David and Saul in the wilderness of En Gedi. While Saul is pursuing David to kill him, he enters a cave where David and his men are hiding. David's men see this as an opportunity to kill Saul, but David, respecting Saul as the Lord's anointed king, spares his life and instead secretly cuts off a piece of Saul's robe. After Saul leaves the cave, David reveals his action, showing his loyalty and unwillingness to harm Saul. Saul, moved by David's mercy, acknowledges David's righteousness and his future as king.

Opening Question

1. Why do you think David chose to spare Saul's life instead of taking the opportunity to kill him?
 2. How can we demonstrate mercy and integrity in situations where we have power over others?
-

Outline

1. **David's Opportunity to Kill Saul (24:1-7)**
 - Saul continues his pursuit of David in the wilderness of En Gedi. He unknowingly enters a cave where David and his men are hiding (24:1-3).
 - David's men encourage him to kill Saul, but David, respecting Saul's position as the Lord's anointed, only cuts off a piece of Saul's robe (24:4-7).

Application Questions:

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

- How do we decide when to act on an opportunity and when to show restraint?
- What does David's decision teach us about respecting authority and trusting in God's timing?

2. David Confronts Saul (24:8-15)

- After Saul leaves the cave, David follows and reveals his mercy, holding up the piece of Saul's robe as proof (24:8-11).
- David appeals to Saul's conscience, stating that he has no intent to harm him and trusting God to judge between them (24:12-15).

Application Questions:

- Why is it important to confront conflicts with honesty and integrity?
- How can we trust God to handle justice rather than taking matters into our own hands?

3. Saul's Response to David's Mercy (24:16-22)

- Saul is moved by David's words and tears up, acknowledging David's righteousness and the prophecy that David will be king (24:16-20).
- Saul requests an oath from David to spare his descendants, and David swears to do so, showing further mercy and integrity (24:21-22).

Application Questions:

- What does Saul's response reveal about the power of mercy and humility?
- How can we extend forgiveness and grace, even to those who have wronged us?

Possible Activities

1. Memory Verse Challenge

- Memorize 1 Samuel 24:12: "May the LORD judge between you and me. And may the LORD avenge the wrongs you have done to me, but my hand will not touch you." Discuss the importance of leaving vengeance to God and choosing to act with integrity.

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

2. Role-Playing Activity

- Role-play the scene where David confronts Saul outside the cave, showing his piece of Saul's robe and expressing his decision not to harm him. This activity will help students understand the importance of mercy, integrity, and communication in conflict situations.

3. Discussion Activity

- Discuss the concept of mercy and why it is sometimes difficult to show mercy to others. Encourage students to think about times when they chose mercy over revenge and how it impacted their relationships and spiritual growth.

Quiz

1. Where did Saul go to pursue David in this chapter?
 - A. Jerusalem
 - B. En Gedi
 - C. Bethlehem
 - D. Hebron
2. What did David's men suggest he do to Saul in the cave?
 - A. Capture him
 - B. Kill him
 - C. Talk to him
 - D. Leave him alone
3. What did David do instead of killing Saul?
 - A. Tied him up
 - B. Cut off a piece of Saul's robe
 - C. Took his sword
 - D. Shouted at him

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

4. How did David show Saul the piece of his robe?
 - A. From a distance
 - B. In the cave
 - C. Outside the cave
 - D. In Saul's camp
5. What was David's main reason for sparing Saul's life?
 - A. Fear of Saul's men
 - B. Respect for Saul as the Lord's anointed
 - C. Lack of a weapon
 - D. Desire for peace
6. What did David appeal to when speaking to Saul?
 - A. Saul's power
 - B. His own strength
 - C. God's justice
 - D. The Philistines' help
7. How did Saul respond to David's act of mercy?
 - A. He laughed
 - B. He was angry
 - C. He wept and acknowledged David's righteousness
 - D. He attacked David
8. What did Saul request from David after realizing David's mercy?
 - A. To become allies
 - B. To be his advisor
 - C. To swear not to kill his descendants
 - D. To give him money
9. Did David agree to Saul's request?
 - A. No, he refused
 - B. Yes, he swore an oath

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

- C. He remained silent
 - D. He hesitated
10. What lesson can be learned from David's encounter with Saul in this chapter?
- A. Always seek revenge
 - B. Mercy and integrity are more powerful than violence
 - C. Never trust your enemies
 - D. Power is the ultimate goal

Answers: 1-B, 2-B, 3-B, 4-C, 5-B, 6-C, 7-C, 8-C, 9-B, 10-B

Fill in the Blank

1. Saul went to the wilderness of _____ to pursue David.
2. David chose to spare Saul's life and instead cut off a piece of his _____.
3. David's men encouraged him to _____ Saul in the cave.
4. David showed Saul the piece of his robe outside the _____.
5. Saul requested David to swear not to harm his _____.

Answers: 1. En Gedi, 2. robe, 3. kill, 4. cave, 5. descendants

Vocabulary Words

1. **Mercy** (רַחֲמִים) - Compassion or forgiveness shown toward someone whom it is within one's power to punish or harm; David showed mercy by sparing Saul's life.
2. **Integrity** (יִשְׁרָה) - The quality of being honest and having strong moral principles; David demonstrated integrity by not harming Saul.
3. **Anointed** (מְשִׁיחַ) - Chosen and consecrated by God, often referring to a king or religious leader; Saul was the Lord's anointed king of Israel.

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

4. **Restraint** (רִיסוֹן) - Self-control or moderation, especially in showing strength or power;
David exercised restraint by not taking Saul's life.
5. **Vengeance** (נָקָם) - Punishment inflicted or retribution exacted for an injury or wrong;
David chose to leave vengeance to God.

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

CHAPTER 25

Summary of Chapter

Chapter 25 of 1 Samuel tells the story of David, Nabal, and Abigail. After Samuel's death, David moves to the wilderness of Paran. David requests provisions from Nabal, a wealthy but foolish man, who rudely refuses. David, angered, plans to attack Nabal, but Nabal's wise wife, Abigail, intervenes with gifts and a plea for peace. She persuades David to refrain from bloodshed, and he praises her wisdom. God strikes Nabal dead shortly after. David then marries Abigail. This chapter highlights themes of wisdom, humility, and the consequences of foolishness, showing how God works through individuals to bring about His plans.

Opening Question

1. Why do you think Abigail chose to intervene between David and Nabal, and what does this teach us about the importance of wisdom and peacemaking?
 2. How can we learn to respond with humility and wisdom in situations where others may act foolishly or harshly?
-

Outline

1. **Samuel's Death and David's Request to Nabal (25:1-11)**
 - Samuel dies, and David moves to the wilderness of Paran; he sends men to request provisions from Nabal during sheep-shearing time (25:1-8).
 - Nabal responds harshly and refuses to help David and his men, displaying his foolishness and lack of hospitality (25:9-11).

Application Questions:

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

- How should we respond when others treat us unfairly or with disrespect?
- What qualities did David initially lack when reacting to Nabal's insult?

2. Abigail's Intervention (25:12-31)

- David prepares to attack Nabal's household in anger, but Abigail, Nabal's wise wife, acts quickly to prevent violence (25:12-18).
- Abigail meets David, offering gifts and pleading for peace, recognizing David's future as king and urging him to avoid unnecessary bloodshed (25:19-31).

Application Questions:

- What can we learn from Abigail's quick thinking and peacemaking efforts?
- How can we act as peacemakers in situations of conflict, following Abigail's example?

3. David's Response and Nabal's Death (25:32-38)

- David is moved by Abigail's wisdom, blesses her for her intervention, and decides not to attack Nabal's household (25:32-35).
- Nabal learns of the events the next day and becomes paralyzed; he dies ten days later, seen as God's judgment for his foolishness (25:36-38).

Application Questions:

- How does David's reaction to Abigail demonstrate the value of humility and open-mindedness?
- What does Nabal's fate teach us about the consequences of foolishness and disrespect?

4. David Marries Abigail (25:39-44)

- After Nabal's death, David praises God for avenging him without bloodshed and proposes marriage to Abigail, who accepts (25:39-42).
- David also marries Ahinoam of Jezreel, while Saul has given David's first wife, Michal, to another man (25:43-44).

Application Questions:

- What qualities in Abigail made her a suitable wife for David?

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

- How can we make wise choices in forming relationships based on mutual respect and godly values?
-

Possible Activities

1. Memory Verse Challenge

- Memorize 1 Samuel 25:33: “May you be blessed for your good judgment and for keeping me from bloodshed this day and from avenging myself with my own hands.” Discuss the importance of exercising good judgment and self-control.

2. Role-Playing Activity

- Role-play the scene where Abigail meets David and persuades him not to attack Nabal’s household. This activity will help students understand the importance of peacemaking and the power of wise, calm reasoning in conflict situations.

3. Discussion Activity

- Discuss the different responses of Nabal and Abigail to David’s request and the consequences of their actions. Encourage students to think about how they can choose wisdom and humility over foolishness and pride in their own lives.
-

Quiz

1. Who died at the beginning of Chapter 25?
 - A. Saul
 - B. Jonathan
 - C. Samuel
 - D. Nabal
2. Where did David move after Samuel’s death?
 - A. En Gedi

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

- B. Jerusalem
 - C. The wilderness of Paran
 - D. Bethlehem
3. What was Nabal's response to David's request for provisions?
- A. He generously offered supplies
 - B. He rudely refused and insulted David
 - C. He ignored the request
 - D. He sent soldiers to attack David
4. Who intervened to prevent David from attacking Nabal's household?
- A. Jonathan
 - B. Saul
 - C. Abigail
 - D. Ahinoam
5. What did Abigail bring to David to appease him?
- A. A letter of apology
 - B. Gifts and food
 - C. Money
 - D. Weapons
6. How did David respond to Abigail's intervention?
- A. He ignored her
 - B. He attacked anyway
 - C. He blessed her for her wisdom and did not attack
 - D. He took her prisoner
7. What happened to Nabal after he learned of Abigail's actions?
- A. He apologized
 - B. He became paralyzed and later died
 - C. He sought revenge
 - D. He fled to another city

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

8. Why did David praise God after Nabal's death?
 - A. For Nabal's wealth
 - B. For Abigail's wisdom
 - C. For avenging him without bloodshed
 - D. For giving him a new wife
9. Who did David marry after Nabal's death?
 - A. Michal
 - B. Abigail
 - C. Ahinoam
 - D. Both B and C
10. What lesson can be learned from the story of David, Nabal, and Abigail?
 - A. Always seek revenge when wronged
 - B. Wisdom and humility can prevent unnecessary conflict
 - C. Wealth is the most important thing
 - D. Pride always leads to success

Answers: 1-C, 2-C, 3-B, 4-C, 5-B, 6-C, 7-B, 8-C, 9-D, 10-B

Fill in the Blank

1. After Samuel's death, David moved to the wilderness of _____.
2. Nabal responded _____ to David's request for provisions.
3. _____ intervened to prevent David from attacking Nabal's household.
4. David praised Abigail for her _____ and peacemaking efforts.
5. Nabal died shortly after learning of Abigail's actions, seen as a _____ judgment.

Answers: 1. Paran, 2. rudely, 3. Abigail, 4. wisdom, 5. divine

Vocabulary Words

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

1. **Wisdom** (חָכְמָה) - The quality of having experience, knowledge, and good judgment; Abigail demonstrated wisdom by intervening between David and Nabal.
2. **Humility** (עֲנָוָה) - A modest view of one's own importance; David showed humility by listening to Abigail's counsel.
3. **Foolishness** (כְּסִילוּת) - Lack of good sense or judgment; Nabal's response to David is characterized by foolishness.
4. **Intervene** (הִתְעַרְב) - To come between to prevent or alter a result; Abigail intervened to stop David from attacking Nabal.
5. **Peacemaker** (מְבַיֵּא שְׁלוֹם) - A person who brings about peace, especially by reconciling adversaries; Abigail acted as a peacemaker between David and Nabal.

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

CHAPTER 26

Summary of Chapter

Chapter 26 of 1 Samuel describes David's second opportunity to kill Saul but his choice to spare Saul's life again. The Ziphites inform Saul of David's location, and Saul pursues David into the wilderness of Ziph. David sneaks into Saul's camp at night with Abishai and finds Saul sleeping. Despite Abishai's urging, David refuses to kill Saul, instead taking Saul's spear and water jug as evidence of his restraint. The next morning, David calls out to Saul, demonstrating his loyalty and integrity. Saul acknowledges his wrongdoing and blesses David, but the two go their separate ways, continuing their tense relationship.

Opening Question

1. Why do you think David chose to spare Saul's life a second time, even when he had the opportunity to end his own pursuit and suffering?
 2. How can we practice self-control and integrity when we are tempted to take matters into our own hands?
-

Outline

1. **The Ziphites Betray David's Location (26:1-5)**
 - The Ziphites inform Saul that David is hiding in the hill of Hachilah, prompting Saul to pursue David once more with 3,000 men (26:1-2).
 - David learns of Saul's approach and sends out scouts to confirm Saul's location (26:3-5).

Application Questions:

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

- How do we respond when others repeatedly seek to harm or betray us?
- What strategies can we use to protect ourselves while maintaining our integrity?

2. **David Spares Saul's Life Again (26:6-12)**

- David and Abishai sneak into Saul's camp at night while everyone is sleeping. Abishai urges David to kill Saul, but David refuses, respecting Saul as the Lord's anointed (26:6-9).
- Instead, David takes Saul's spear and water jug, showing his ability to harm Saul but choosing mercy instead (26:10-12).

Application Questions:

- Why is it important to show restraint and mercy, even when it seems justified to seek revenge?
- How can we make decisions that honor God and reflect our faith, even in challenging situations?

3. **David Confronts Saul from a Distance (26:13-20)**

- From a safe distance, David calls out to Abner, Saul's commander, and rebukes him for failing to protect Saul (26:13-16).
- David reveals the spear and water jug, demonstrating his loyalty and calling for God's justice rather than taking matters into his own hands (26:17-20).

Application Questions:

- How does confronting others with truth and evidence help to resolve conflicts?
- In what ways can we trust God to deliver justice instead of seeking revenge ourselves?

4. **Saul's Acknowledgment and David's Departure (26:21-25)**

- Saul admits his wrongdoing and acknowledges David's righteousness, blessing him and prophesying David's future success (26:21-24).
- David and Saul part ways, each returning to their respective places, but the tension between them remains unresolved (26:25).

Application Questions:

- How can we handle situations where apologies are given but trust is still broken?

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

- What steps can we take to ensure we maintain our integrity and faithfulness in our actions?
-

Possible Activities

1. Memory Verse Challenge

- Memorize 1 Samuel 26:24: “As surely as I valued your life today, so may the LORD value my life and deliver me from all trouble.” Discuss the importance of valuing life and trusting in God’s deliverance rather than taking matters into our own hands.

2. Role-Playing Activity

- Role-play the scene where David sneaks into Saul’s camp and chooses to take Saul’s spear and water jug instead of killing him. This activity will help students understand the importance of self-control, mercy, and integrity in decision-making.

3. Discussion Activity

- Discuss the reasons behind David’s choice to spare Saul’s life again and the concept of mercy. Encourage students to think about how they can apply these principles in their own lives when dealing with conflicts or difficult situations.
-

Quiz

1. Who betrayed David’s location to Saul?
 - A. The Philistines
 - B. The Amalekites
 - C. The Ziphites
 - D. The Moabites

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

2. How many men did Saul bring to pursue David?
 - A. 1,000
 - B. 2,000
 - C. 3,000
 - D. 4,000
3. Who accompanied David into Saul's camp at night?
 - A. Jonathan
 - B. Abner
 - C. Abishai
 - D. Ahimelech
4. What did David take from Saul's camp?
 - A. Saul's crown
 - B. Saul's armor
 - C. Saul's sword
 - D. Saul's spear and water jug
5. Why did David refuse to kill Saul when he had the chance?
 - A. He was afraid
 - B. He respected Saul as the Lord's anointed
 - C. He didn't have a weapon
 - D. He wanted to capture Saul instead
6. Who did David rebuke for failing to protect Saul?
 - A. Saul
 - B. Abner
 - C. Joab
 - D. Jonathan
7. How did Saul react when David showed him the spear and water jug?
 - A. He attacked David
 - B. He apologized and blessed David

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

- C. He ignored David
- D. He fled
- 8. What did Saul acknowledge about David during their encounter?
 - A. His wealth
 - B. His strength
 - C. His righteousness and future success
 - D. His weakness
- 9. What did David emphasize when speaking to Saul?
 - A. His own power
 - B. His desire for revenge
 - C. God's justice and deliverance
 - D. His need for a throne
- 10. What lesson can be learned from David's actions in this chapter?
 - A. Always seek revenge when wronged
 - B. Show mercy and leave justice to God
 - C. Trust no one
 - D. Use power to gain control

Answers: 1-C, 2-C, 3-C, 4-D, 5-B, 6-B, 7-B, 8-C, 9-C, 10-B

Fill in the Blank

- 1. The _____ informed Saul of David's location in the wilderness of Ziph.
- 2. David took Saul's _____ and water jug from the camp.
- 3. David chose not to kill Saul because Saul was the Lord's _____.
- 4. David confronted Saul's camp from a safe _____.
- 5. Saul acknowledged David's _____ and future success.

Answers: 1. Ziphites, 2. spear, 3. anointed, 4. distance, 5. righteousness

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

Vocabulary Words

1. **Anointed** (מָשִׁיחַ) - Chosen and consecrated by God for a special purpose, often referring to a king; Saul was the Lord's anointed king of Israel.
2. **Integrity** (יִשְׁרָה) - The quality of being honest and having strong moral principles; David demonstrated integrity by not harming Saul.
3. **Mercy** (רַחֲמִים) - Compassion or forgiveness shown toward someone whom it is within one's power to punish or harm; David showed mercy by sparing Saul's life.
4. **Betray** (בָּגַד) - To deliver or expose someone to an enemy by treachery; the Ziphites betrayed David's location to Saul.
5. **Restraint** (רִיסוֹן) - Self-control or moderation in action; David exercised restraint by not taking Saul's life.

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

CHAPTER 27

Summary of Chapter

Chapter 27 of 1 Samuel describes David's decision to seek refuge from Saul in the land of the Philistines. David, fearing Saul will continue to pursue him in Israel, takes 600 men and their families to Achish, king of Gath. Achish grants David the town of Ziklag, where David lives for over a year. David conducts raids against Israel's enemies but deceives Achish by making him believe he is attacking Judah. David's strategy creates a false sense of security for Achish, who trusts David completely. This chapter highlights themes of survival, deception, and strategic planning under pressure.

Opening Question

1. Why do you think David chose to seek refuge with the Philistines, who were traditionally Israel's enemies?
 2. How do we balance the need for survival with maintaining honesty and integrity in difficult situations?
-

Outline

1. **David Seeks Refuge with the Philistines (27:1-4)**
 - David decides that his only escape from Saul's relentless pursuit is to seek refuge in Philistine territory (27:1).
 - David, along with his 600 men and their families, goes to Gath and meets with Achish, king of Gath, who grants them asylum (27:2-4).

Application Questions:

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

- What does David's decision to flee to the Philistines reveal about his state of mind and his faith in God's protection?
- How do we make wise decisions when faced with ongoing threats or challenges?

2. David Receives Ziklag and Raids Israel's Enemies (27:5-9)

- David requests a separate town, Ziklag, to live away from Gath, and Achish grants it to him; David lives there for a year and four months (27:5-7).
- David conducts raids against the Geshurites, Girzites, and Amalekites, leaving no survivors to prevent any reports to Achish (27:8-9).

Application Questions:

- How can we ensure our actions align with our values, even when facing difficult choices for survival?
- What strategies can we use to protect our integrity while navigating complex situations?

3. David Deceives Achish (27:10-12)

- When Achish inquires about his raids, David misleads him into thinking he is attacking the southern regions of Judah, thus gaining Achish's trust (27:10-11).
- Achish believes David has made himself odious to Israel, thinking David will be his servant forever (27:12).

Application Questions:

- Why is honesty important, even when deceit seems like the easiest option?
- How do we handle situations where we feel pressured to deceive or manipulate for safety or advantage?

Possible Activities

1. Memory Verse Challenge

- Memorize 1 Samuel 27:1: "David thought to himself, 'One of these days I will be destroyed by the hand of Saul. The best thing I can do is to escape to the land of

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

the Philistines.”” Discuss how fear can drive decision-making and the importance of seeking God’s guidance.

2. Role-Playing Activity

- Role-play the conversations between David and Achish, focusing on the elements of trust, deception, and strategy. This activity will help students explore the moral complexities of David’s decisions and the importance of maintaining integrity.

3. Discussion Activity

- Discuss the ethical implications of David’s actions in seeking refuge with the Philistines and his strategy of deception. Encourage students to think about how they might handle similar dilemmas and the importance of seeking God’s wisdom.

Quiz

1. Why did David decide to seek refuge with the Philistines?
 - A. He wanted to betray Israel
 - B. He feared Saul would eventually capture him
 - C. He was looking for new allies
 - D. He wanted to become king of Philistia
2. How many men accompanied David to Gath?
 - A. 300
 - B. 600
 - C. 1,000
 - D. 2,000
3. Who was the king of Gath that David sought refuge with?
 - A. Saul
 - B. Achish

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

- C. Abimelech
- D. Agag
- 4. What town did Achish give to David?
 - A. Hebron
 - B. Ziklag
 - C. Bethlehem
 - D. Jericho
- 5. How long did David stay in Philistine territory?
 - A. 6 months
 - B. 1 year
 - C. 1 year and 4 months
 - D. 2 years
- 6. Against whom did David conduct raids while in Philistine territory?
 - A. The Philistines
 - B. The Israelites
 - C. The Geshurites, Girzites, and Amalekites
 - D. The Moabites
- 7. Why did David leave no survivors in his raids?
 - A. To gain more loot
 - B. To prevent any reports back to Achish
 - C. To conquer the lands
 - D. To make friends with the Philistines
- 8. What did David tell Achish about his raids?
 - A. He was raiding the Philistines
 - B. He was raiding Judah
 - C. He was raiding the Israelites' enemies
 - D. He was raiding Egypt
- 9. What did Achish believe about David's actions?
 - A. That David would betray him

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

- B. That David was still loyal to Saul
 - C. That David had made himself odious to Israel
 - D. That David was plotting against him
10. What lesson can we learn from David's time with the Philistines?
- A. Deception is always the best strategy
 - B. It is important to seek God's guidance in times of fear and uncertainty
 - C. Trust only in your enemies
 - D. Always seek refuge in foreign lands

Answers: 1-B, 2-B, 3-B, 4-B, 5-C, 6-C, 7-B, 8-B, 9-C, 10-B

Fill in the Blank

1. David sought refuge with the _____ to escape Saul.
2. David and his men were given the town of _____ by Achish.
3. David conducted raids against the _____, Girzites, and Amalekites.
4. David deceived Achish by saying he was raiding the _____ regions of Judah.
5. Achish believed David would be his _____ forever.

Answers: 1. Philistines, 2. Ziklag, 3. Geshurites, 4. southern, 5. servant

Vocabulary Words

1. **Refuge** (מִקְלָט) - A place of shelter or protection; David sought refuge with the Philistines to escape Saul.
2. **Deception** (תַּרְמִית) - The act of misleading or deceiving someone; David used deception to gain Achish's trust.
3. **Survival** (הַשְׁתַּרְדּוּת) - The act of continuing to live or exist, especially under difficult conditions; David's actions were motivated by survival.

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

4. **Strategy** (אֲסֶרֶת מַלְחָמָה) - A plan of action designed to achieve a long-term or overall aim;
David developed a strategy to protect himself while living among the Philistines.
5. **Integrity** (יְשׁוּרָה) - The quality of being honest and having strong moral principles;
maintaining integrity can be challenging in difficult situations.

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

CHAPTER 28

Summary of Chapter

Chapter 28 of 1 Samuel recounts Saul's desperate attempt to seek guidance from a medium after God refuses to answer him. As the Philistines prepare to fight Israel, Saul is filled with fear and seeks counsel, but the Lord does not respond through dreams, Urim, or prophets. In desperation, Saul visits a medium at Endor, disguised, and asks her to summon the spirit of Samuel. The spirit of Samuel predicts Saul's defeat and death, causing Saul to collapse in fear and despair. This chapter explores themes of fear, disobedience, and the consequences of turning away from God's guidance.

Opening Question

1. Why do you think Saul turned to a medium instead of continuing to seek God's guidance?
 2. How can we ensure that we seek God's direction in our lives, especially during times of fear and uncertainty?
-

Outline

1. **Philistines Prepare for Battle (28:1-2)**
 - The Philistines gather their forces to fight against Israel; Achish assures David that he will fight alongside them, which David seemingly accepts (28:1-2).

Application Questions:

- How do we handle situations where our alliances or loyalties are tested?
- What can we learn from the choices David makes in this situation?

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

2. Saul's Desperation and Inquiry (28:3-6)

- Saul, fearful of the Philistine army, seeks the Lord's guidance, but God does not answer him through dreams, Urim, or prophets (28:3-6).
- In desperation, Saul decides to seek out a medium to consult the spirit of Samuel, despite having previously banned mediums and spiritists from the land (28:7).

Application Questions:

- Why is it important to remain faithful and trust God's silence rather than turning to forbidden or unwise sources for guidance?
- How do we maintain our faith in God's plan, even when we do not receive immediate answers?

3. Saul Visits the Medium at Endor (28:7-14)

- Saul disguises himself and visits a medium in Endor, asking her to summon Samuel's spirit; initially hesitant, the medium complies (28:8-11).
- The spirit of Samuel appears, and Saul learns that God has departed from him and that Israel will be defeated by the Philistines, and he and his sons will die (28:12-14).

Application Questions:

- What are the dangers of seeking guidance outside of God's will?
- How can we discern and avoid the temptation to seek forbidden or harmful guidance?

4. Saul's Reaction and Samuel's Prophecy (28:15-25)

- Overwhelmed with fear and weakness, Saul collapses; the medium and his servants urge him to eat, which he reluctantly does (28:15-20).
- Saul's fate is sealed as he returns to his camp, facing impending defeat and death as prophesied by Samuel (28:21-25).

Application Questions:

- How does Saul's reaction to Samuel's prophecy reveal the consequences of disobedience and abandoning God's guidance?

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

- In what ways can we seek to restore our relationship with God when we have strayed from His path?
-

Possible Activities

1. Memory Verse Challenge

- Memorize 1 Samuel 28:16: “Samuel said, ‘Why do you consult me, now that the LORD has departed from you and become your enemy?’” Discuss the importance of maintaining a close relationship with God and seeking His guidance.

2. Role-Playing Activity

- Role-play the scene where Saul visits the medium at Endor and hears the prophecy from the spirit of Samuel. This activity will help students understand the themes of fear, disobedience, and seeking God’s will in difficult times.

3. Discussion Activity

- Discuss the consequences of Saul’s decision to consult a medium and how we can avoid making similar mistakes in our lives. Encourage students to think about ways to seek God’s guidance through prayer, scripture, and wise counsel.
-

Quiz

1. Why did Saul seek guidance from a medium?
 - A. He wanted to communicate with his ancestors
 - B. God did not answer him through any other means
 - C. He wanted to gain power over the Philistines
 - D. He was curious about the future
2. Where did Saul find the medium?
 - A. Gilgal

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

- B. Jerusalem
 - C. Endor
 - D. Bethlehem
3. How did Saul disguise himself when visiting the medium?
- A. As a Philistine
 - B. As a common soldier
 - C. In plain clothes
 - D. As a prophet
4. Who did Saul ask the medium to summon?
- A. Moses
 - B. Samuel
 - C. David
 - D. Elijah
5. What was the medium's initial reaction to Saul's request?
- A. She agreed immediately
 - B. She refused because it was illegal
 - C. She ran away
 - D. She asked for payment first
6. What message did the spirit of Samuel give to Saul?
- A. He would be victorious over the Philistines
 - B. He would lose his kingdom
 - C. He and his sons would die in battle
 - D. He should seek peace with David
7. How did Saul react to the prophecy given by Samuel's spirit?
- A. He laughed
 - B. He attacked the medium
 - C. He collapsed in fear
 - D. He celebrated

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

8. What did the medium and Saul's servants urge him to do after the prophecy?
 - A. Go back to fight
 - B. Flee the battlefield
 - C. Eat for strength
 - D. Make peace with David
9. What lesson can be learned from Saul's actions in this chapter?
 - A. It's okay to seek guidance from forbidden sources
 - B. Disobedience to God leads to despair and defeat
 - C. God will always answer immediately
 - D. Seeking power is more important than following God's will
10. What was Saul's ultimate fate as predicted by Samuel's spirit?
 - A. He would become king of the Philistines
 - B. He would make peace with David
 - C. He and his sons would die in battle
 - D. He would live in exile

Answers: 1-B, 2-C, 3-C, 4-B, 5-B, 6-C, 7-C, 8-C, 9-B, 10-C

Fill in the Blank

1. Saul sought guidance from a _____ at Endor when God did not answer him.
2. The medium summoned the spirit of _____ at Saul's request.
3. Saul was told by Samuel's spirit that he and his _____ would die in battle.
4. After hearing the prophecy, Saul collapsed in _____.
5. The medium and Saul's servants urged him to _____ after hearing the prophecy.

Answers: 1. medium, 2. Samuel, 3. sons, 4. fear, 5. eat

Vocabulary Words

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

1. **Medium** (אֹזֵב) - A person who communicates with spirits; Saul sought a medium at Endor to consult the spirit of Samuel.
2. **Desperation** (יָאֵשׁ) - A state of despair, typically one that results in rash or extreme behavior; Saul's desperation led him to consult a forbidden source.
3. **Prophecy** (נְבוּאָה) - A message that is claimed by a prophet to have been communicated to them by a deity; Samuel's spirit delivered a prophecy to Saul.
4. **Disobedience** (מְרִי) - Refusal or neglect to obey; Saul's actions reflect his ongoing disobedience to God.
5. **Guidance** (הַדְרָכָה) - Advice or information aimed at resolving a problem or difficulty; seeking God's guidance is crucial in times of uncertainty.

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

CHAPTER 29

Summary of Chapter

Chapter 29 of 1 Samuel describes how David is spared from having to fight against Israel with the Philistines. The Philistine rulers gather their forces at Aphek, and the Philistine commanders question Achish about David's loyalty, fearing he might turn against them in battle. Despite Achish's confidence in David, the commanders insist he not join them. Achish reluctantly orders David to return to Ziklag, stating that he finds no fault in him but must comply with his commanders. David departs early the next morning, relieved from fighting his own people. This chapter highlights themes of loyalty, divine intervention, and God's protection.

Opening Question

1. Why do you think the Philistine commanders were suspicious of David's loyalty, and how does this suspicion impact the outcome of the story?
 2. How can we recognize and trust in God's guidance and intervention in challenging situations?
-

Outline

1. **Philistine Commanders Question David's Presence (29:1-5)**
 - The Philistine rulers gather at Aphek, preparing to fight Israel, and the commanders notice David and his men among Achish's forces (29:1-2).
 - The commanders express their distrust of David, fearing he might betray them to regain favor with Saul (29:3-5).

Application Questions:

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

- How should we respond when others question our loyalty or intentions?
- What can we learn about the importance of maintaining a clear and trustworthy reputation?

2. Achish Reluctantly Sends David Away (29:6-11)

- Achish, though convinced of David's loyalty, informs him of the commanders' decision and orders him to return to Ziklag, sparing him from the battle (29:6-7).
- David questions Achish, but ultimately obeys and departs early the next morning, relieved from having to fight his own people (29:8-11).

Application Questions:

- How does David's response to being sent away demonstrate wisdom and discernment?
 - In what ways can we trust God's plans, even when they seem unexpected or confusing?
-

Possible Activities

1. Memory Verse Challenge

- Memorize 1 Samuel 29:6: "Achish called David and said to him, 'As surely as the LORD lives, you have been reliable, and I would be pleased to have you serve with me in the army.'" Discuss the importance of being reliable and trustworthy in all circumstances.

2. Role-Playing Activity

- Role-play the interaction between Achish and David when Achish tells David he must return to Ziklag. This activity will help students explore themes of loyalty, trust, and the complexities of decision-making under pressure.

3. Discussion Activity

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

- Discuss the situation David finds himself in with the Philistines and the intervention that leads to his return to Ziklag. Encourage students to think about how God might intervene in their own lives in unexpected ways to guide them.
-

Quiz

1. Where did the Philistines gather their forces?
 - A. Gath
 - B. Aphek
 - C. Ziklag
 - D. Hebron
2. Why were the Philistine commanders suspicious of David?
 - A. They thought he was weak
 - B. They feared he might turn against them in battle
 - C. They wanted to promote him
 - D. They thought he was a spy for the Amalekites
3. Who defended David's loyalty to the Philistines?
 - A. Saul
 - B. Achish
 - C. Abner
 - D. Jonathan
4. What did the Philistine commanders demand concerning David?
 - A. That he lead their army
 - B. That he be put in prison
 - C. That he return to Ziklag
 - D. That he be given a reward
5. How did David react to Achish's order to return to Ziklag?
 - A. He was angry

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

- B. He was relieved
 - C. He immediately obeyed
 - D. He refused
6. What reason did Achish give David for sending him away?
- A. He didn't trust David
 - B. He wanted to protect David
 - C. The Philistine commanders didn't trust David
 - D. He thought David would be a distraction
7. What was David's response to Achish's explanation?
- A. He argued fiercely
 - B. He thanked Achish
 - C. He questioned but complied
 - D. He tried to bribe the commanders
8. How did the Philistine commanders view David's potential actions in battle?
- A. As a potential leader
 - B. As a risk
 - C. As a hero
 - D. As insignificant
9. Where did David and his men go after leaving the Philistine camp?
- A. Jerusalem
 - B. Gath
 - C. Ziklag
 - D. Bethlehem
10. What lesson can be learned from this chapter about God's intervention?
- A. God never intervenes in our plans
 - B. God's intervention can redirect us to safer or better paths
 - C. We should always trust in human plans over God's
 - D. There is no benefit in trusting God's plans

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

Answers: 1-B, 2-B, 3-B, 4-C, 5-C, 6-C, 7-C, 8-B, 9-C, 10-B

Fill in the Blank

1. The Philistine commanders gathered their forces at _____ to prepare for battle against Israel.
2. The commanders were suspicious of David, fearing he might _____ them during the battle.
3. _____ defended David's loyalty to the Philistine commanders.
4. David was ordered to return to _____ instead of fighting with the Philistines.
5. David and his men departed early the next _____ to return to Ziklag.

Answers: 1. Aphek, 2. betray, 3. Achish, 4. Ziklag, 5. morning

Vocabulary Words

1. **Loyalty** (נֶאֱמָנוּת) - A strong feeling of support or allegiance; David's loyalty to Israel was questioned by the Philistine commanders.
2. **Intervention** (הִתְעַרְבוּת) - The action or process of intervening; God's intervention kept David from fighting against his own people.
3. **Commander** (מְפַקֵּד) - A person in authority, especially over a body of troops; the Philistine commanders were wary of David's intentions.
4. **Betray** (בָּגַד) - To deliver or expose someone to an enemy by treachery; the commanders feared David might betray them to gain favor with Saul.
5. **Compliance** (צִיּוּת) - The act of conforming to a request or demand; David showed compliance with Achish's order to return to Ziklag.

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

CHAPTER 30

Summary of Chapter

Chapter 30 of 1 Samuel details David's recovery of his people and possessions after the Amalekites raid Ziklag. When David and his men return to Ziklag, they find it burned and their families taken captive. In great distress, David seeks the Lord's guidance, and God instructs him to pursue the Amalekites. David and 400 of his men successfully attack the Amalekites, recover all the captives, and retrieve their stolen goods. David then shares the plunder with those who remained behind, demonstrating fairness and leadership. This chapter highlights themes of faith in adversity, divine guidance, and the importance of equitable leadership.

Opening Question

1. Why is it important to seek God's guidance when facing a crisis, as David did after discovering Ziklag's destruction?
 2. How can we show fairness and leadership when sharing resources or blessings, like David did with the plunder?
-

Outline

1. **Ziklag Is Raided by the Amalekites (30:1-6)**
 - David and his men return to Ziklag to find it burned and their families taken captive by the Amalekites, causing great distress (30:1-3).
 - The men talk of stoning David in their grief, but David strengthens himself in the Lord and seeks God's guidance through Abiathar the priest (30:4-6).

Application Questions:

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

- How do we respond when faced with unexpected disasters or challenges?
- What can we learn from David about finding strength in God during times of distress?

2. David Pursues the Amalekites (30:7-15)

- David inquires of the Lord and is instructed to pursue the Amalekites, with the promise that he will recover everything (30:7-8).
- David and 400 men pursue the Amalekites, finding an abandoned Egyptian servant who leads them to the enemy's camp (30:9-15).

Application Questions:

- Why is it important to seek God's direction before taking action in difficult situations?
- How can unexpected encounters, like finding the Egyptian servant, become part of God's provision in our lives?

3. David Recovers All (30:16-20)

- David's men attack the Amalekites from twilight until evening the next day, recovering all their families and possessions (30:16-18).
- David takes all the flocks and herds, declaring that the plunder belongs to them, demonstrating God's faithfulness (30:19-20).

Application Questions:

- How does God's faithfulness in David's recovery of all he lost encourage us in our own trials?
- What can we learn about God's protection and provision through David's experience?

4. David's Fair Distribution of the Plunder (30:21-31)

- When David returns, some of his men argue against sharing the plunder with those who stayed behind, but David insists on fair distribution, establishing a lasting statute (30:21-25).

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

- David also sends portions of the plunder to the elders of Judah and his friends, maintaining good relations and demonstrating generosity (30:26-31).

Application Questions:

- How does David's decision to share the plunder demonstrate fairness and good leadership?
 - What lessons can we learn about generosity and fairness in sharing resources with others?
-

Possible Activities

1. Memory Verse Challenge

- Memorize 1 Samuel 30:6: "But David found strength in the LORD his God."
Discuss the importance of seeking strength and guidance from God in times of crisis and how it can change our perspective.

2. Role-Playing Activity

- Role-play the scene where David's men discover the destruction of Ziklag and David encourages them to find strength in God. This activity will help students explore themes of leadership, faith, and seeking divine guidance in difficult times.

3. Discussion Activity

- Discuss how David's actions in recovering the captives and his fairness in distributing the plunder can apply to modern situations. Encourage students to think about how they can demonstrate fairness, generosity, and leadership in their own lives.
-

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

Quiz

1. What did David and his men find when they returned to Ziklag?
 - A. It was untouched
 - B. It was burned and their families were taken captive
 - C. It was under Philistine control
 - D. It was flourishing
2. How did David's men initially react to the loss?
 - A. They praised God
 - B. They laughed
 - C. They talked of stoning David
 - D. They immediately pursued the Amalekites
3. What did David do in response to the crisis at Ziklag?
 - A. He fled to another city
 - B. He blamed his men
 - C. He strengthened himself in the Lord and sought guidance
 - D. He surrendered to the Amalekites
4. Who did David consult to seek God's guidance?
 - A. Samuel
 - B. Saul
 - C. Abiathar the priest
 - D. Achish
5. What did God tell David to do after the raid on Ziklag?
 - A. Surrender to the Amalekites
 - B. Rebuild Ziklag
 - C. Pursue the Amalekites and recover everything
 - D. Flee to another land
6. Who helped David find the Amalekites?
 - A. An angel

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

- B. An Egyptian servant
 - C. A Philistine warrior
 - D. A prophet
7. How long did David's men fight the Amalekites?
- A. One hour
 - B. All night
 - C. From twilight until the next evening
 - D. Three days
8. What did David recover from the Amalekites?
- A. Only some of the goods
 - B. Everything and everyone that was taken
 - C. Nothing
 - D. A few captives
9. How did David handle the plunder after the victory?
- A. He kept it all for himself
 - B. He shared it fairly with everyone, including those who stayed behind
 - C. He gave it all to Saul
 - D. He destroyed it
10. What did David establish as a lasting statute regarding the distribution of plunder?
- A. Only the warriors get a share
 - B. Those who stayed behind should receive an equal share
 - C. The king keeps everything
 - D. Only the leaders distribute the plunder

Answers: 1-B, 2-C, 3-C, 4-C, 5-C, 6-B, 7-C, 8-B, 9-B, 10-B

Fill in the Blank

1. David and his men found Ziklag _____ and their families taken captive.
2. In distress, David _____ himself in the Lord and sought guidance.

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

3. God instructed David to _____ the Amalekites and recover everything.
4. An _____ servant helped David find the Amalekite camp.
5. David insisted on fair distribution of the _____ among all his men.

Answers: 1. burned, 2. strengthened, 3. pursue, 4. Egyptian, 5. plunder

Vocabulary Words

1. **Guidance** (הַדְרָכָה) - Advice or information aimed at resolving a problem or difficulty; David sought God's guidance when faced with the crisis at Ziklag.
2. **Plunder** (שָׁלַל) - Goods taken by force; David recovered all the plunder from the Amalekites and distributed it fairly.
3. **Distress** (צָרָה) - Extreme anxiety or sorrow; David's men were in great distress when they discovered their families had been taken.
4. **Strengthen** (קָיָם) - To make stronger; David strengthened himself in the Lord during a time of crisis.
5. **Equitable** (הוֹנֵן) - Fair and impartial; David demonstrated equitable leadership in distributing the plunder among his men.

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

CHAPTER 31

Summary of Chapter

Chapter 31 of 1 Samuel recounts the tragic end of Saul's reign as king of Israel. The Philistines engage Israel in battle at Mount Gilboa, where the Israelites are defeated, and Saul's three sons, including Jonathan, are killed. Saul, severely wounded by archers, asks his armor-bearer to kill him to avoid capture, but the armor-bearer refuses. Saul then takes his own life by falling on his sword. His armor-bearer follows suit. The Philistines find their bodies, display them on the walls of Beth Shan, and celebrate their victory. The people of Jabesh Gilead recover their bodies and give them a proper burial.

Opening Question

1. How does the tragic end of Saul's life reflect the consequences of disobedience to God's commands?
 2. What can we learn from the bravery of the people of Jabesh Gilead in recovering the bodies of Saul and his sons?
-

Outline

1. **The Battle at Mount Gilboa (31:1-6)**
 - The Philistines attack Israel at Mount Gilboa, causing the Israelites to flee, and many are killed, including Saul's sons Jonathan, Abinadab, and Malki-Shua (31:1-2).
 - Saul is critically wounded by archers, and rather than be captured, he asks his armor-bearer to kill him, but when he refuses, Saul falls on his own sword. His

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

armor-bearer does the same (31:3-6).

Application Questions:

- What are the consequences of turning away from God, as seen in Saul's final moments?
- How can we seek to maintain our faith and obedience to God even in difficult times?

2. Philistines Display Their Victory (31:7-10)

- After Saul's death, the Philistines occupy the Israelite towns, and they find the bodies of Saul and his sons on Mount Gilboa (31:7-8).
- They cut off Saul's head, strip his armor, and send the news throughout their land. Saul's body and those of his sons are displayed on the wall of Beth Shan (31:9-10).

Application Questions:

- How do the actions of the Philistines in displaying Saul's body reflect the nature of humiliation and defeat?
- What can we learn about honoring God even in defeat and loss?

3. The People of Jabesh Gilead Recover the Bodies (31:11-13)

- The people of Jabesh Gilead, remembering Saul's past kindness in rescuing them, bravely retrieve the bodies from Beth Shan and give them a proper burial (31:11-13).
- They burn the bodies, bury the bones under a tamarisk tree, and fast for seven days, showing respect and gratitude (31:12-13).

Application Questions:

- What does the courage of the people of Jabesh Gilead teach us about loyalty and respect?
 - How can we show honor and respect in situations of loss and tragedy?
-

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

Possible Activities

1. Memory Verse Challenge

- Memorize 1 Samuel 31:6: “So Saul and his three sons and his armor-bearer and all his men died together that same day.” Discuss the significance of Saul’s final moments and the importance of living a life of faithfulness to God.

2. Role-Playing Activity

- Role-play the scene where the people of Jabesh Gilead recover the bodies of Saul and his sons from Beth Shan. This activity will help students understand themes of bravery, loyalty, and honoring the dead.

3. Discussion Activity

- Discuss the events leading up to Saul’s death and the implications for Israel. Encourage students to think about how they can avoid the pitfalls of disobedience and learn from Saul’s life to live faithfully.

Quiz

1. Where did the battle between the Philistines and Israel take place?
 - A. Jerusalem
 - B. Mount Gilboa
 - C. Hebron
 - D. Bethlehem
2. Which of Saul’s sons were killed in the battle?
 - A. Jonathan, Abinadab, Malki-Shua
 - B. Absalom, Solomon, Rehoboam
 - C. Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar
 - D. David, Jonathan, Abner

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

3. How was Saul wounded in the battle?
 - A. By a sword
 - B. By an arrow
 - C. By a spear
 - D. By a rock
4. What did Saul ask his armor-bearer to do after being wounded?
 - A. Carry him to safety
 - B. Kill him to avoid capture
 - C. Call for reinforcements
 - D. Take him back to his camp
5. How did Saul die?
 - A. By falling on his sword
 - B. By a Philistine spear
 - C. By being captured
 - D. By a fall from a cliff
6. What did the Philistines do with Saul's body after the battle?
 - A. Buried him with honor
 - B. Burned it
 - C. Displayed it on the wall of Beth Shan
 - D. Sent it back to Israel
7. Who recovered the bodies of Saul and his sons from Beth Shan?
 - A. The Philistines
 - B. The Israelites from Jerusalem
 - C. The people of Jabesh Gilead
 - D. David and his men
8. What did the people of Jabesh Gilead do with the bodies of Saul and his sons?
 - A. Buried them immediately
 - B. Burned them and buried the bones

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

- C. Left them in Beth Shan
- D. Took them to Jerusalem
- 9. Why did the people of Jabesh Gilead recover Saul's body?
 - A. To take revenge on the Philistines
 - B. To honor Saul for his past kindness
 - C. To prevent the Philistines from burning it
 - D. To use it as a war trophy
- 10. What lesson can we learn from the death of Saul and his sons?
 - A. The importance of military strategy
 - B. The consequences of disobedience to God
 - C. The power of the Philistine army
 - D. The need to build strong walls

Answers: 1-B, 2-A, 3-B, 4-B, 5-A, 6-C, 7-C, 8-B, 9-B, 10-B

Fill in the Blank

- 1. The battle between the Philistines and Israel took place at _____.
- 2. Saul's three sons, including _____, were killed in the battle.
- 3. Saul was critically wounded by _____ during the battle.
- 4. The _____ recovered the bodies of Saul and his sons from Beth Shan.
- 5. After retrieving the bodies, they buried the bones under a _____ tree and fasted for seven days.

Answers: 1. Mount Gilboa, 2. Jonathan, 3. arrows, 4. people of Jabesh Gilead, 5. tamarisk

Vocabulary Words

- 1. **Defeat** (תְּבוּסָה) - Loss in a battle or contest; the Israelites faced a defeat at Mount Gilboa.

THE BOOK OF 1ST SAMUEL

Observe, Interpret & Apply

2. **Armor-bearer** (נִשְׂא פָלִים) - A person who carries the armor or weapons of a warrior; Saul's armor-bearer was with him during his final moments.
3. **Humiliation** (הִשְׁפָּלָה) - The state of being disgraced or shamed; the Philistines sought to humiliate Saul by displaying his body.
4. **Loyalty** (נֶאֱמָנוּת) - A strong feeling of support or allegiance; the people of Jabesh Gilead showed loyalty to Saul by recovering his body.
5. **Burial** (קְבוּרָה) - The act of placing a dead body to rest in the ground; Saul and his sons were given a proper burial by the people of Jabesh Gilead.