

The God Who Must Be King, April 16-19, 2026

WHY LEARNING COMMUNITIES? *Circle Two Opportunity...*

To become better and better disciples of Christ TOGETHER so we can face **anything** through...

1. Deeper learning of Biblical truth and 2. Stronger “iron sharpening iron” relationships

Ephesians 4:12–16 (ESV)

THE BIBLE PROJECT INTRO to 1 and 2 Samuel

The books were originally written as one story but separated due to the length of the work. They provide an answer to the need for wise, faithful leaders exposed by the failure of Israel described in the book of Judges. In many ways it is the answer to Israel’s failure to be the nation God intended.

Three main characters: Samuel, Saul, and David whose actions would transition Israel from a group of tribes ruled by judges into a unified kingdom ruled by King David in Jerusalem. Their stories are woven throughout.

Section 1: Samuel is a key leader and prophet, (1 Sam. 1-7), and continues to play a key role in section 2.

Section 2: Saul’s story (1 Sam. 8-31) is in two movements: his rise to power and huge failures (1 Sam. 8-15), followed by his downfall and tragic death (1 Sam. 16-31).

Section 3: Saul’s demise is matched by David’s own exciting rise to power (1 Sam. 16-31), also in two movements: David riding a wave of success (2 Sam. 1-9), then his tragic failure and slow self-destruction of family and kingdom (2 Sam. 10-20).

Section 4: a concluding epilogue (2 Sam. 21-24) that reflects back on the whole story.

The Big Idea: Despite Saul and David’s evil, God has been at work, carrying out his purposes. The hope for a future messiah reaches beyond David. He will bring God’s Kingdom and blessing to all nations when He comes.

Timeline: Joshua, 1406–1375, Judges, 1375–1075, Ruth, 1140 1 Samuel, 1100-1010

Daily Reading Chapters Discussion

† 1 Sam 1 The Birth of Samuel, Samuel Given to the Lord

† 1 Sam 2 Hannah’s Prayer, Eli’s Worthless Sons, Lord Rejects Eli’s Household

† 1 Sam 3 Lord Calls Samuel

Discuss: Why is the story of Hannah and Samuel an often told, familiar story? ER or Kingdom?
What are the in-depth truths in the Kingdom story of 1 Sam 1-3?

1Sam 4 The Philistines Capture the Ark, The Death of Eli

1Sam 5 The Philistines and the Ark

1Sam 6:1-7:2 The Ark Returned to Israel

Discuss: What is the significance of the ark stories? What does the narrative in chapters 4-6 teach us?

1Sam 7:3-17 Samuel Judges Israel

1Sam 8 Israel Demands a King, Samuel’s Warning Against Kings, The Lord Grants Israel’s Request

1Sam 9 Saul Chosen to be King

1Sam 10 Saul Anointed King, Saul Proclaimed King

Discuss: What do we learn from Saul’s humble beginning and acceptance of kingship?

1Sam 11 Saul Defeats the Ammonites, The Kingdom is Renewed

1Sam 12 Samuel’s Farewell Address

1Sam 13 Saul Fights the Philistines, Saul’s Unlawful Sacrifice

1Sam 14 Jonathan Defeats the Philistines, Saul’s Rash Vow, Saul Fights Israel’s Enemies

1Sam 15 The Lord Rejects Saul

Discuss: What do we learn from Saul’s fear and failures?

1Sam 16 David Anointed King, David in Saul's Service

1Sam 17 David and Goliath

Discuss: What do we see in the beginning of David's story?

1Sam 18 David and Jonathan's Friendship, Saul's Jealousy of David, David Marries Michal

1Sam 19 Saul Tries to Kill David

1Sam 20 Jonathan Warns David

Discuss: What do we see in the supernatural elements of David and Jonathan's friendship?

Lesson: What people say and do tells us more about them than it does about us.

1Sam 21 David and the Holy Bread, David Flees to Gath

1Sam 22 David at the Cave of Adullam, Saul Kills the Priests at Nob

1Sam 23 David Saves the City of Keilah, Saul Pursues David

1Sam 24 David Spares Saul's Life

Discuss: What do we see in Saul and David personally and in the circumstances?

What do we do with David's lies, deceit, fear, etc, especially when they result in others' pain and death?

Ps 11 The Lord is in His Holy Temple

Ps 59 Deliver Me from My Enemies

Ps 7 In You Do I Take Refuge

Ps 27 The Lord is My Light and My Salvation

Ps 31 Into Your Hand I commit My Spirit

Ps 34 Taste and See That the Lord is Good

Ps 52 The Steadfast Love of God Endures

Discuss: What did you highlight or note in the Psalms included in this week's readings?

How do you see David's intimacy and alignment with God by connecting the Psalms with circumstances?

Chronological Guide: pages p. 46-49

Takeaways:

