

1 SAMUEL

Eden to Exile Leader's Guide

John D. Morrison, PhD

OT LEADER'S GUIDE

1 SAMUEL

JOHN D. MORRISON, PHD



Dr. Tom Smiley, Senior Pastor
2235 Thompson Bridge Road, Gainesville, GA 30501
LakewoodLife.org • (770) 532-6307

OT Leader's Guide: 1 Samuel

Copyright © 2019 John D. Morrison

Published by Lakewood Baptist Church

2235 Thompson Bridge Road

Gainesville, Georgia 30506

Unless otherwise noted, Scripture quotations are from the ESV© Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version©), copyright © 2001 by Crossway.

OT19

Greetings! Welcome to our journey through the Old Testament from Eden to Exile! I am so excited about what we are going to learn together and how we are going to grow together as we read God's Word together in these next twelve months.

Our reading the New Testament in a year as a church was a much broader and deeper success than we ever imagined. We saw God work in individuals and in relationships as his Word was made a daily priority. God tells us that his Word is powerful to accomplish his purposes (Isaiah 55:10-11), and we saw that on full display last year.

We believe that all of God's Word is, as Paul tells us, "able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus" (2 Timothy 3:15). It is our commitment as a church to the whole counsel of God that has led us to read the Old Testament this year.

I am even more excited about this year because of a new and added "twist." Each week you'll read from the Old Testament, but you'll also find a devotional for the end of the week written by a member of our Lakewood Team. These devotionals will draw the connection between what you read each day and the New Testament. We are about to discover more regarding the unity of the Scriptures. God's Word tells us the one story of salvation freely offered through Jesus Christ.

Please keep current and encourage others to read along with you. I would love to hear your thoughts and impressions as you reflect on each day's reading. Please email me at tsmiley@lakewoodlife.org

We are blessed as a ministry to have such a talented, gifted, and doctrinally sound staff who each have the competency to lead us into a deeper understanding of God's Word. As you read their devotional thoughts and commentary, consider letting them know how their words have impacted your daily walk of faith.

Enjoy our journey from Eden to Exile!

Dr. Tom

INTRODUCTION

1 Samuel transitions from the period of judges to the era of kings. Samuel is the last of the judges over Israel, and Saul becomes the first king. However, through his disobedience, Saul forfeits his rule as king, and in his place, God raises up David, a man after his own heart, to be king over his people. David's reign points beyond itself to his promised son, Jesus Christ, who will be the perfect king over God's people.

The book of 1 Samuel can be organized around the three main characters: Samuel, Saul, and David.

1. Story of Samuel (1:1-8:22)
2. Story of Saul (9:1-15:35)
3. Story of Saul and David (16:1-31:13)

1 Samuel ends with the deaths of Saul and Jonathan. 2 Samuel then covers the "Story of David." 1-2 Samuel should be read together as a literary whole that is telling the story of God working in unexpected ways to bring a king for his people.

On either end of this story come two poems or songs that serve as bookends to the narrative of 1-2 Samuel. In 1 Samuel 2, Hannah's song serves as an introduction to three key themes of the whole of 1-2 Samuel:

1. God is in control over all.
2. God works in unexpected ways.
3. God is bringing a king for his people.

Each of these three themes is repeated throughout the books, but they are particularly highlighted in the life of David. The Lord himself sets David apart to be king and superintends David's life for his purposes. God works through David in unexpected ways, turning the forgotten shepherd boy into a warrior king. The Lord makes David king, but he is also working through David's line to bring the true king of his people, Jesus Christ.

As the Lord establishes his king in Israel, 1 Samuel makes clear that the Lord, not the human king, is the final authority. The Lord himself is the true king over his people (cf. 1 Sam. 8:7), and he

exercises his rule through his king. Thus, the king himself must heed God's Word, and when Saul does not, he is rejected as king.

1 Samuel highlights the need for the earthly king to submit to the heavenly king. 2 Samuel will show that even David will not obey the Lord perfectly. His failures call into question if God's people will ever experience the full blessing of living under God's rule. 2 Samuel points us to our own need for king who is even better and more faithful than David. We do not need only a king whose heart is after God's own heart, but we need a king who can transform our hearts to seek the Lord's as well. We need a king who can transform us into people who long to love and to obey the Lord and who are able to do it. To obey God fully and to love him completely, we need our hearts changed, and such a change can only come through a king who has power not just to enforce rules but to transform us. This king is none other than Jesus Christ, the Son of David.

1 SAMUEL 1-2

OT19 WEEK 33

Discussion Questions

- 1 Samuel 1:10 | How would you describe Hannah's state when she prayed? Is it harder for you to pray when you are "deeply distressed" or when everything is going well? Why? How are you encouraged by Hannah's example?
- 1 Samuel 2:1-10 | What truths about God does Hannah highlight in her prayer? How are these truths comforting?
- 1 Samuel 2:1-26 | What was wrong with the way Eli's sons behaved? Why were their actions particularly offensive to God? Did Eli handle this situation well? How should parents address sin in their children? In their adult children? How should you as a believer in Jesus address sin in another believer's life? What does Jesus say about this in Matt. 18:15-35? What does 1 Corinthians 5:1-13 teach?

1 SAMUEL 3-7

OT19 WEEK 34

Discussion Questions

- 1 Samuel 3:1-19 | How do we hear from God today? Who do you have in your life like Eli who can help you understand God's Word? Who do you help understand God's Word and how it applies to his or her life?
- 1 Samuel 4:1-10 | What is wrong with the way Israel is treating the Ark? How do we try to use God like a lucky charm to get what we want?
- 1 Samuel 5:1-6:21 | What are the episodes in this chapter meant to teach us about God? How should these lessons apply to our lives today?
- 1 Samuel 7:3-15 | What book of the Bible does this section remind you of? How have you seen God use difficult or even dangerous situations in your life to draw you closer to him?

1 SAMUEL 8-12

OT19 WEEK 35

Discussion Questions

- 1 Samuel 8:7-8 | Who was meant to be king over Israel? Why did the people want a human king? How does Jesus restore God's reign over his people? Why is it good news for you that Jesus is king?
- 1 Samuel 9:1-27 | How does God use the lost sheep here to accomplish his purpose? What does this tell us about God's power and the way he works? How does this encourage you to trust the Lord in your life today?
- 1 Samuel 10:7, 9-13 | How is the coming of the Spirit in the OT different than in the NT? What is it such good news for those who trust in Christ that the Spirit of God indwells us?
- 1 Samuel 11:12-14 | What is commendable about Saul here? How do you respond when you have success? Are you merciful or ruthless? Are you quick or slow to honor the Lord? How should you respond?
- 1 Samuel 12:22 | Why will God not forsake his people? What keeps his people secure under his care? How are these things even more true for NT believers? How does God's motivation to love us help us feel even more secure in that love?

1 SAMUEL 13-17

OT19 WEEK 36

Discussion Questions

- 1 Samuel 13:8-15 | What did Saul do wrong? What was the Lord looking for in the leader of his people? What lessons can we apply from this incident to our lives today?
- 1 Samuel 14:24-46 | Why was Saul's vow foolish? What does Jesus say about taking oaths and making vows (Matthew 5:33-37; cf. James 5:12)? Why does it honor God more when we simply let our yes be yes and our no be no?
- 1 Samuel 15:22-26 | What does God desire from his people? How and why did Saul fail in this? Where are you going through the religious motions and not giving God your whole heart? Where are you tempted to fear people rather than the Lord?
- 1 Samuel 16:7 | What is God's chief concern about a person? How is God's looking at the inner person both a relief for us and a correction to our image-obsessed culture? How are you tempted to place more emphasis on the outward in your own life? Look at Philippians 3:9. If you are found in Christ, how does God view you?
- 1 Samuel 17:37 | How did God use past trials to give David the faith for this present challenge? How have you seen God work this way in your own life? How has the Lord worked in your life in the past that gives you confidence you can trust him now?

1 SAMUEL 18-22

OT19 WEEK 37

Discussion Questions

- 1 Samuel 18:1-5; 20:1-42 | What do David and Jonathan teach us about the nature of true friendship? How does Jesus take Jonathan's self-humbling friendship to an even greater level? How do we as God's people, the church, need to follow Jonathan and even Christ in this kind of friendship for one another?
- 1 Samuel 18:6-10; 19:1-24 | Why is Saul so enraged by David? How does the gospel of Jesus undercut jealousy, bitterness, and rage in our lives? Where do you need to repent of these sins in your own life?
- 1 Samuel 21:10-15 | Why is it remarkable that David went to Gath? Who was from there? What does David have with him that would have been particularly offensive to the people of Gath? What does this incident reveal about the danger David was in from Saul?
- 1 Samuel 22:6-23 | How does this episode reveal the differences in heart between Saul and David? Notice the power that jealousy has over Saul. Where are you letting jealousy gain a foothold in your life? As a Christian, why is it good news in your fight against jealousy that the Holy Spirit dwells in you?

1 SAMUEL 23-27

OT19 WEEK 38

Discussion Questions

- 1 Samuel 23:1-14 | What does it mean that David “inquired of the Lord”? How do we know God’s will for our lives? Consider looking at verses that speak of God’s will (e.g. 1 Thessalonians 4:3; 5:16-18; 1 Peter 1:5).
- 1 Samuel 24:6 | What does this reveal about David’s heart? Where are you currently being tempted to disregard God’s law for the sake of your own gain? How do you overcome such temptation?
- 1 Samuel 25:1-44 | What stands out as particularly wise about Abigail in this passage? Proverbs 15:1 states, “A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.” How are you doing currently in answering anger with a soft word? How should the gospel enable us to fulfill this proverb?
- 1 Samuel 26:6-12 | How does this episode display David’s faith? Are you willing to follow God’s ways and to trust his plan, even when an easier shortcut seems to appear? Where are you now tempted to take a shortcut rather than follow God’s ways?
- 1 Samuel 27:8-12 | Does David act in a moral manner here? Why or why not?

1 SAMUEL 28-31

OT19 WEEK 39

Discussion Questions

- 1 Samuel 28:15-19 | What does this incident teach us about the state of Saul's heart? Has Saul's condition improved or worsened since chapter 15? What warning about the effects of sin do we see in Saul's decline? Is there currently an area in your life where you are believing the lie that you can keep on sinning without ill-effect? How does the gospel speak to such a belief?
- 1 Samuel 30:21-25 | How is David's wisdom here actually an overflow of his understanding of God's work? Consider Ephesians 2:1-10. How does the gospel undercut any jealousy or boasting among God's people?



Dr. Tom Smiley, Senior Pastor • LakewoodLife.org
2235 Thompson Bridge Road, Gainesville, GA 30501 • (770) 532-6307