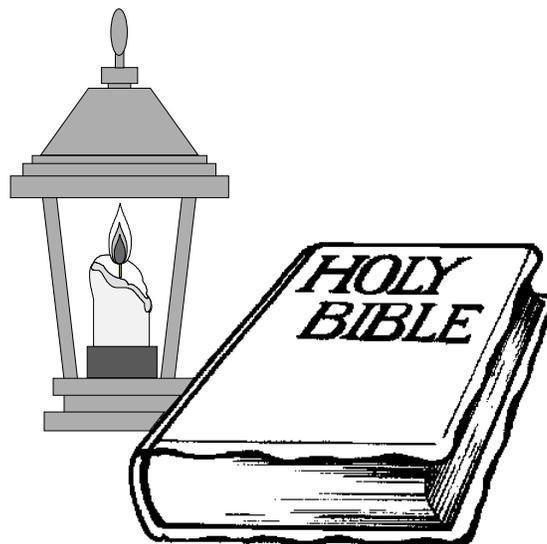


Bible Question Class Books

Bible Study Questions on the Book of 1 Samuel

by David E. Pratte

**A workbook suitable for Bible classes,
family studies, or personal Bible study**



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Bible Study Questions on the Book of 1 Samuel

Introduction:

This workbook was designed for Bible class study, family study, or personal study. The questions contain minimal human commentary, but instead urge the student to study to understand Scripture. The material is copyrighted, but each student has permission to print copies of the material for his/her personal or family study. I suggest that each student print a copy of these questions and place them in a notebook. In addition, teachers are permitted to make copies for students they teach in a class or home Bible study setting. See copyright notes at the end of this material for further information.

Questions labeled "think" are intended to encourage students to apply what they have learned.

I also **strongly** urge teachers to use other Scriptures, questions, applications, and comments to promote productive in-class discussion. Please, do **not** let the class period consist primarily of the following: "Joe, will you answer number 1?" "Sue, what about number 2?" Etc. Instead, let the questions be assigned as homework so students come to class prepared. Then let class time consist of **discussion** that focuses on the Scriptures themselves, not just reading the questions to see whether they were answered "correctly."

I also urge the class to emphasize the **Bible** teaching. Please, do not become bogged down over "What did the author mean by question #5?" My meaning is relatively unimportant. The issue is what the Bible says. Concentrate on the meaning and applications of Scripture. If a question helps promote Bible understanding, stay with it. If it becomes unproductive, move on. (Note: My abbreviation "**b/c/v**" means "book, chapter, and verse.")

Finally, I encourage plain applications of the principles studied. God's word is written so souls may please God and have eternal life. Please study it with the respect and devotion it deserves!

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Assignments on 1 Samuel 1

Read 1 Samuel 1, then answer the following questions. If you need help, consult a Bible dictionary or similar reference work.

1. **Memorize** the following 15 periods of Bible history. List at least one event that occurred during each period.

Before the Flood —

After the Flood —

The Patriarchs —

Egyptian Bondage —

Wilderness Wanderings —

Conquest of Canaan —

The Judges —

United Kingdom —

Divided Kingdom —

Judah Alone —

Babylonian Captivity —

Restoration —

Period of Silence —

Life of Jesus —

Early Church —

2. Skim the book of 1 Samuel, then state the theme of the book, and list its main characters.

3. What was a “judge,” and what were the conditions in Israel during the period of the judges (see the book of Judges)?

4. Who was Elkanah, and where did he live (locate on a *map*)?

5. Who were Elkanah's wives, and how did they differ?
6. Where did Elkanah and his family go every year (see *map*)? Why?
7. Who were the priests there?
8. Why was Hannah upset, and how did Elkanah comfort her? (Think: What does this show about the practice of plural wives?)
9. Describe Hannah's prayer and her vow (vv 9-11). (Think: Study cross-references regarding the Nazarite vow and explain it.)
10. List other passages showing how much Bible women wanted children. (Think: How does this contrast to the attitudes of some people today?)
11. Who observed Hannah's prayer, and what did he think? (Think: Must we pray out loud for God to hear us? Explain.)
12. What did Eli say to Hannah, and what does this show about alcoholic drinks?
13. How did Hannah explain her conduct to Eli, and how did he respond?
14. Describe how Hannah's prayer was answered (1:19,20). (Think: What does this show about the power of prayer?)

15. What was the child named, and what does this name mean? (Think: Was this birth a miracle? What does this prove about how God can answer prayer today?)

16. Why did Hannah not go to the next yearly sacrifice?

17. When was Samuel brought to the tabernacle, and what sacrifice was offered?

18. What did Hannah explain to Eli (vv 26-28)?

19. **Application:** What does Hannah's example teach us about keeping our promises, especially promises to God? (Think: What are some examples of promises we have made that we must keep?)

Assignments on 1 Samuel 2

Please read 1 Sam. 2 and answer the following questions.

1. What did Hannah say to praise God in 2:1,2?

2. In your own words explain the main point of Hannah's prayer in vv 3-10.

3. **Application:** Explain how Hannah's prayer related to her own case. What lessons can we learn for our own lives?

4. What can we learn about thankfulness from Hannah?

5. Describe the practices of Eli's sons regarding taking meat from the Israelites (vv 12-17).

6. How did this practice differ from what God's law had said about support of priests? What should have been done with the fat? (Think: In what sense did they despise the offering?)

7. How was Samuel dressed, and when did he get to see his family? (Think: What is an ephod?)

8. How did God bless Samuel's parents (vv 20,21), and how would this have been especially important to Hannah?

9. What other sin did Eli's sons commit? (Think: Consider how religious perversion was associated with moral perversion. What can we learn?)

10. What did Eli do about his sons' sins? How did his sons respond? (Think: How did this affect the other Israelites?)

11. What did a man of God say God had done for the house of Eli's father (vv 27,28)? (Think: Who was this father and what promise was this?)

12. What sin did God accuse Eli of (v29)? (Think: How might we commit this sin?)

13. What punishment would come on Eli's descendants (vv 30-33)?

14. What sign would occur to prove God's determination to punish Eli's family (v34)? (Think: What priest is referred to in vv 35,36?)

Assignments on 1 Samuel 3

Please read 1 Sam. 3 and answer the following questions.

1. Explain what v1 says about the word of the Lord. (Think: How old was Samuel at this time?)

2. How did God communicate with Samuel, and who did Samuel think it was? (Think: What does this demonstrate about the methods God used to reveal His will as compared to people today who “feel led by the Holy Spirit”?)

3. How many times did this happen, and what did Eli finally realize?

4. What did Eli tell Samuel to do the next time this happened? (Think: How does God speak to us today? What can we learn from Samuel’s response to God?)

5. God’s message to Samuel was about whom, and what effect would it have on the hearers?

6. **Application:** Why would God punish Eli, and what lesson can we learn? (Think: Had Eli rebuked his sons — cf. chap. 2? Where had he failed?)

7. List other passages about parents’ duty to train and discipline their children.

8. What consequence would come on Eli’s family?

9. What did Eli want from Samuel the next morning, and how did he respond to the message? (Think: What can we learn from Eli’s attitude?)

10. How is Samuel’s relationship to God described as Samuel grew?

11. **Application:** What can we learn from Samuel’s attitude toward the messages he received from God?

Assignments on 1 Samuel 4

Please read 1 Sam. 4 and answer the following questions.

1. With whom did Israel have a battle, and what was the result (vv 1,2)?
2. What did Israel decide to do about this? Who came to the army as a result (vv 3,4)? (Think: Was Israel trusting and obeying God or trusting an outward ritual and symbol? Think of similar examples today.)
3. How did Israel act when the ark arrived, and how did this make the Philistines feel (vv 5-7)? (Think: What does this prove about feeling? Is it possible to feel confident God is with us when He is not?)
4. What had the Philistines heard about God? (Think: What should they have done if they really believed this?)
5. Describe the outcome of the next battle (vv 9-11). (Think: What prophecy did this fulfill?)
6. Who brought news of the battle to Israel, and how did the Israelites react? (Think: Why was this defeat so serious?)
7. Where was Eli when the news came, how old was he, and how was his health?
8. What happened to Eli when he heard the news? How long had he judged Israel? (Think: Summarize Eli's life: was he a good man or bad?)
9. What happened to Phinehas' wife when she heard the news?
10. What did she name her son and why? (Think: How does this story illustrate how our sins can harm people who are close to us?)

Assignments on 1 Samuel 5

Please read 1 Sam. 5 and answer the following questions.

1. To what city did the Philistines take the ark (find on a *map*), and where did they place it there? (Think: Why would they put it there?)
2. List other passages about Dagon, and explain who Dagon was.
3. What happened to Dagon the next two nights? (Think: What would this prove about the Philistine victory over Israel? Was Dagon more powerful than God? Explain.)
4. How did the priests of Dagon memorialize this event?
5. What happened to the people of Ashdod (v6)? (Think: What should this have taught the Philistines? Had their own righteousness led to their victory over Israel?)
6. What did the people conclude was the cause of their problem? (Think: What should this have taught them?)
7. What solution did they decide upon?
8. What happened to the people of Gath, and what did they decide to do? (Find Gath on a *map*.)
9. What happened to the Ekronites, and what did they decide to do? (Find Ekron on a *map*.)
10. **Application:** List at least two other passages about idolatry. What can we learn about idolatry from this story?

Assignments on 1 Samuel 6

Please read 1 Sam. 6 and answer the following questions.

1. How long did the Philistines have the ark? Why did they want to get rid of it (review chap. 5 to answer)?

2. Whom did the Philistines consult about sending the ark back, and what advice were they given (vv 2,3)?

3. What kind of trespass offering were they to send, and why was this kind of offering chosen? (Think: What is a trespass offering? Why were 5 of each kind sent? Why include mice or rats?)

4. What past proof of God's power did the Philistines remember (v6)? (Think: Where else had they remembered this? What is their point in v6?)

5. How were they to send the ark away (vv 7,8)?

6. **Special Assignment:** Explain how this would be a test to see if God was the cause of their problems. (Think: Find Beth Shemesh on a *map*.)

7. What was the result of their test (vv 10-12)?

8. What did the people of Beth Shemesh do when the ark came (vv 13-16)?

9. Name the 5 main Philistine cities (locate each on a *map*).

10. What sin did the people of Beth Shemesh commit, what consequences occurred, and what did they decide to do as a result? (Think: Find Kiriath Jearim on a *map*.)

Assignments on 1 Samuel 7

Please read 1 Sam. 7 and answer the following questions.

1. Where did Israel keep the ark, and who was in charge of keeping it? (Think: Study cross-references and determine when and how the ark eventually left this place.)

2. What are Ashtaroth and Baalim (vv 3,4)? Find at least two other passages about them.

3. What charge did Samuel give, and what promise did he make (vv 3,4)? (Think: What problem did Israel have here? How are people today sometimes similar?)

4. What did Samuel tell Israel to do in vv 5,6, and where did they do it (see *map*)? (Think: What was the purpose of fasting?)

5. What did the Philistines do, and how did this affect Israel (v7)? (Think: What happened at Israel's latest battle with the Philistines?)

6. What did Israel ask Samuel to do, and what else did he do at the same time (vv 8,9)? (Think: How does this show a change of attitude for Israel?)

7. Who won the battle, and how did they win?

8. **Special Assignment:** What memorial did Samuel set up? Define "Ebenezer." Name other Bible examples in which stones were used as memorials. What lessons can we learn?

9. What were the consequences of Israel's victory (vv 13,14)?

10. Describe Samuel's work as judge (vv 15-17). Locate on a *map* the places mentioned in vv 16,17. (Think: How does this chapter illustrate the cycle that was commonly repeated during the rule of the judges?)

Assignments on 1 Samuel 8

Please read 1 Sam. 8 and answer the following questions.

1. What were the names of Samuel's sons, and what position did Samuel give them? (Find Beersheeba on a *map*.)

2. Describe their character. (Think: Whom does this remind you of?)

3. What request did Israel make? How did kings differ from judges?

4. What reasons did Israel give for their request (see also v20)? (Think: Were these reasons good or bad? Explain.)

5. **Application:** Describe situations today in which people sometimes offer similar reasons for their conduct.

6. What did Samuel and God think about the request?

7. To what did God compare Israel's request (v8)?

8. List several problems Samuel said would occur if they had a king (vv 9-18).

9. How did the people answer Samuel (vv 19,20)?

10. What did God tell Samuel to do (vv 21,22)? (Think: Why did God grant their request if they should not have made it?)

Assignments on 1 Samuel 9

Please read 1 Sam. 9 and answer the following questions.

1. Of what tribe was Saul, and what are we told about his genealogy?
2. Describe Saul (v2). (Think: How would such a man please the people?)
3. What job did Saul's father give him, and what success did he have (vv 3-5)?
4. What suggestion did Saul's servant offer, what objection did Saul have, and how was the problem solved? (Think: What is a seer?)
5. Who was the seer, and what was he doing there?
6. What had Samuel been told about this, and what was he to do to Saul (vv 15,16)? (Think: What reason did God give for choosing Saul?)
7. What did Samuel first tell Saul he wanted him to do (v19), and what sign did he give to prove his power (v20)?
8. **Application:** What promise did he give Saul, and how did Saul respond (vv 20,21)? What does this show about Saul's character? (Think: Was Saul's statement literally true – v1? Why is humility important?)
9. Describe how Samuel honored Saul at the feast.
10. What did Samuel do with Saul that evening and next morning (vv 25-27)?

Assignments on 1 Samuel 10

Please read 1 Sam. 10 and answer the following questions.

1. What did Samuel do to Saul in v1, and what did he say?

2. List two other passages where people were anointed, and explain the significance of it.

3. For each of the following verses, tell what sign Samuel gave Saul. (Think: What was the significance of the signs?)

V2 —

Vv 3,4 —

Vv 5,6 —

4. What was Saul to do after the signs were fulfilled (vv 7,8)? (Think: Run cross-references on v8. When did this event occur? Did Saul do as he was told?)

5. Define “prophesy.” What did people think when Saul prophesied (vv 10-13), and what proverb began as a result? (Think: In what sense was Saul given another heart — v9, cf. v6?)

6. What did Saul’s uncle ask, and how did Saul respond? (Think: What does this show about Saul?)

7. At what place did Samuel gather Israel (see *map*), and what did he remind them about (vv 17,18)?

8. **Special Assignment:** Describe the method used to identify the new king (vv 19-21). Where else has such a method been used?

9. Who was chosen to be king, and where was he? (Think: What does this show about Saul?)

10. Describe the various reactions of the people to Saul (vv 24-27). How did Saul respond?

Assignments on 1 Samuel 11

Please read 1 Sam. 11 and answer the following questions.

1. Who threatened Jabesh Gilead (see *map*), and what offer did the residents make first (v1)? (Think: Who were the Ammonites, and where did they live? See *map*.)
2. What condition was required and why (v2)?
3. What did the city leaders decide to do?
4. Where was Saul when the news came, and how were the people of Gibeah affected?
5. How did Saul notify the Israelites to meet (vv 6,7)?
6. Where did the people gather (see *map*), and how many came?
7. What message was sent to the men of Jabesh, and how did it affect them? What message did the men of Jabesh send to the Ammonites?
8. Describe the battle and its outcome.

9. **Special Assignment:** What did the Israelites then want to do to Saul's former critics, and how did Saul respond (vv 12,13)? What does this show about Saul and about people's attitudes toward leaders?

10. What did Samuel say the people should do, and where did they do it (vv 14,15)?

Assignments on 1 Samuel 12

Please read 1 Sam. 12 and answer the following questions.

1. What challenge did Samuel make to the people (vv 1-3)? (Think: How did this relate to the change of government?)

2. **Special Assignment:** How did the people answer, and how did Samuel commit them to the answer (vv 4,5)? What does this prove about the people's reasons or justification for wanting a king?

3. What leaders had God originally provided Israel, and what had they done for Israel (vv 6-8)? (Think: What did this prove about God?)

4. What sins had Israel committed, and what happened as a result (vv 9,10)? Give b/c/v for these events. (Think: What are Baals and Ashtoroth?)

5. What other leaders had God sent Israel? What cycle is Samuel describing in vv 6-11? (Think: What lesson should Israel have learned?)

6. What change had Israel requested and under what circumstances? (Think: How did this fit Samuel's point?)

7. What application did Samuel make now that Israel had a king (vv 13-15)? (Think: Would the change of government solve Israel's problem? Explain.)

8. What sign did Samuel call for, and what was its purpose? (Think: What was the purpose of miracles?)

9. What conclusion did the people reach, and what request did they make (vv 19-21)?

10. What assurances and predictions did Samuel then give (vv 22-25)?

Assignments on 1 Samuel 13

Please read 1 Sam. 13 and answer the following questions.

1. Name Saul's son. How was the army divided between Saul and his son? (Locate places on a *map*.)
2. What battle did Saul's son win, and what was the effect (vv 3,4)? (See *map*.)
3. Describe the Philistine army (locate places on a *map*).
4. How were the Israelites affected by the Philistines (vv 6,7)?
5. Describe the sin of Saul in vv 8-10. (Think: What had Samuel said to Saul about this? Check cross-references.)
6. How did Saul try to justify his act?

7. **Special Assignment:** What did Samuel say about Saul's act, and what would be the consequence of it (vv 13-15)? What weakness do we see in Saul for the first time here?

8. Describe the size and location of the Israelite army compared to the Philistine army (vv 15,16). (See *map*.)
9. What did the Philistines do to provoke Israel (vv 17,18)?
10. What additional hindrance did Israel have in fighting the Philistines (vv 19-23)?

Assignments on 1 Samuel 14

Please read 1 Sam. 14 and answer the following questions.

1. Where was Saul (see *map*), and how many men were with him?

2. Who was “wearing an ephod,” and what was his relationship to Eli? (Think: So what official position did he hold?)

3. **Application:** What did Jonathan and his armor bearer decide to do? Describe Jonathan’s faith as stated in v26. What lessons can we learn?

4. What sign did Jonathan devise to determine what course of action to take (vv 8-10)?

5. What did the Philistines say to Jonathan (vv 11,12)?

6. Describe Jonathan’s victory.

7. How did Saul discover that something unusual was happening (vv 15,16)?

8. How did he find out that Jonathan was missing?

9. What did Saul’s army find when they arrived at the battle scene?

10. Who joined with Saul as the battle progressed?

11. What oath had Saul sworn? (Think: What is an oath? What is fasting?)

12. Describe what Jonathan did that contradicted the oath.

13. What did Jonathan say about the oath when told of it? (Think: Was Saul's oath wise to make? Explain.)

14. What error did the people commit that evening? (Think: What did the Old Testament say about this? Give b/c/v.)

15. What did Saul do about this conduct?

16. What did Saul want to do that night, and what was done first (vv 36,37)?

17. What conclusion did Saul reach, and how was the guilty party discovered (vv 38-42)? (Think: Where else was a similar method used?)

18. What did Saul determine to do, and how did the people prevent it (vv 43-46)? (Think: What does this story show regarding Saul's motivations?)

19. Describe Saul's military conflicts (vv 47,48).

20. Name Saul's family members.

Assignments on 1 Samuel 15

Please read 1 Sam. 15 and answer the following questions.

1. Describe exactly what God commanded Saul to do to the Amalekites. (Think: Where did the Amalekites live? See *map*.)

2. Study other passages about the history of the Amalekites, and explain why God commanded their defeat.

3. How many soldiers did Saul have for this battle?

4. What did Saul do for the Kenites and why? (Think: Who were the Kenites, and what had they done for Israel? Study cross-references.)

5. Describe what Saul did to the Amalekites (vv 7-9)?

6. How did this differ from what God had commanded?

7. How did God view Saul's act? (Think: What did Saul do at Carmel? What does this indicate?)

8. How did Saul greet Samuel? (Think: Do people in sin always admit the sin? Think of other Bible examples.)

9. How did Samuel respond to Saul? (Think: How does this demonstrate good teaching methods?)

10. **Application:** How did Saul justify this act? What was wrong with Saul's arguments? Give examples of other people who use "arguments" similar to Saul's.

11. How had Saul viewed himself in earlier times, and what had God done for him?

12. What wrong did Samuel say Saul had done (vv 18,19)?

13. Did Saul admit or deny guilt? Whom did he blame for what had been done to the Amalekites?

14. **Application:** List other passages about the principle that “obedience is better than sacrifice,” then explain the concept. Give some examples from everyday life that illustrate the concept.

15. Define “rebellion,” “stubbornness,” and “witchcraft.” Explain v23. (Think: What other passages refer to rebellion or stubbornness?)

16. What consequence would come to Saul for his sin?

17. How did Saul respond to Samuel’s rebuke, and what did Samuel say then (vv 24-26)?

18. What did Saul do to insist on his own way, and how did Samuel use the result (vv 27,28)?

19. What did Samuel say to Agag, and what did he do to him?

20. Describe Samuel’s future relationship with Saul.

Assignments on 1 Samuel 16

Please read 1 Sam. 16 and answer the following questions.

1. What did God instruct Samuel to do next (v1)?

2. What objection did Samuel have, and how did God resolve the problem?

3. Describe Samuel's conversation with the city elders. (Find Bethlehem on a *map*.) (Think: What else do we know about Bethlehem, and how does 1 Samuel 16 relate to other stories about Bethlehem?)

4. Who was the first son of Jesse that Samuel met, and what did Samuel think about him?

5. **Application:** How did God respond to Samuel, and what lessons should we learn? List other passages with similar teaching.

6. What other sons of Jesse are named, and how many sons did he have?

7. Name the son that was finally anointed, and describe both him and his work. (Think: What would shepherds do, and what would David have learned from this work?)

8. How did God's Spirit treat David differently from Saul? (Think: What is the significance of this?)

9. How did Saul's servants suggest he handle his problem, and how did they describe David? (Think: What can we learn about the power of music?)

10. What did Saul think of David, and how did David serve Saul?

Assignments on 1 Samuel 17

Please read 1 Sam. 17 and answer the following questions.

1. With whom and where did the battle in this chapter occur (see *map*)?
2. Describe the Philistine champion. (Think: Convert these measurements to our units.)
3. What challenge did he issue to Israel, and how did the Israelites react? (Think: How long did he continue to make this challenge – v16?)
4. Describe David's family (vv 12-14).
5. Where was David during this time (v15)?
6. What errand did Jesse give David?
7. What was happening when David arrived, and what did he do (vv 20-22)?
8. What rewards had been promised to one who would defeat Goliath?
9. What was David's reaction when he heard about Goliath?
10. Who was Eliab, and what did he say to David?

11. What did David volunteer to do, and what did Saul think about it (vv 32,33)? (Think: Compare 16:18. In what sense was David a “youth”?)

12. Describe David’s past experience and success in fighting.

13. **Application:** How did David’s faith affect his attitude toward fighting Goliath? What lessons can we learn?

14. What weapons did Saul give David, and what did David do with them? (Think: What does this teach us?)

15. What weapons did David choose instead?

16. What did Goliath say to David? (Think: Why say such things?)

17. What reason did David give why he would win?

18. Explain the lesson of v47 in your own words. (Think: What does this teach about faith and works?)

19. How did David prevail against Goliath?

20. How did he behead the giant? (Think: Did the Philistines keep Goliath’s promise of v9?)

Assignments on 1 Samuel 18

Please read 1 Sam. 18 and answer the following questions.

1. What did Israel do as a result of David's victory over Goliath?
2. What did David do with Goliath's head and armor?
3. What question did Saul ask about David? (Think: In light of 16:15-23, why would Saul ask this?)
4. How much did Jonathan care for David?
5. What is a covenant, and who made a covenant?
6. What did Jonathan do as a sign of the covenant? (Think: How would you answer someone who claimed vv 1-4 prove David and Jonathan had a homosexual relationship?)
7. How did David conduct himself, and what position did Saul give him?
8. Who greeted David on his return from battle (v6)?
9. What saying exalted David compared to Saul?
10. How did Saul react to David's honor? (Think: What does this show about Saul?)
11. What problem did Saul have and how did David help (v10)? (Think: Where else have we read about this?)

12. What harm did Saul attempt, and what was the result? (Think: What would have motivated such evil?)

13. Why was Saul afraid of David? (Think: Was Saul acting rationally? What would people have thought had he killed David?)

14. What did Saul do with David next, how did David act, and what did the people think of him (vv 13-16)? (Think: Why might Saul have done this? Did it work?)

15. What offer did Saul make to David in v17, and what was his motive? (Think: What promise would this have fulfilled?)

16. How did David respond, and what came of the offer?

17. What circumstances led Saul to make another similar offer to David, and how did he try to persuade him (vv 20-22)?

18. What objection did David offer?

19. Define “dowry.” What “dowry” did Saul ask, and how did David provide it?

20. Describe David’s relationship to Michal and to Saul.

Assignments on 1 Samuel 19

Please read 1 Sam. 19 and answer the following questions.

1. What instructions did Saul give his servants, and what did Jonathan say to David about it?
2. What reasons did Jonathan give why Saul should not harm David? (Think: What sin would Saul commit if he killed David? Why would this be especially evil for a ruler?)
3. What agreement did Saul make, and how strongly did he state it? (Think: What does this story show about Jonathan?)
4. Describe how Saul broke his oath to Jonathan. Where else had he done a similar thing? (Think: What does this show about Saul?)

5. **Case study:** Sig Fraud says that people like Saul have a psychological or mental disease and therefore should be excused on the grounds that they are not accountable. Give a Biblical response.

6. What did Saul do next to try to capture David, and who warned David about it?
7. Describe how Michal helped David escape.
8. How did Saul respond to Michal's deceit, and how did she justify herself? (Think: What does this tell you about Michal? How had Saul's conduct affected his relationship to his children?)

9. **Special assignment:** Try to find a psalm David wrote during this period.

10. Where did David flee to escape Saul?
11. How many groups of messengers did Saul send to capture David, and what happened to them?
12. Describe what happened to Saul when he went to capture David. (Think: Why did God make Saul and his messengers do this? Where else is this proverb about Saul quoted?)

Assignments on 1 Samuel 20

Please read 1 Sam. 20 and answer the following questions.

1. What complaint did David raise to Jonathan, and how did Jonathan respond?
2. What reason did David give why Jonathan did not know Saul's intent? (Think: What relationship did David & Jonathan have?)
3. Describe David's plan for determining Saul's true intent (vv 5-7)? (Think: What request did David make based on his covenant with Joshua — v8?)
4. What covenant did Jonathan request in vv 14-16?

5. **Special assignment:** Explain how David later fulfilled this promise.

6. What sign did they devise that Jonathan would use to tell David Saul's attitude (vv 19-22)? (Think: Why was such a sign needed? Why couldn't Jonathan just go personally tell David?)
7. What did Saul think when David was absent from the first day of the feast? Explain. (Think: What was the new moon?)
8. How did Saul act on the second day when Jonathan gave him the agreed-upon explanation for David's absence (v30)? (Think: Why criticize Jonathan's mother?)
9. What reason did Saul give why Jonathan should oppose David (v31)?
10. How did Jonathan try to reason with Saul, and what did Saul do as a result?
11. Describe Jonathan and David's farewell (vv 35-42).

12. **Special assignment:** List and explain Bible principles that Jonathan should have applied in this situation in which his father sinfully hated Jonathan's friend.

Assignments on 1 Samuel 21

Please read 1 Sam. 21 and answer the following questions.

1. Where did David go (see *map*), and whom did he meet there?
2. What question was asked of David, and how did he answer? (Think: Was David right in doing this? What consequences did it later bring to the priests?)
3. What did David ask for, and what was he given? (Think: What bread was this, and what did the law say about it?)
4. What other passages refer to this event, and what do they say about it?

5. **Special assignment:** Did David do right in accepting this? What should we learn?

6. Who witnessed these events, and what problem later occurred as a result?
7. What else did David request, and what was given him (vv 8,9)?
8. Where did David go next (see *map*)? (Think: Why go there?)
9. Who recognized David, and what did they know of him (v11)? How did this affect David?
10. What did David do to avoid danger? Describe his conduct.
11. What did Achish do about David?

12. **Special assignment:** List some psalms David wrote during this part of his life.

Assignments on 1 Samuel 22

Please read 1 Sam. 22 and answer the following questions.

1. Where did David go next, and who all joined him there (1,2)? How many were there altogether? (Think: Why would these people go to be with David?)

2. To whom did David go to obtain protection for his parents (see *map*)?

3. Who advised David where to go next? What else do we know of this man? (Think: Why did David need a prophet besides Samuel?)

4. What did Saul ask the Benjamites about David (v7)? (Think: What is the point?)

5. **Special assignment:** How does this relate to the warning Samuel gave Israel when they asked for a king?

6. What did Saul accuse his men of, and who made accusations against the priests?

7. Whom did Saul call, and what charge did he make against them?

8. What did Ahimelech say about David? (Think: Was this a good answer? Explain.)

9. What penalty did Saul decree, and who refused to carry it out? (Think: Why would they refuse?)

10. Who carried out Saul's decree, and what did he do? (Think: What does this show about Saul? about Doeg?)

11. Who escaped, and where did he go for safety? (Think: Why would he be safe there?)

12. **Special assignment:** Explain David's responsibility in the deaths of the priests. What should he have done?

Assignments on 1 Samuel 23

Please read 1 Sam. 23 and answer the following questions.

1. What problem did the people of Keilah have (see *map*), and what did God tell David to do about it?

2. What did David's men think of this idea? Yet what happened in the battle?

3. **Special assignment:** Who was Abiathar, and what did he have? What is the significance?

4. What did Saul think of this, and why? What did he do?

5. What did God tell David about Saul and about the people of Keilah? (Think: What does this show about Saul and about the people of Keilah?)

6. Where did David go (see *map*), and what did Saul do?

7. Who met with David, and what did he say he knew about David (vv 15-18)?

8. Who told Saul where David was hiding, and what did they advise Saul to do? (Think: Why might people act this way?)

9. What did Saul want the people to do for him?

10. Where did David go (see *map*), and how close was Saul to capturing him?

11. Describe how David escaped.

Assignments on 1 Samuel 24

Please read 1 Sam. 24 and answer the following questions.

1. Where did David flee to next (see *map*), and what did Saul do?
2. Describe David's opportunity to harm Saul, and tell what his men said about it.
3. What did David do to Saul, and how did he feel about it (vv 4,5)?
4. What did David say to his men about this, and how did he restrict them?

5. **Case Study:** Ann Archy says we should rebel against any rulers we think are unfair. Explain what the Bible says about our conduct toward rulers (give 3 or 4 b/c/v).

6. What question did David ask Saul in v9?
7. How did David prove he meant no harm to Saul?
8. Explain v12 & 15 in your own words.

9. **Special Assignment:** Explain the proverb in v13 and the illustration in v14.

10. How did Saul react to David's statement (see vv 16-19)?
11. Explain the concept of returning good for evil and list two passages about it.
12. What conclusions did Saul reach regarding David, and what promise did he request (vv 20-22)? (Think: What does this show about Saul's real motives?)

Assignments on 1 Samuel 25

Please read 1 Sam. 25 and answer the following questions.

1. What happened to Samuel in v1? (Think: In what sense was this the end of an era?)
2. Describe Nabal and Abigail.
3. How had David's men treated Nabal and his property (check other verses in this chapter)? (Think: What proof did David offer to confirm this?)
4. What were Nabal's men doing, and what request did David make? (Think: How were these events celebrated, and why would that make David's request reasonable? See cross-references.)
5. How did Nabal respond to David? What reasons did he give for this response? (Think: Was Nabal's response reasonable? Explain.)
6. What did David do when he heard this response?
7. Who told Abigail what had happened? How did they describe Nabal? (Think: What does this tell you about Nabal?)
8. **Special assignment:** Describe some things people do today that are like what Nabal did?
9. Describe the gift Abigail prepared.
10. Where did she go, and whom did she meet?

11. What was David's intent toward Nabal? Why? (vv 21,22)

12. How did Abigail show humility toward David?

13. What did she say about Nabal's name, and what was her point?

14. What reason did she give why David should not harm Nabal (vv 26,31)? (Think: What was the purpose of the goods she had with her?)

15. What did she predict about David's future (vv 28-30)? (Think: If she knew this, what excuse was there for Nabal's not knowing who David was — cf. v10?)

16. How did David respond to Abigail's request?

17. Special Assignment: Explain the Bible teaching about taking personal vengeance. List several b/c/v.

18. What was Nabal doing when Abigail returned?

19. What happened to him after she told him what she had done? (Think: How does this illustrate the Bible teaching about vengeance?)

20. What did David do after he heard what happened to Nabal? (Think: Why would he do this?)

21. Who were David's wives? What happened to his first wife?

Assignments on 1 Samuel 26

Please read 1 Sam. 26 and answer the following questions.

1. Who once again sent a report to Saul about David, and where else have we read about them? (See *map*.)

2. What report did they send, and what did Saul do about it?

3. Describe Saul's encampment (v5).

4. What did David ask a volunteer to do, and who volunteered? (Think: What is told about this man elsewhere?)

5. What did Abishai want to do to Saul, and what did David say?

6. **Special assignment:** Explain v10. What is David's point?

7. What did David decide to do instead? (Think: Where else have we read a similar event?)

8. Whom did David then address, and what was his charge against him?

9. What was David's question to Saul? (Think: Explain vv 19,20.)

10. What confession did Saul make?

11. Explain David's comparison in vv 23,24.

Assignments on 1 Samuel 27

Please read 1 Sam. 27 and answer the following questions.

1. What did David decide to do? Why? (v1)

2. Where and to whom did he go?

3. **Special assignment:** Where had he tried this previously (b/c/v), and what happened? Why might he have tried it again?

4. Whom did David and his men take with them? (Think: What difficulties would this involve?)

5. What did Saul do as a result?

6. What request did David make of Achish? Why?

7. How did Achish respond (see *map*)?

8. How long did David live there?

9. Against what people did David fight, and what did he do with their property (see *map*)?

10. What did he do to the people? Why?

11. What did he tell Achish, and what conclusion did Achish reach? (Think: What do we know about the people David said he raided? Why would he tell this lie?)

Assignments on 1 Samuel 28

Please read 1 Sam. 28 and answer the following questions.

1. What nations prepared for battle, and how was this a problem for David? (Think: Explain Achish's promise to David – v2.)

2. Where did the armies gather (see *map*)?

3. Describe the problem Saul had in vv 3-6. Why did he have this problem? (Think: What lesson does this teach us?)

4. To whom did Saul decide to appeal, and where did he go to find one (see *map*)?

5. **Case Study:** I. Teachem assigned his English class to write a theme about occult powers. List and explain 3 passages about mediums, necromancy, divination, witchcraft, sorcery, etc.

6. How did Saul approach the woman, what request did he make, and what promise did he make her?

7. Describe what happened when she tried to meet Saul's request (vv 12-14). (Think: How did the woman react? What does this show about her power?)

8. **Special assignment:** List two other passages about people coming back from the dead. Who really has the power to do this? Is it generally permitted?

9. What reason did Samuel give why God would not answer Saul?

10. What prediction did Samuel make about the battle?

11. Tell the story of how Saul reacted to this news and how the woman and Saul's servants helped him (vv 20-25).

12. Study cross-references, and explain how Saul's consulting the medium affected his life.

Assignments on 1 Samuel 29

Please read 1 Sam. 29 and answer the following questions.

1. What subject is returned to in 29:1? Where did we previously read about it?
2. Where did the Philistines gather? the Israelites? (See *map*)
3. What concern did the Philistine rulers raise (v3)? How did Achish answer?
4. What did the princes insist David must do? Why? What did they remember about David?
5. What did Achish tell David to do (vv 6,7)? Why? How did Achish himself feel about it?
6. What objection did David raise?
7. How did Achish answer David? What finally happened (vv 9-11)? (Think: Why would David object to going home? What alternative plans might he have been considering?)

Assignments on 1 Samuel 30

Please read 1 Sam. 30 and answer the following questions.

1. What had happened at Ziklag while David's men were gone? (Think: Why might this have happened? See chap. 27.)
2. How did David's men feel about this? What was their attitude toward David? (Think: Was this attitude justified? Explain.)
3. How did all this affect David? What did he do about it?
4. How did David seek guidance, and what was he told (vv 7,8)? (Think: Why might David expect difficulties in this action, and what advantages would he have?)
5. Who went with David? Where were some left, and why (vv 9,10)?
6. Whom did they find, what condition was he in, and how did they help him (vv 11,12)?
7. Who did the young man turn out to be, and what story did he tell (vv 13,14)?
8. What deal did David make with him? (Think: Why might the servant have been willing to make this agreement?)
9. What were the Amalekites doing when David's men found them? What was the outcome of the battle? What did David's men gain?
10. What controversy arose when they returned to the men who had been left behind? (Think: What does this demonstrate about the character of some of David's men?)

11. What decision did David make, and how long did it endure? (Think: Why was this a good idea?)

12. What did David do with the spoils? (Think: Why would he have done this?)

13. List the places that shared in the spoils. Find as many as you can on a **map**.

Assignments on 1 Samuel 31

Please read 1 Sam. 31 and answer the following questions.

1. What army prevailed in the battle (v1)? Locate Mt. Gilboa on a *map*.
2. What happened to Saul's sons? (Think: How would this have affected David?)
3. What problem did Saul have in the battle?
4. Describe the death of Saul and his armor bearer.
5. List other Bible examples of suicide.

6. **Case Study:** A friend tells you suicide is all right if a person is in misery because it ends his suffering. How would you respond?

7. What did Israel do as a result (v7)?
8. When did the Philistines find Saul's body?
9. What did they do with Saul's armor?
10. What did they do with his body? (Think: Why do you think they did this?)
11. Describe what was finally done with the bodies of Saul and his sons. (Think: Why would these people do this for Saul?)

12. **Special Assignment:** List two important lessons you learned from the life of Saul.

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