

Survey of 1 & 2 Samuel

by
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Survey of 1 & 2 Samuel

**A study of the books of 1 & 2 Samuel for
Small Group or Personal Bible Study**

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Survey of 1 & 2 Samuel

Small Group or Personal Study Course

Introduction

This is a small group Bible study course to help you grow in your understanding of the books of 1 and 2 Samuel. This study will be most effective as you get together with a small group to share the answers that each of you has written in your personal study. This can also be used as a personal study course to help you grow in your understanding of the books of 1 and 2 Samuel. This course is designed to help you grow in three ways. Throughout the course you will read a paragraph to help you grow in your knowledge of the verses that you will be reading. After each paragraph you will usually have three questions. These three questions will focus on three things: Knowledge, Understanding and Application.

The first question will ask you to find the answer to some question in the verses that you are reading. This question is to help you pick out a key fact in those verses to help you grow in your knowledge of those verses. The answer to this question will usually be found in the verses as you read them.

The second question will ask you a question that will help you to think through the verses to understand the meaning of the group of verses being discussed. As you read this question, pray that the Lord will give you understanding of the passage as well as knowledge of the facts.

The third question will ask you a question that will help you to apply what you have learned from those verses both to your own life and to your service for Christ. It is as we understand and apply the Scripture to our lives that the Lord really begins to change and transform our lives.

At the end of each lesson there will be an opportunity to write down something that you have learned for your own life through the study of those verses. Our prayer is that as you work through these lessons that three things will happen in your life:

1. First, you will grow in your knowledge of the Bible.
2. Second, you will grow in your understanding of the verses that you have studied.
3. Third, you will learn how to apply the Word of God to your life.

The basic material in each of these lessons was originally written in one of six Bible Survey texts written between 1969 and 1974 that cover the entire Bible from Genesis to Revelation. We are making this material available in this new form to help you grow in your knowledge, understanding and application of the Bible to your life. The Lord willing, we will continue to make other books available as we have time to prepare them in this new form.

May the Lord bless you as you learn His Word.

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Survey of 1 & 2 Samuel
Lesson 1
1 Samuel 1:1-3:21

Today we are beginning a study of the book of First Samuel. This book picks up the history of the nation of Israel right after the period covered in the book of Judges. In this book we will see that the people of Israel decided that they wanted a king to rule over them so that they would be like the others nations that lived in the surrounding area. When we decide that we want to be like the others around us instead of letting the Lord guide and lead us, we are making the same choice that the people of Israel made during the early chapters of 1 Samuel. This choice is actually a rejection of the leadership of the Lord in our lives. Samuel was the one that God used to anoint the first two kings of the nation of Israel.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain how the Lord gave the mother of Samuel a promise about his birth.
- Explain what kind of sons Eli, the high priest, had.
- Explain the warning that the Lord gave Eli about his sons.
- Explain how the Lord called Samuel to serve Him.

God said when He created Adam and Eve that husband and wife become one in marriage. However, we have seen in the early books of the Old Testament that many of the men took more than one wife instead of becoming one with just one wife as God had said when He brought Adam and Eve together. Today we will study some of the problems that happened in the family of Elkanah because he had more than one wife. Elkanah had two wives. One of the wives had no children. As a result, the second wife constantly spent her time making fun of Hannah because Hannah had no children. This caused Hannah to have much sorrow and she spent much time crying. Finally she refused to eat. Elkanah could not understand the sorrow of his wife. He thought that His love for his wife should make her happy.

1. Read 1 Samuel 1:1-28 and write what Hannah did when they went to worship at Shiloh because of her sorrow.
2. Explain why this passage makes it very clear that there will be much conflict and hurt when a man has more than one wife.
3. Explain why you think that it is important to help both husbands and wives realize the importance of having only one partner.

Although Hannah was in great sorrow, she knew the right way to solve her problem. She took her problem to the Lord and prayed to Him about it. Hannah promised to give her son back to the Lord if He would give her a son. As Hannah was praying, she was moving her lips but was not making any sound. As a result, Eli, the high priest, thought that she was drunk. Apparently drinking was a great problem in that day. Eli told Hannah to stop drinking. Then Hannah replied that she was filled with sorrow and was not drunk as he had suspected. Instead she was pouring out her inner feelings to the Lord in prayer.

4. Read 1 Samuel 1:1-28 and write what Eli said that God would do for Hannah.
5. Explain why Eli immediately jumped to the conclusion that Hannah was drinking.
6. Explain why you realize that it is important not to jump to a conclusion and accuse someone falsely of sin.

Hannah was satisfied when she heard that the Lord would answer her prayer. Elkanah and Hannah returned to their home. Just as Eli had promised, the Lord heard and answered the prayer of Hannah. Soon Hannah became pregnant. When her son was born, Hannah named her son Samuel because she had asked the Lord for him. Each year Elkanah took his family to

Shiloh to offer a sacrifice to the Lord. After Samuel was born, Hannah said that she would wait to go with the family to Shiloh until Samuel was old enough to remain at Shiloh and serve the Lord.

7. Read 1 Samuel 1:1-28 and write how old Samuel was when Elkanah and Hannah took him to Shiloh to serve the Lord.

8. Explain what these verses teach about the faith of Hannah and her trust in the Lord to answer her prayer.

9. Explain why you think that it is important for you in your own life to trust the Lord to answer your prayers.

Hannah had made a promise to the Lord when she had prayed for a son. She had said that she would give her son to the Lord for as long as he lived because the Lord had given the son to her. As parents, we also need to dedicate our children to the Lord and then teach them to serve the Lord from an early age. Even though Samuel was a very young child, he was already able to begin serving the Lord. Many times we think that a child is too young to serve the Lord. However, that is not true. The earlier a child begins to serve the Lord, the more he will grow in his love for the Lord. Young children often have a greater faith in the Lord than their parents.

10. Read 1 Samuel 1:1-28 and write how long Hannah said that she would lend her son to the Lord.

11. Explain why it is important to provide opportunities for our children to learn to begin serving the Lord while they are still very young.

12. Explain why you think that it is important in your own life to help your children learn to serve the Lord from an early age.

As Hannah brought her son to the tabernacle to serve the Lord, Hannah was filled with praise to the Lord for giving her a son. This caused her to pray a prayer that speaks of the greatness of the Lord. In this prayer Hannah also recognized the holiness of God. Because God is so great and holy, we should not have pride because we are nothing in comparison to the Lord. The Lord is the One that has given us all that we have. The Lord is the One that kills and makes alive. The Lord is also the One that makes a person either poor or rich. Hannah recognized that the Lord is the One that is the source of all things and that He is the One that works in our lives.

13. Read 1 Samuel 2:1-17 and write from where the Lord raises up the poor.

14. Explain why Hannah was able to express her praise to the Lord by speaking of His greatness and His holiness.

15. Explain why you think that it is important in your own life to speak of the greatness and holiness of the Lord.

God is the One that is able to take the poor or the beggar and set him among the princes and give him eternal life. The Lord is also the One that is able to keep His saints from the power of the evil one. The Lord is the One that will judge and destroy those who are evil. In fact He is the Judge of the entire earth. Again we are reminded of the greatness of God as we read each part of this prayer. When Hannah had finished this prayer, she and Elkanah returned to their home. However, Samuel remained at the tabernacle to help Eli, the priest. Here we see that even though Samuel was a very young child that he was already beginning to serve the Lord.

16. Read 1 Samuel 2:1-17 and write what the sons of Eli were like.

17. Explain why it is important for every Christian to understand that the Lord is able to keep them from the power of the evil one.

18. Explain why you are thankful that the Lord is the One that is the Judge and that He knows the hearts.

The sons of Eli did not serve the Lord. Instead they served the devil. Although these men were really serving the devil, they were acting as priests at the house of the Lord. The priests were supposed to get their food by sticking a big hook into the pan where the sacrifices were being

cooked. However, the sons of Eli demanded fresh meat from the people so that they could choose the meat that they wanted and cook it the way that they wanted to cook it. They would take this meat by force if the people refused to give it to them. As a result, the people began to have a wrong attitude toward the sacrifices that they offered to the Lord.

19. Read 1 Samuel 2:1-17 and write what the actions of the sons of Eli caused the people of Israel to do.

20. Explain why it is dangerous for a church to have leaders that are like the sons of Eli and do not love the Lord.

21. Explain why you think that there are some people that claim to serve the Lord are actually serving the devil.

Samuel was very different than the sons of Eli. He loved the Lord and wanted to serve Him. Here we see the tremendous value of the teaching that he received during his early childhood. Each year the mother of Samuel would make a new coat for Samuel and bring it to him. The Lord also blessed Hannah with five more children because she had dedicated Samuel to the Lord. We go on to read more about the sins of the sons of Eli. The sons of Eli were so evil that they would have sexual relationships with the women that came to offer sacrifices to the Lord. Finally Eli tried to talk to his sons. He told them that he had heard about the evil things that they were doing.

22. Read 1 Samuel 2:18-36 and write what these evil sons were causing the people of Israel to do.

23. Explain what impact the early teaching of Samuel by his parents had on the entire life of Samuel.

24. Explain why it is important in your own life and ministry to realize the importance of teaching the children to love the Lord while they are young.

The sons of Eli refused to listen to the words of their father. The failure of their father to teach them when they were young caused them to reject his words when they became adults.

Meanwhile Samuel grew in favor both with men and with the Lord. One day God sent a man of God to speak to Eli because of the failure of Eli and his sons. God used this man to remind Eli that he had been chosen by the Lord. The reason that the sons of Eli were doing evil was due to the fact that Eli had chosen to honor his sons more than he honored the Lord. As a result, God said that He would cut off the family of Eli and they would no longer serve as priests of Israel.

25. Read 1 Samuel 2:18-36 and write what God said about old men in the house of Eli in the future.

26. Explain how the choice of Eli to honor his sons more than he honored the Lord led to the warning to Eli that the Lord would remove the family of Eli as priests.

27. Explain why you think that adult children will often reject the teaching of their parents if their parents failed to teach them when they were young.

God said that from that time the men in the family of Eli would die while they were still young. In addition, the two sons of Eli were so evil that they would both die on the same day. Then God said that He would raise up a priest that would be faithful to Him. This priest would be a priest that would be obedient to the Lord. He would walk in the ways of the Lord and his life would please the Lord. In addition, God said that the family of Eli would come to this priest and beg for food because they had no food. Here we see the consequences of the choice of Eli to honor his sons above the Lord and fail to show and teach them how to love the Lord.

28. Read 1 Samuel 2:18-36 and write what the family members would come and ask of the faithful priest that the Lord would raise up.

29. Explain why the Lord always keeps a group of people that are faithful and obedient to Him even when most of the people turn away from Him.

30. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life from the choices of Eli and the results of those choices in the lives of his sons.

Because of the failure of Eli and his sons to speak to the people for the Lord, we read that the Word of the Lord was rare in those days. People did not hear from the Lord very often. Eli was now an old man and had become almost blind. As a result, Samuel ran many errands for Eli. One night the Lord called to Samuel as he was sleeping. Samuel thought that it was Eli calling and so he ran to Eli to see what he wanted. Eli told Samuel to go back to bed because he had not called for Samuel. This happened three times and each time Samuel went running to Eli. Finally Eli realized that it must be the Lord that was calling Samuel.

31. Read 1 Samuel 3:1-21 and write what Eli told Samuel to say the next time that he heard the Lord calling.

32. Explain why the Word of the Lord had become rare during the period that Eli and his sons served as priests.

33. Explain why it is important to you in your own life to be faithful in sharing the Word of the Lord with others.

Although Samuel had been working in the tabernacle for several years, he had not yet come to know the Lord in a personal way. Now the Lord came to him in such a way that Samuel would begin to recognize when the Lord was speaking to him. Today the Lord also wants to speak to us as Christians. He speaks to us through the Word of God. This means that each day as we read the Bible that we should begin by praying and asking the Lord to speak to us through His Word. He will speak to us and help us learn new lessons through the Word. That night the Lord came and called to Samuel again. This time Samuel realized that it was the Lord that was speaking to him.

34. Read 1 Samuel 3:1-21 and write what Samuel said to the Lord when He called Samuel this time.

35. Explain why it is important for all Christians to learn how to let the Lord speak to them through the Word of God.

36. Explain why it is important to you in your own life to learn new lessons from the Lord each day.

The Lord told Samuel that He had a very important message that night. Everyone would be talking about it when they heard it. God said that He was going to bring the judgment that He had promised on the house of Eli. What the Lord begins, He will complete. God said that the house of Eli would be judged forever because the sons of Eli had done evil and Eli had not tried to stop them from doing evil. Here we see that parents are often responsible when their children choose to do evil. God promises that if we train our children by our example so that they see that we walk to please the Lord and show them how to walk to please the Lord that they will not depart from following the Lord as they become adults.

37. Read 1 Samuel 3:1-21 and write how the relationship between the Lord and Samuel developed as Samuel grew.

38. Explain why the Lord will bring judgment when people fail to repent of their sin and continue to do evil.

39. Explain why you learn for your own life about the responsibility of parents to train their children by example.

The next morning Samuel was afraid to tell Eli what the Lord had said to him the previous night. As a result, Samuel stayed away from Eli until Eli called for him. Then Eli asked Samuel what the Lord had said to him when the Lord spoke to him. Samuel knew that he could not keep a secret from Eli and so he told Eli everything that the Lord had said. Eli then knew that the Lord would do exactly as He had promised and bring judgment. Meanwhile Samuel continued to grow and the Lord continued to bless him. Samuel obeyed the word of the Lord and all of the people recognized him as a prophet.

40. Read 1 Samuel 3:1-21 and write how the Lord revealed himself to Samuel as he was at Shiloh.

41. Explain why Samuel knew that he had to tell Eli all that the Lord had told him.
42. Explain why it is important to you in your own life to be obedient to the Lord and speak His Word to others.

Now reread 1 Samuel 1:1-3:21 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of 1 & 2 Samuel

Lesson 2

1 Samuel 4:1-6:21

In our last lesson, we learned that the Lord spoke to Samuel and told him that the sons of Eli would be judged because of their sins. Eli asked Samuel what the Lord had told him and so Samuel told Eli. Today we will learn about that judgment. We will also learn what happens when people treat God as a good luck charm rather than recognizing Him as their Lord and Master. The people of Israel thought that they would have good luck as long as they took the ark of God with them when they went to fight against their enemies. God allowed the ark to be captured to show the men of Israel that God is not just a good luck charm that they can use only when they need help.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

Explain why God cannot be treated as a good luck charm.

Tell about the death of Eli.

Explain what happened to the Philistines because of the ark of God.

Tell how the Philistines returned the ark to the people of Israel.

One day the Philistines came to fight against the people of Israel. All of the men of Israel gathered together to fight against the Philistines. That day the Philistines won a great victory against Israel. Suddenly the people decided that they were losing the battle because the Lord was not with them. The people came to the right conclusion. However, they made the wrong decision. The reason that the Lord was not with the people of Israel was due to the fact that the people had sin in their lives. They needed to repent and confess their sin. Instead of confessing to the Lord, the people decided to get something that they thought would help them.

1. Read 1 Samuel 4:1-11 and write what the people decided to get in order to defeat the Philistines.
2. Explain why the Lord could not give Israel victory over the Philistines as long as the people of Israel were controlled by sin.
3. Explain why you think that many people think that they can live in sin and still expect the blessing of the Lord.

The people of Israel thought that they would have victory if the Ark of the Covenant was with them. What they were actually doing was treating the ark like a good luck charm rather than putting their trust in the Lord. Many people promise God many things when they face danger or death. However, they quickly forget those promises as soon as they get away from danger. The people of Israel thought that having the Ark of the Covenant present at the battle would put God on the side of Israel and give them victory over the Philistines. Today many people still trust in something or some object instead of putting their trust in the Lord.

4. Read 1 Samuel 4:1-11 and write what the people did when the Ark of the Covenant came into the camp.
5. Explain why people often place their trust in some object instead of placing their trust in the Lord.
6. Explain why you think that people often quickly forget their promises to the Lord once they are out of danger.

The Philistines were afraid when they heard the shout of the people in the camp of Israel. They learned that the ark had arrived in the camp of Israel. The Philistines immediately remembered what the Lord had done to Egypt long before. However, the Philistines decided that they would fight as they had never fought before so that they would not become the servants of Israel. The

Philistines did fight. In fact they won a great victory. That day thirty thousand of the men of Israel were killed including the two sons of Eli. In addition, the Ark of the Covenant was captured by the Philistines.

7. Read 1 Samuel 4:1-11 and write the first thing that the Philistines said when they heard that the Ark of the Covenant had arrived in the camp of Israel.

8. Explain why we are to treat God as our Lord and Master and not treat Him like a good luck charm.

9. Explain why you think that the Lord allowed the Philistines to defeat the people of Israel and capture the Ark of the Covenant.

Eli had not been happy when his two sons had taken the Ark of the Covenant to the place where Israel was fighting with the Philistines. Eli was filled with fear that something would happen to the ark. When the ark was captured, a man from the tribe of Benjamin ran to Shiloh to spread the news about the battle and the capture of the ark. Eli was sitting on the fence waiting for news about the battle when the messenger arrived. Suddenly he could hear crying in the city and knew that something must be wrong. Then the man of Benjamin came to Eli and told him that the Philistines had won a great victory over Israel. The man of Benjamin also told Eli that his two sons had been killed in the battle.

10. Read 1 Samuel 4:12-22 and write what else the man from the tribe of Benjamin told Eli.

11. Explain why Eli was filled with fear that something would happen to the Ark of the Covenant when his sons took the ark to the battlefield.

12. Explain why you think that most people are filled with fear when they know that they are in rebellion against the Lord.

Eli was sitting on the fence as he waited for news about the ark. As soon as Eli heard that the ark of God had been captured, he fell backward off the fence and broke his neck because he was very heavy. Eli died immediately. The wife of Phinehas, one of the sons of Eli, was just ready to have a baby when the news of the battle came. When she heard that her husband and her father-in-law had died, the shock caused her labor pains to begin. The shock of the coming of the baby plus the news about the men of her family caused her to die also. However, her son was born and she gave her new son a name before she died.

13. Read 1 Samuel 4:14-22 and write what the daughter-in-law of Eli named her son.

14. Explain why the shock of the news of the capture of the Ark of the Covenant caused Eli to fall off the wall and break his neck.

15. Explain why you think that the Lord chose to bring judgment of the family of Eli all in one day.

Ichabod means that the glory of the Lord is departed. Today there are many churches that have turned away from the Lord and no longer preach and teach the Word of God. Instead these churches and their pastors tell the people things that tickle their ears. These churches that no longer teach the Word of God are like the nation of Israel was that day. They want God as a good luck charm in case they get into trouble. However, the people do not want Christ as the Lord and Master of their lives. Instead they want their own form of religion. That is actually a rejection of God. Just like the nation of Israel, the glory of the Lord has departed from those churches.

16. Read 1 Samuel 4:12-22 and write what the women told the daughter-in-law of Eli just before she died.

17. Explain the meaning of Ichabod in your own words.

18. Explain why you think that many churches and the people in them have become like the people of Israel and are not making Christ the Lord and Master of their lives.

The Philistines had captured the ark of God. To them this was a great victory. The Philistines decided to take the ark to the house of their god, Dagon. When the Philistines reached the

house of Dagon, they placed the ark next to their idol of Dagon. Then the people went home for the night. When they returned the next morning, Dagon had fallen down on the floor in front of the ark. The Philistines immediately took their idol and set the idol up in place again. The next morning the Philistines got up early to check on their idol. The idol had fallen on the floor in front of the Ark of the Covenant this second morning also.

19. Read 1 Samuel 5:1-12 and write what else had happened to their idol of their god, Dagon.

20. Explain why the Lord chose to show the Philistines that He was still in control by judging their idol of Dagon.

21. Explain why you think that God caused the idol of Dagon to fall down on the floor in front of the Ark of the Covenant.

The Philistines found that the head of Dagon and both of the palms of his hands had broken off and were laying there. God had shown the Philistines that they could not compare their gods with Him. When the Philistines thought that they could do such a thing, God showed them that He is the One that controls all things. God destroyed the image of Dagon to show the people that they could not compare Him to their idols. As a result of what had happened to Dagon, the priests of Dagon were afraid to enter the house where the image of Dagon was kept. God also caused the men in the city of Ashdod and the surrounding area to have tumors.

22. Read 1 Samuel 5:1-12 and write what the men of Ashdod said about the ark.

23. Explain why God makes it very clear throughout the Bible that He cannot be compared to other gods.

24. Explain why you think that the Lord used this event to cause the priests of Dagon to become so fearful that they would no longer enter the house where the image was kept.

The men of Ashdod wanted to get rid of the ark because of what the Lord had done to their god Dagon. They also wanted to get rid of the ark because of the suffering that they were experiencing because of the tumors. The leaders of the Philistines decided that they would move the ark from Ashdod to Gath. Gath was another of the cities of the Philistines. Then they carried the ark to Gath. As soon as the ark reached Gath, the Lord began to bring a great destruction on that city also. All of the men of that city began to get tumors.

25. Read 1 Samuel 5:1-12 and write where the leaders of the Philistines decided to send the ark of God next.

26. Explain why God chose to judge each of the cities of the Philistines to which the ark of God was taken.

27. Explain how you think the Philistines felt when they saw the way that the Lord judged their cities.

The city of Ekron was another city of the Philistines. The people of Ekron were filled with terror when they saw the ark of God coming to their city. They had heard about the judgment that God had brought on the cities of Ashdod and Gath when the ark of God came to those cities. However, the people of Ekron did not make their decision to send away the ark of God from their city fast enough. As a result, the Lord also brought a great destruction on the people in the city of Ekron. Many of the people in that city also began to have tumors.

28. Read 1 Samuel 5:1-12 and write what happened to the men of Ekron when the ark came to their city.

29. Explain how God judged the cities of the Philistines because they had compared Him with their idol, Dagon.

30. Explain why you think that the Philistines were forced to recognize that God is the true and living God even though they did not turn to him.

The Philistines decided that the only way that they would be free of their terrible suffering was to send the ark of God back to the nation of Israel. However, the religious leaders of the Philistines warned the people that they should not send the ark back to Israel without sending

some kind of an offering with the ark. They decided that they would make five golden tumors and five images of the mice in the land to send along with the ark when they sent the ark back to the land of Israel. The reason that they decided to send five was due to the fact that the Philistines had five lords that ruled over the Philistine cities.

31. Read 1 Samuel 6:1-21 and write to whom the religious leaders of the Philistines said that the Philistines should give glory.

32. Explain why the Philistines felt that it was important to also send an offering back with the ark when they returned the ark to Israel.

33. Explain why you think that the Philistines realized that the only way that they could stop their suffering was to send the ark back to Israel.

Even though the religious leaders of the Philistines refused to place their trust in the Lord, they did recognize that God was much more powerful than their gods. These leaders warned the Philistines not to harden their hearts as the people of Egypt had done. They were afraid that they would receive an even greater judgment than Egypt. Then the Philistines decided to return the ark in such a way that they would know whether the plague had come from God or if it had just happened by chance. They decided to send the ark back to Israel on a new cart. They decided to have this cart pulled by two of their cows that had young calves.

34. Read 1 Samuel 6:1-21 and write what they decided to keep at home when they sent the cows with the cart.

35. Explain why the Philistine leaders warned the Philistines not to harden their hearts like the people of Egypt had done.

36. Explain why you think that the Philistines wanted to make certain that the suffering that they had experienced had really come from the Lord.

The Philistines knew that the cows would normally want to return to their calves rather than go the opposite direction toward Israel. However, they knew that if the cows started toward Israel and left their calves that it must be God that was causing the cows to go. When the Philistines hooked the cows to the cart, they cows went straight toward Israel and left their calves. In fact the cows did not look to either side of them as they walked toward the land of Israel. Then the Philistines knew that they were being judged by God. As soon as the men of Israel who lived at Beth Shemesh saw, the ark, they were filled with joy. They used the cart and the cows to offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving to the Lord for returning the ark.

37. Read 1 Samuel 6:1-21 and write why God brought judgment on the men of the city of Beth Shemesh.

38. Explain how the Lord showed that He was God by causing the cows to leave their calves and not even look back at them.

39. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life from this chapter.

After the ark had been returned to Israel, the men of Beth Shemesh decided to look into the ark and see what was inside of the ark of God. God had told the people of Israel that they were not to look in the ark. However, these men decided to look inside the ark anyway. As a result of this sin, God brought great judgment on the people of Beth Shemesh. Many of the people died. They were not able to stand before the Lord because of their sin. As a result, the people of Beth Shemesh decided to send the ark to another place so that it would not be in their city.

40. Read 1 Samuel 6:1-21 and write what the men of that city told the people of the city of Kirjath Jearim.

41. Explain why the people of Beth Shemesh were not able to stand before the Lord because of their sin.

42. Explain why you think that God had told the people that they were not to look into the Ark of the Covenant.

Now reread 1 Samuel 4:1-6:21 and write down the three most important lessons that you

learned from these chapters.

Survey of 1 & 2 Samuel

Lesson 3

1 Samuel 7:1-9:27

The people of Israel began to demand a king. Today we will learn why the people began to demand a king to rule over them. We will also learn that the failure of Eli to train his own children also had an impact on the life of Samuel because Samuel had not seen an example from Eli of how to help children grow up to put their trust in the Lord and then grow to love and serve the Lord. Samuel had heard from the Lord about the failure in the life of Eli. However, Samuel had the same failure in his own life. Samuel also failed to train his children. As a result, the people of Israel did not want the sons of Samuel to rule over them. Instead the people of Israel said that they wanted a king so that they could be like the other nations.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

Tell about the victory of Israel over the Philistines.

Explain why the people of Israel demanded a king.

Explain the warning that Samuel gave the people about how a king would rule.

Explain how Saul happened to meet Samuel.

The Philistines continued to make the people of Israel suffer for twenty years. During this time, the people of Israel continued to serve false gods. At the same time the people complained because the Lord was allowing them to suffer. The people thought that they could serve other gods and still be protected by the Lord. Samuel told the people that the only way that they would ever have peace would be to turn from their idols and begin to serve the Lord. Finally the people began to listen to the words of Samuel. Then they put away their false gods and began to serve the Lord.

1. Read 1 Samuel 7:1-17 and write why Samuel said to gather all of the people together at Mizpah.
2. Explain why many people blame the Lord when bad things happen in their lives even when they are not following the Lord.
3. Explain why you think that the people of Israel were complaining because the Lord was allowing them to suffer when they were serving false gods.

All of the men of Israel gathered together at Mizpah so that Samuel could pray for them. There Samuel offered a sacrifice to the Lord and the people spent the day fasting. The people also confessed their sin and told the Lord that they had sinned against Him. Meanwhile the Philistines heard that all of the people of Israel had gathered together at Mizpah. As a result, the Philistines decided to come and fight against Israel before the men of Israel had time to get organized to fight against them. When the people of Israel heard that the Philistines were coming, the people were filled with fear. They were afraid that the Philistines would destroy them.

4. Read 1 Samuel 7:1-17 and write what the people of Israel said to Samuel when they heard that the Philistines were coming.
5. Explain why it is important for people to come to the Lord in repentance if they want the Lord to help them.
6. Explain why you think that the Philistines thought that they could quickly defeat Israel if they came to fight before Israel got organized.

The people of Israel had realized that they could not depend on their own strength. They realized that they must depend on the Lord to give them victory over the Philistines. That was why they asked Samuel to pray that the Lord would save them out of the hand of the Philistines. Then Samuel prayed to the Lord again and the Lord heard the prayers of Samuel. The

Philistines came close to Israel during the time that Samuel was offering the sacrifice. Just as the Philistines were ready to attack Israel, the Lord suddenly thundered from heaven. The Philistines were filled with fear and began to run. As a result, Israel was able to destroy many of the Philistines.

7. Read 1 Samuel 7:1-17 and write what Samuel named a stone to remember how the Lord had saved them that day.

8. Explain why this passage shows that we can trust the Lord for victory when we depend on Him instead of our own efforts.

9. Explain why you think that even many Christians still depend on their own efforts instead of trusting the Lord when they face difficult situations.

The name Ebenezer means, "Thus far has the Lord helped us." The Lord continued to help Israel fight against the Philistines for the rest of the life of Samuel. All of the cities that the Philistines had taken from Israel were returned to Israel. The Lord also brought peace between Israel and the Amorites. Samuel continued to judge Israel for the rest of his life. There were several different cities where Samuel would serve as a judge. Each year he would make a circuit of these cities and judge the causes that the people brought to him for judgment.

10. Read 1 Samuel 7:1-17 and write the name of the town where Samuel had his house.

11. Explain what any person must do in order to have victory like Israel had victory in this chapter.

12. Explain what ways the Lord has shown you in your own life that He is helping you in your life.

When Samuel became an old man, he appointed his sons to serve as judges over the nation of Israel. However, the sons of Samuel did not walk in the ways of Samuel. Even though Samuel had seen what had happened to the family of Eli because Eli had failed to teach his children and train them by his example to serve the Lord, Samuel had made the same failure in his own family. The sons of Samuel became concerned about getting money for themselves. They would accept bribes from the people in order to get more money. As a result, they were not honest judges. The people decided that they did not want the sons of Samuel to serve as their judges.

13. Read 1 Samuel 8:1-9 and write who came to visit Samuel.

14. Explain why Samuel failed to train his own sons after he saw what had happened to the sons of Eli because Eli failed to train them.

15. Explain why you think that it is very important for you to provide a godly example for your children to follow as you teach them.

Although the sons of Samuel were dishonest, that was not the main reason that the elders of Israel came to visit Samuel. Israel had previously had many other leaders that were also dishonest. However, the main thing that the elders of Israel requested of Samuel was to have a king so that they would be like the other nations. Today many Christians are like the people of Israel. These Christians want to be like the people in the world around them. They want to follow the ways of the world. Samuel was sad when he heard the leaders of Israel. Then he prayed to the Lord. The Lord told Samuel to listen to the request of the people.

16. Read 1 Samuel 8:1-9 and write why the Lord told Samuel to listen to the request of the people for a king.

17. Explain why many Christians want to follow the example of the world around them instead of allowing their lives to be transformed by Christ.

18. Explain why you think that the people of Israel wanted to have a king so that they could be like the other nations.

Here we see that the real problem of the people of Israel was that they had rejected the Lord and did not want the Lord to rule over them. Here we see the reason why some Christians want to

be like the people of the world around them. They have actually rejected the leadership of the Lord in their lives. They do not want to recognize Christ as the Lord and Master of their lives. In fact it is very possible that many of them only claim to be Christians when in fact they are not even true Christians at all. The Lord told Samuel to listen to the request of the people. However, Samuel was to warn the people what would happen if they had a king to rule over them.

19. Read 1 Samuel 8:1-9 and write what God said that the people of Israel had done since the time that they came out of the land of Egypt.

20. Explain what it means for a person to recognize Christ as the Lord and Master of his or her life.

21. Explain why you think that there are also many Christians today that want to be like the world around them.

After Samuel had heard the words of the Lord, he went and spoke to the elders that had come to him requesting a king. First, Samuel warned the people about the things that a king would do. A king would decide that he needed a strong army to protect himself from the kings of the surrounding nations. This would cause the king to draft many of the sons of the people to drive his chariots and serve as his soldiers. Other men would be appointed to plant and harvest the crops of the king. Some of the men would be required to build the military equipment that the king needed for his soldiers so that they would be equipped to fight for the king.

22. Read 1 Samuel 8:10-22 and write why the king would want their daughters to serve him.

23. Explain why Samuel warned the people that a king would actually serve himself and his own needs instead of serving the people.

24. Explain why you think that many Christian leaders want the people to serve them instead of realizing that the Lord has called them to serve the Lord by serving the people.

In order for the king to feed all of these people that he gathered to serve him, it would be necessary to take the fields of the people to raise crops to feed the workers and soldiers of the king. They could expect him to take their best lands. The king would also take the strongest servants to work in his fields. Then the king would tax them one tenth of their flocks and crops to get the things that he needed to run the kingdom. Samuel even warned the people that they would cry and complain one day because of the king that they had chosen to rule over them.

25. Read 1 Samuel 8:10-22 and write what the Lord said He would do when the people cried to Him and complained.

26. Explain why Samuel warned the people that the day would come when they would cry and complain because of the king that they had chosen to rule over them.

27. Explain why you think that most people in the world expect their rulers to serve them instead of realizing that they will be forced to serve their rulers.

The men of Israel refused to listen to the warning of Samuel about a king. They were determined to have a king so that they could be like the surrounding nations. We also see some of the other reasons why the people said that they wanted a king. They thought that the king would go in front of them and lead them against their enemies. They thought a king would fight their battles so that it would not be necessary for them to fight. Today many people have the same attitude. They think that if they choose leaders that the leaders will do all of the work. This is even true in many churches because many Christians think that they are choosing leaders to do all of the work.

28. Read 1 Samuel 8:10-22 and write what the people said that they wanted even though Samuel warned them what a king would do.

29. Explain why the people of Israel thought that the king would be the one that would go in

front of them and fight their battles.

30. Explain why you think that many people want to turn their responsibilities over to someone else and let that person do all of the work.

When the people continued to demand a king, Samuel agreed to choose a king for them. In the tribe of Benjamin there was a man named Kish. This man had a son by the name of Saul. Saul was a very strong and handsome young man. In addition, he was several inches taller than any of the other men in Israel. One day Kish had some of his donkeys get lost. Kish told Saul to take one of the servants and go and hunt for the donkeys. Saul and the servant spent a long time hunting for the donkeys but they could not find them. Finally Saul told the servant that they better return home before his father became worried about them.

31. Read 1 Samuel 9:1-27 and write what kind of a man the servant suggested that they go to see in the city of Zuph.

32. Explain why Saul had several things about his appearance that would make him attractive to the people as they looked for a king to rule over them.

33. Explain why you think that people often look at the appearance of a person rather than the character of a person when choosing a leader.

Saul said that they could not go to visit the man of God because they did not have a gift to give him. The servant said that he had a small piece of money that they could give to the man of God as a gift. The man of God was called a prophet or seer. When Saul and his servant reached the city, they met some young women going out of the city to get water. Saul asked these young women if the seer was in the city. The young women told Saul that the seer was at their city at that very moment and that he was planning to offer a special sacrifice that day.

34. Read 1 Samuel 9:1-27 and write who met Saul as he and the servant entered the city.

35. Explain why the people of Israel also called Samuel a prophet as well as a judge.

36. Explain why you think that the Lord led the servant of Saul to suggest that they ask Samuel for help in finding their donkeys.

Samuel was the prophet that was in that city. The day before the Lord had told Samuel that a young man from the tribe of Benjamin would visit him. That young man was the man that Samuel was to anoint to become the first king of the nation of Israel. As soon as Samuel saw Saul, the Lord told Samuel that this was the man that was to be the first king of Israel. Samuel told Saul that he wanted Saul to eat with him that day and stay with him that night. He also told Saul that his donkeys had been found so that he did not need to worry about the donkeys.

37. Read 1 Samuel 9:1-27 and write what Samuel told Saul that he would tell him the next day.

38. Explain why it was important for the Lord to bring Saul to Samuel and tell Samuel that this was the man that he was to anoint to become the first king of Israel.

39. Explain why you think that God chose a man like Saul to be the first king of the nation of Israel.

Samuel also asked Saul to be the special guest at the dinner that they were going to have after the offering of the sacrifice. Thirty of the leading men of the city were at that dinner. There was even a special piece of meat that had been reserved for Saul. Then Samuel and Saul spent the rest of the afternoon talking together. Early the next morning Saul prepared to leave the house of Samuel. Then Samuel walked with Saul until they were outside of the city. Samuel then told Saul to send his servant on ahead while Samuel talked to Saul for a little while.

40. Read 1 Samuel 9:1-27 and write why Samuel asked Saul to stand and talk with him for a little while.

41. Explain why it was important for Samuel to spend time talking with Saul before anointing him to become the first king of Israel.

42. Explain why you think that it is important to get to really know people before appointing them as leaders.

Now reread 1 Samuel 7:1-9:27 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of 1 & 2 Samuel

Lesson 4

1 Samuel 10:1-13:23

In our last lesson we saw that the people of Israel had demanded a king so that they could be like the people of the other nations that surrounded them. Today we will see that God gave the people of Israel the king that the people had requested. We will see the way that the king was selected and presented to the people. At first Saul was a good king because he depended on the Lord to guide him in his leadership. However, Saul became proud and began to depend on himself instead of the Lord for guidance and direction. We will see the terrible results of that pride throughout the rest of the book of First Samuel as we see what Saul did to try to keep his power.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain how Saul led the nation of Israel to defeat the Ammonites.
- Explain how God showed that Saul was to be the first king of Israel.
- Tell how Samuel reviewed his life to the people.
- Explain why Saul was rejected by God as the king of Israel.

As we finished our last lesson, we saw that Samuel told Saul to send his servant ahead of him down the road so that Samuel could share a message from God with Saul. When Samuel and Saul were alone, Samuel took a bottle of oil and poured the oil on the head of Saul. Then Samuel told Saul that this oil was a symbol of the fact that the Lord had anointed him to be the first king of Israel. In order to show Saul that his words were true, Samuel told Saul several things that would happen to him on his way home. First, he would meet two men that would tell him that the donkeys were found. Second, he would meet three men and they would give him two loaves of bread. Third, Saul would meet a group of prophets as he continued to travel toward his home.

1. Read 1 Samuel 10:1-27 and write what Samuel said would happen to Saul when he met these prophets.
2. Explain why it was important for Samuel to anoint Saul as the future king of Israel before the people knew that he was the one that would be their king.
3. Explain why you think that it was important for Samuel to also tell Saul several things that would happen to him on the way home.

Here we see that Saul learned that he would be changed into another man by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit always changes the lives of people when He comes into their lives. In the New Testament we learn that we become new creations in Christ when we become Christians. This is due to the fact that the Holy Spirit comes into our lives at the moment that we put our trust in Christ. After Saul left Samuel, we read that the Lord gave him a new heart. Then Saul had all of the things happen that Samuel had said would happen to him. When Saul began prophesying with the prophets, those who heard him were very surprised and wondered if Saul had become a prophet. When the uncle of Saul heard that Saul had met Samuel, the uncle wanted to know what Samuel had said to Saul.

4. Read 1 Samuel 10:1-27 and write what Saul did not tell his uncle about the things that Samuel had said to him.
5. Explain why it is important to understand that it is the Holy Spirit that changes and transforms lives.
6. Explain why it is important to you in your own life to know that Christ gave you a new heart when you repented of your sin and placed your trust in Him.

Soon Samuel called the people of Israel together so that he could anoint their king publicly. There Samuel reminded the entire nation of the fact that the Lord had brought them out of Egypt. Now they were actually rejecting the leadership of God by choosing a king. Then Samuel had them cast lots to see who God would choose to be their king. These lots were cast by tribe, clan and finally family. When Saul was chosen by lot, the people could not find Saul because he was hiding among the baggage. When Saul finally came in front of the people, they were very impressed because he was so large.

7. Read 1 Samuel 10:1-27 and write what the people shouted when the people saw Saul.

8. Explain why Samuel had the people cast lots to see who God would choose to be their king instead of casting the lots himself or telling them that Saul would be the next king.

9. Explain why you think that the people were impressed when they saw how tall Saul was since he was going to be their first king.

There were three groups of people that were present that day among the men of Israel. One group of men was opposed to having Saul as their king. They refused to recognize him. Most of the people recognized Saul and shouted when he was presented as their new king. However, this large group did nothing more. Finally there was a small group of men whose hearts the Lord had touched. This group of men went with Saul. Today we still have these same three groups of people. Even in churches, we often have a small group of people that oppose the work of the Lord. Then we have many people that are willing to talk but are not willing to work. Finally there is a small group of people that are willing to really work for the Lord.

10. Read 1 Samuel 10:1-27 and write how much taller Saul was than the rest of the people.

11. Explain why every spiritual leader will only be effective as he develops a group of men around him whose heart the Lord has touched.

12. Explain why you think that there are Christians that are willing to talk but are not willing to work.

The people of Israel had called Saul their king. Now we see that it was only later that they began to really recognize him as their king. One day an Ammonite by the name of Nahash came up to fight against the city of Jabesh Gilead. The men of the city agreed that they would become the servants of Nahash. However, Nahash then said that the men of Jabesh would have to do one thing in order to become his servants rather than be destroyed. He told the men of the city that he would put out the right eye of each of the men of the city so that they would be blind in one eye. That would make it impossible for them to fight in the future. The men of the city did not want to lose an eye so they asked if they could have time to make a decision and see if anyone would come to help them.

13. Read 1 Samuel 11:1-15 and write how many days they requested to see if anyone would come to help them.

14. Explain why Nahash said that it was the right eye that he wanted to blind in each one of the men of the city.

15. Explain why you think that the men of Jabesh Gilead asked for a period of time before they gave an answer to Nahash.

Men from Jabesh went to many different cities to tell the people in the other cities about the danger that they faced. One of these men came to Gibeah, the city of Saul. However, no one bothered to tell Saul even though he was supposed to be their king. When Saul came in from the field, he heard the people crying and asked the reason. When Saul heard of the threat to the men of Jabesh, he killed two oxen and sent the pieces of the oxen throughout Israel warning that this would happen to the oxen of any of the people that did not come to help rescue Jabesh. Then Saul sent messengers to Jabesh Gilead telling them that help was coming.

16. Read 1 Samuel 11:1-15 and write what these messengers were to tell the people of the city of Jabesh Gilead.

17. Explain why the people did not bother to tell Saul about the threat to the men of the city of Jabesh Gilead even though Saul had been anointed as their king.

18. Explain why you think that Saul had the courage to develop and carry out a plan to protect the men of the city of Jabesh Gilead.

When the men of Jabesh Gilead heard the message of Saul, they were very glad. Early the next morning Saul and the men of Israel pulled a surprise attack on the army of the Ammonites. By the time that the sun became hot, Israel had won a great victory. No two Ammonites were even left together. Then the people really recognized Saul as their king. People do not recognize a person as a leader until that person begins to show real leadership. You will not become a leader until you lead. Then the people of Israel went to Gilgal where they offered sacrifices to the Lord and actually recognized Saul as their king.

19. Read 1 Samuel 11:1-15 and write what the men did at Gilgal after they had offered sacrifices to the Lord.

20. Explain what this passage teaches about the fact that because the Lord had placed His Spirit on Saul that Saul knew what to do when the opportunity came.

21. Explain why you think that it is important for you in your own life to seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit when making decisions in your life.

While the people of the nation of Israel were gathered together at Gilgal, Samuel spoke to the people and reviewed the way that the Lord had worked for the nation of Israel. Samuel began by telling the people that he had listened to their request to appoint a king for them. Then Samuel went on to review his service to them as a judge. During the entire time that Samuel was their judge, he had not taken anything that belonged to someone else. He had not cheated anyone. He had not accepted any bribes. The people all agreed that Samuel had never done any of these things.

22. Read 1 Samuel 12:1-25 and write what the Lord had done for Moses and Aaron in the past history of Israel.

23. Explain why it was important for Samuel to review for the people the way that the Lord had worked for the nation of Israel.

24. Explain why you think that it was important for the people to recognize that Samuel had served them with real integrity in his life.

The Lord was the One that had chosen Moses and Aaron to lead the people of Israel out of Egypt. Then the Lord led the people into their own land. When the people rebelled against the Lord, the Lord allowed the people of the surrounding nations to bring judgment on Israel. Even though the people rebelled against the Lord, He did not forget the people that He had chosen but sent judges to deliver them. Now they had asked for a king to rule over them and the Lord had granted their request. Even though they had chosen a king, God promised to bless them if they would continue to serve Him. However, the people were warned not to rebel against the Lord.

25. Read 1 Samuel 12:1-25 and write what Samuel promised that the Lord would do if the people continued to rebel against the commandments of the Lord.

26. Explain why it was important for the people of Israel to understand that the Lord had not forgotten Israel even when the people rebelled against the Lord.

27. Explain why you think that it was important for the people of Israel to realize that the Lord would continue to bless them if they would serve Him.

Samuel also showed the people of Israel that God answers prayer. He called on the Lord to answer his prayer with thunder and rain. The Lord answered by doing exactly what Samuel had requested. As a result, the people were filled with fear and asked Samuel to pray that they would not die. Samuel also promised the people that he would not sin against them by ceasing to pray for them. Samuel also promised to continue to teach the people what was right and good. Then Samuel encouraged the people to fear and serve the Lord because He had done great things for them.

28. Read 1 Samuel 12:1-25 and write why Samuel said that the Lord would not forsake the people of Israel.
29. Explain what Samuel teaches us in this chapter about the responsibilities of a spiritual leader from his own example.
30. Explain why it is important for you in your own life to continue to pray for those that the Lord gives you to lead.

During the first two years of the rule of Saul as king, everything went well for the nation of Israel. Then the Philistines came to fight against Israel with a great army. The people of Israel were filled with fear. To protect themselves, the people of Israel went and hid among the rocks, the trees, in caves or in other similar places. Meanwhile Saul and part of the people were waiting at Gilgal for Samuel to come and offer a sacrifice to the Lord before the people went to fight against the Philistines. However, Samuel did not reach Gilgal as soon as he had planned to reach the place where the people were gathered together.

31. Read 1 Samuel 13:1-23 and write how long Saul waited for Samuel to come to Gilgal to offer the sacrifice.
32. Explain why the people of Israel quickly went and hid among the rocks and the caves when the Philistines came against them with a great army.
33. Explain why you think that the people of Israel were so controlled by fear even though they now had a king to lead them.

After seven days Saul decided to take matters into his own hands when Samuel did not arrive at the appointed time. He decided to offer the sacrifice himself. Samuel reached Gilgal as soon as Saul had finished offering the sacrifice. When Samuel asked why Saul had done wrong, Saul tried to excuse himself. He blamed Samuel because Samuel had not come soon enough. Sometimes we also blame others for our own failures. However, we cannot blame others for our sins. We are guilty even if we try to blame someone else for our sins.

34. Read 1 Samuel 13:1-23 and write what Samuel said would happen to the kingdom of Saul for offering the sacrifice himself and then trying to blame Samuel.
35. Explain why Saul blamed Samuel for the fact that Saul had disobeyed the Lord by offering the sacrifice himself.
36. Explain why you think that many people want to place the blame on others for their own sins and failures.

Here we see a real picture of the terrible results of sin and disobedience. Saul had made a choice. Then he had blamed Samuel for forcing him to make that choice. Because Saul had chosen to do things in his own way instead of obeying the Lord, God said through Samuel that Saul and his family would not continue to rule the nation of Israel. Instead another man from a different family would become the king of Israel after the death of Saul. The Lord was looking for a man that would obey Him to lead His people. By this sin and the refusal to admit his sin, Saul had shown that he was not willing to be used by the Lord to lead the nation of Israel.

37. Read 1 Samuel 13:1-23 and write where Samuel went after he told Saul that his kingdom would not continue.
38. Explain what you learn about the results of rebellion and disobediences from these verses.
39. Explain why you think that Saul had shown by his actions that he was not willing to be used by the Lord to lead Israel.

Because of the sin of Saul, the nation of Israel could not stand against the Philistines. The Lord allowed the Philistines to bring judgment on Israel. The Philistines went through the land and took control of the land. Then the Philistines took all of the spears and swords of the people of Israel. They also destroyed all of the blacksmith shops in Israel so that the people of Israel could not make new swords and spears. The people of Israel were forced to go to one of the cities of the Philistines every time that they wanted to get a hoe, ax or some other piece of

equipment sharpened.

40. Read 1 Samuel 13:1-23 and write which men of the nation of Israel were allowed to keep their swords and their spears.

41. Explain why the people of Israel were not able to stand against the Philistines because of the sin of Saul.

42. Explain why this helps you to realize that the sins of the leaders will affect all of the people that follow those leaders.

Now reread 1 Samuel 10:1-13:23 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of 1 & 2 Samuel
Lesson 5
1 Samuel 14:1-15:35

Saul had been chosen as the first king of the nation of Israel. In our last lesson we learned that God had rejected Saul as the king of Israel because Saul had refused to turn from his sin. As a result, the entire nation of Israel suffered. Other nations were always coming to fight against Israel. Saul was no longer the effective leader that he had once been when he was depending on the Lord instead of himself. Saul also began to compromise more. When God gave Saul certain instructions, Saul changed those instructions to fit his own desires. We will see the terrible results of trying to change the Word of God to fit our own desires.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Tell about the victory of Jonathan over the Philistines.
- Explain how the people of Israel protected Jonathan from Saul.
- Explain how Saul changed the commandment of the Lord.
- Explain the results of the rebellion of Saul.

In our last lesson we learned that Saul had sinned. As a result, God had said that the family of Saul would not continue to serve as the kings of Israel. We also learned that the Philistines took all of the swords and spears of the men of Israel except those that belonged to Saul and Jonathan. One day Jonathan and the man who carried his shield decided that they would go and fight against the Philistines. However, they did not tell anyone what they were going to do. Jonathan knew that the Lord is great and powerful. The Lord could use a very small group of men as well as a large army. The man that carried the shield of Jonathan also knew that the Lord could use them if their trust was in the Lord and not in themselves.

1. Read 1 Samuel 14:1-23 and write what words of the enemy would cause Jonathan to know that they were supposed to go up and fight against the Philistines.
2. Explain why Jonathan understood that the Lord could use a very small group of men to defeat the Philistines.
3. Explain why you think that it is important for all Christians to realize that the Lord is able to work through a very small group of people that are committed to Him.

Jonathan and his armor bearer prayed that the Philistines would invite the two of them to come up to them if Jonathan and his armor bearer were supposed to fight against the Philistines. As soon as Jonathan and his armor bearer showed themselves to the Philistines, the Philistines invited them to come up and fight. Then the two men knew that the Lord would give them victory over the Philistines. In a short time the Lord used Jonathan to kill twenty Philistines. Then God caused a great earthquake. Suddenly the Philistines started killing anyone that got in their way. Since Jonathan and his armor bearer were the only Israelites, the Philistines were killing each other without realizing what they were doing.

4. Read 1 Samuel 14:1-23 and write what Saul told the priest to bring to the camp where the army of Israel was located.
5. Explain how the Lord showed that He was the One in control by leading the Philistines to kill one another.
6. Explain why you think that the Lord was able to use Jonathan greatly because his trust was in the Lord.

While Saul and the priest were talking, the noise of the battle got louder and louder. Then Saul and the men with him also went to fight against the Philistines. Soon men from other parts of the land of Israel heard that the army of Israel was defeating the Philistines and were ready to join the battle as well. These men came out of the places where they had been hiding and began

to fight against the Philistines also. As a result of the fact that two men had been willing to trust the Lord, Israel won a great victory over the Philistines that day.

7. Read 1 Samuel 14:1-23 and write who saved the nation of Israel that day.

8. Explain why the Israelites came out of the places where they were hiding and joined the battle when they heard that Israel was defeating the Philistines.

9. Explain how verse 6 applies to us in our lives today.

While the men of Israel were fighting that day, Saul had said that the people were to continue to fight and not take time to stop and eat. He said that any that ate any food that day would be put to death. However, no one told Jonathan what his father had said. Jonathan had found a honeycomb and took and ate the honey of it. The honey gave him new strength to fight. Suddenly someone came and told Jonathan what his father had said. Jonathan answered that his father should have encouraged the people to eat as they fought and they would have had the strength to win an even greater victory over the army of the Philistines.

10. Read 1 Samuel 14:24-52 and write what the people then ate along with the animals that they killed.

11. Explain why Jonathan felt that it was necessary to tell the people that his father had given them the wrong advice.

12. Explain why you think that Saul was no longer able to give wise advice to the people of Israel.

When Saul heard that the people were eating blood along with the meat, he told them to bring their animals to the place where he was so that the animals could be killed in the proper way and the blood drained from them. Then the people obeyed the commandment of Saul and brought their animals to the altar that Saul had built. Saul also suggested that the men continue to fight against the Philistines throughout the night so that none of the Philistines would have an opportunity to escape from the army of Israel. Saul wanted the army of Israel to win a total victory.

13. Read 1 Samuel 14:24-52 and write what the people answered Saul.

14. Explain why Saul did make a wise choice by telling the people to drain the blood from the animals that they were killing for food.

15. Explain why you think that the people of Israel began to eat the blood along with the meat of the animals that they were killing.

Here we see that the people were willing to do whatever Saul suggested to them. However, the priest suggested that they ask the Lord whether the Lord wanted them to continue to fight against the Philistines. The people listened to the priest and decided to find out from the Lord what they should do. When they prayed to the Lord, they did not receive any answer from God. Suddenly Saul realized that there must be sin among the people. Saul said that the one that had sinned must die even if it was his own son. Then they cast lots and Jonathan was shown to be the one that had sinned. He told how he had eaten honey and said that he was the one that must die. However, Jonathan was protected so that his father did not kill him.

16. Read 1 Samuel 14:24-52 and write who protected Jonathan from Saul.

17. Explain why the priest realized the importance of asking the Lord for guidance and not just doing what Saul suggested.

18. Explain why you think that many people are willing to act without asking the Lord for guidance in the things that they do.

The story of the life of Saul is a story of constant fighting. Saul and the nation of Israel had no peace during the time that Saul was the king. Instead there was constant fighting on every side. This is the way that it will always be when we do not have our complete trust in the Lord.

Without that trust, we will not have peace in our hearts. Instead there will be constant worries and inner conflicts. The way to have true peace is to have complete trust in the Lord. Saul had

rejected that kind of peace when he decided to worship in his own way instead of doing what the Lord had told him to do. Our own way will always bring conflicts.

19. Read 1 Samuel 14:24-52 and write what Saul did whenever he saw a strong man among the men of Israel.

20. Explain why Saul was constantly fighting throughout the time that he was the king of Israel.

21. Explain why you think that Saul had decided to try and serve the Lord in his own way instead of obeying the Lord.

One day Samuel came to Saul with a message from the Lord. When Israel came out of the land of Egypt, the nation of Amalek had come and fought against the people of Israel. They had attacked the weak and the struggling that were at the back of the people of Israel as they moved to a new location. At that time the Lord had said that the day would come when He would completely destroy Amalek for their sin. Now the word of the Lord came that it was time to complete the promise that the Lord had made to completely destroy Amalek. This destruction was to include all of the men, women and children as well as all of the animals of the people of Amalek. Nothing was to be left alive.

22. Read 1 Samuel 15:1-11 and write how many men from the nation of Israel went to fight against the people of Amalek.

23. Explain why God had said that the nation of Amalek was to be completely destroyed for what they had done to Israel.

24. Explain why you think that the Lord waited as long as He did to bring judgment on the people of Amalek.

The army of Israel went against Amalek and won a great victory. However, before Israel began to fight against Amalek, Saul sent messengers to the Kenites who lived among the people of Amalek and warned the Kenites to leave the area so that they would not be destroyed with the people of Amalek. The Kenites were relatives of the wife of Moses. They had come with Israel when Israel left the Sinai desert to go to the land that God had promised to Israel. When the Kenites heard that Amalek was going to be destroyed, they quickly moved. In this way kindness was shown to them just as they had once shown kindness to the people of Israel.

25. Read 1 Samuel 15:1-11 and write the name of the man that was kept alive when Amalek was destroyed.

26. Explain why it was important that Saul warned the Kenites to leave the area before he went to fight against the Amalekites.

27. Explain why you think that it is important to remember the people that have shown kindness in the past.

Agag was the king of the Amalekites. He and part of the flocks of Amalek were kept alive even though the Lord had said that everything was to be completely destroyed including all of the flocks. Saul kept alive the best of all of the flocks in spite of the commandment of the Lord. He destroyed all of those that had little or no value. That night the Lord spoke to Samuel and told him that He was sorry that He had appointed Saul as the king of Israel. God felt that way because Saul had completely failed to follow His commandments. That night Samuel cried to the Lord the entire night because of the words of the Lord about Saul.

28. Read 1 Samuel 15:1-11 and write how God said that He felt for appointing Saul as the king of Israel.

29. Explain why Saul showed the inner values that were guiding his life by the choices that he made in these verses.

30. Explain what you learn about the people of Amalek from these verses.

The next morning Samuel got up early to go and meet Saul. As soon as Saul saw Samuel, Saul said that he had been obedient and carried out the commandment of the Lord. Saul actually had a guilty conscience and wanted to cover up the fact that he had not completely obeyed the Lord.

Then Samuel asked Saul about the noise of the sheep and the oxen that he could hear. Saul then blamed the people and said that the people had brought these animals to offer as sacrifices. Samuel reminded Saul that the Lord had told him to completely destroy everything that belonged to the Amalekites including the animals.

31. Read 1 Samuel 15:12-35 and write what God said was much more important than the offering of sacrifices.

32. Explain why Saul tried to cover up what he had done by quickly telling Samuel that he had carried out the commandment of the Lord.

33. Explain why you think that Saul again blamed the people for the choices that he had made in saving the best of the flocks of Amalek.

In addition to keeping the best of the sheep and the cattle, Saul had also kept the king of Amalek alive. God said that the thing that He wanted from Saul was obedience. That was the area where Saul had failed because he had chosen not to obey the Lord. God said that this failure to obey God was rebellion. God went on to explain that rebellion and stubbornness are sins that are as sinful as witchcraft and idolatry. Here we see that all sin is very serious in the sight of the Lord. God said that the sin of Saul had caused the Lord to reject Saul as the king of the nation of Israel. Saul again tried to pass the blame for his breaking of the commandment of the Lord.

34. Read 1 Samuel 15:12-35 and write why Saul had disobeyed the commandment of the Lord.

35. Explain why God says that rebellion and stubbornness are as serious as the sins of witchcraft and idolatry.

36. Explain why you think that many people think that some of the sins that they commit are not serious sins.

Saul was not willing to accept the responsibility for his own sins. Then Samuel told Saul again that the Lord had rejected him from being the king of Israel. Rejection of the Word of God by Saul caused God to reject Saul from his place of leadership and service to the nation of Israel. Then Samuel turned to leave. Saul grabbed the coat of Samuel as he turned to leave and the coat was ripped. Samuel then told Saul that his coat was an example of the fact that the Lord would take the kingdom from Saul and give it to another person.

37. Read 1 Samuel 15:12-35 and write to whom Samuel told Saul that the Lord would give the kingdom of Israel.

38. Explain what this passage teaches about the serious consequences of rebellion and stubbornness.

39. Explain why you think that God chose to reject the leadership of Saul over the nation of Israel.

Saul had failed to kill Agag, the king of Amalek. He had also allowed part of the family of Agag to escape. Many years later during the time of Esther a man from the family of Agag by the name of Haman tried to destroy all of the Jews in the kingdom of Persia. We read about this event in the book of Esther. Agag was very happy when he came to Samuel because he thought that he would be allowed to live. However, Samuel did what Saul had failed to do. Samuel took a sword and put Agag to death. Then Samuel returned to his home.

40. Read 1 Samuel 15:12-35 and write how many times Saul saw Samuel between that day and the death of Samuel.

41. Explain how the consequences of the sin of Saul affected the nation of Israel many years later during the time of Esther.

42. Explain why you think that many people think that their sins only affect themselves and fail to realize that their sin can affect people for many generations.

Now reread 1 Samuel 14:1-15:35 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of 1 & 2 Samuel
Lesson 6
1 Samuel 16:1-18:30

In our last lesson we learned about the rebellion and stubbornness of Saul. Because of his disobedience God said that the kingdom would pass from the family of Saul to another family. Today we will learn about the man that the Lord chose to replace Saul in the future as the king of the nation of Israel. The man that God chose to replace Saul was not an important leader at the time that the Lord chose him. Instead we see that David was taking care of the sheep of his father when God sent Samuel to anoint David to be the next king of the people of Israel. In fact his father did not even present David to Samuel when Samuel first came to his house. This is a reminder to us of the fact that the Lord is able to use any person that is truly serving the Lord from the heart.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain the way that the Lord chooses a person to serve Him.
- Explain what happened because Saul became afraid to lead the people of Israel.
- Tell how David won a great victory over Goliath.
- Explain why Saul tried to kill David.

Samuel was very sad when he heard that the Lord had rejected Saul as the king of Israel because of his sin. Samuel was filled with sorrow and mourning. One day God told Samuel to stop mourning for Saul and go to the house of Jesse to anoint a new king. The Lord also told Samuel to take a sacrifice to offer so that Saul would not know the reason for the visit of Samuel to the house of Jesse. When the leaders of the town of Bethlehem saw Samuel, they were filled with fear until they heard that Samuel had come to offer a sacrifice. When the family of Jesse came to the place where Samuel was offering the sacrifice, Samuel was very impressed with the first son of Jesse. However, the Lord said that He had refused the oldest son.

1. Read 1 Samuel 16:1-23 and write why the Lord said that He had refused Eliab.
2. Explain why the Lord told Samuel that it was time to stop mourning and to go and anoint the person that would become the next king of Israel.
3. Explain why it is important to you in your own life to take your eyes off of the past and ask the Lord what He wants you to do in the future.

Jesse had seven sons that all looked like they would make a perfect king. However, the Lord rejected all seven of those sons because the Lord knew what each one of those sons was like in their hearts. People may think that they can hide their sins and the sinful attitudes of their hearts. It is true that they are able to hide the sinful attitudes of their hearts from other people. However, we see here that it is impossible to hide the sins in our hearts from the Lord even if we can hide those sinful attitudes from other people. After the Lord had rejected the seven sons of Jesse, Samuel asked if Jesse had any other sons. Jesse replied that he did have one more son. Since that son was the youngest, Jesse had not bothered to call him from his work.

4. Read 1 Samuel 16:1-23 and write what the youngest son was doing when his father sent for him.
5. Explain why it is important for every Christian to understand that the Lord looks on the heart.
6. Explain why it is important to you in your own life to make sure that you keep your heart pure before the Lord.

David was the name of the youngest son of Jesse. He was taking care of the sheep of his father. We read that he was a very handsome young man. As soon as David arrived, the Lord told

Samuel to anoint David to be the next king of the nation of Israel. As soon as Samuel anointed David, the Spirit of the Lord came on David. Meanwhile the Holy Spirit had departed from Saul and God allowed an evil spirit to trouble Saul instead. When the servants of Saul saw how much this evil spirit bothered Saul, they suggested that the king should find a person that played the harp and have that person come and play the harp for him to make him feel better.

7. Read 1 Samuel 16:1-23 and write who the servants found to play the harp for Saul.
8. Explain why it is important that the Spirit of the Lord came on David as soon as he was anointed to become the next king of Israel.
9. Explain why you think that the Lord took the Spirit of the Lord from Saul and allowed an evil spirit to trouble Saul.

David was a very skillful player of the harp. He was also a man of great courage. When David came to Saul, David made a great impression on Saul. As a result, Saul loved David. Then Saul told Jesse that he wanted David to remain with him. After that time, David would play beautiful music on the harp whenever the evil spirit bothered Saul. When the beautiful music was played, the evil spirit would leave Saul for a period of time. In this way Saul could have peace and be free from the torments of the evil spirit for a time. However, Saul did not have victory over the evil spirit. The spirit kept returning to bother him.

10. Read 1 Samuel 16:1-23 and write what other responsibility Saul gave to David in addition to playing the harp for him.
11. Explain what these verses teach about the way that the Lord chooses people to serve Him.
12. Explain why you think that the evil spirit would leave Saul for a period of time when David played beautiful music on the harp.

One day the Philistines came to fight against Israel again. Then Saul gathered the army of Israel to fight against the Philistines. The two armies camped on two mountains with a valley between the two armies. Each day a giant by the name of Goliath would go out and challenge the army of Israel to send one man to come and fight with him. He said that just he and that man would fight instead of both armies fighting against each other. As the king, Saul was the one that should have gone to fight against Goliath. We learned earlier that he was a head taller than any of the other men of Israel. However, Saul and all of the rest of the men of Israel were afraid to go and fight against Goliath because he was almost ten feet tall.

13. Read 1 Samuel 17:1-31 and write how many days Goliath challenged the army of Israel to send a man to fight with him.
14. Explain why the army of Israel probably became more fearful each day that Goliath came out and challenged one man to come and fight with him.
15. Explain why you think that Saul was afraid to go and fight with Goliath even though he was taller than any of the other men of Israel.

Meanwhile David had returned home and was caring for the sheep of his father again. One day Jesse told David to take some food to his three brothers that were in the army of Saul. David reached the camp of Israel and left the food with the man that was in charge of caring for the food of the soldiers. Then he went to visit his brothers who were on the front line of the soldiers lined up opposite the Philistines. While David was talking to his brothers, Goliath came out as he had done for forty days and challenged the army of Israel to send a man to fight with him. Suddenly the men of the army of Israel were filled with fear as they saw Goliath.

16. Read 1 Samuel 17:1-31 and write the question that the men in the army of Israel asked David.
17. Explain why the Lord placed David in the right place to hear the challenge of Goliath that was causing the men of the army to be filled with fear.
18. Explain why you think that David left the food with the man in charge of the food and went to visit his brothers on the front line of the battle.

David saw the fear of the men of Israel when they heard the words that Goliath shouted to them. David was filled with great sorrow as he saw that fear. David knew that the Lord was with Israel. He hated to see Goliath defy the army of the living God. The fear of the army of Israel was just a sign that the men in the army of Israel were not trusting in the Lord for strength. David asked why this uncircumcised Philistine was being allowed to defy the armies of the living God. The older brother of David heard the words of David and immediately accused him of coming to see the battle because of his pride. However, some of the other men that had heard the words of David went and told Saul what they had heard David say.

19. Read 1 Samuel 17:1-31 and write what Saul did when he heard the words that David had spoken to his brother.

20. Explain why Saul and the men of the army of Israel were so fearful when Goliath challenged them to fight him.

21. Explain why you think that David was upset when he saw that Goliath was defying the army of the living God.

Saul sent for David when he heard the words of David. When Saul saw David, Saul told him that he was not strong enough to fight against Goliath because he was only a young man and Goliath had been a soldier for many years. Then David told Saul how he had killed a lion and a bear when he was caring for the sheep of his father. David also reminded Saul that Goliath had defied the army of the living God. Then Saul told David that he could go and fight against Goliath. Saul also gave his armor to David. David put on the armor and then took the armor off again. David said that he had not tested the armor.

22. Read 1 Samuel 17:32-58 and write what David chose to use as his weapon to fight against Goliath.

23. Explain why Saul focused on the lack of strength of David instead of focusing on the fact that Goliath had defied the army of the living God.

24. Explain why you think that David was filled with boldness and was not afraid to go and fight with Goliath.

David did not need fancy weapons to fight Goliath because his trust was in the Lord rather than in swords or spears. Goliath laughed when he saw David coming to fight with him. Goliath said that he would feed David to the birds. David replied that Goliath had his trust in his weapons but that his trust was in the Lord. David said that the Lord whom Goliath had defied would give Israel victory over him. The Lord did not have to depend on spears and swords. The Lord was the One that controlled the battle. As David ran to meet Goliath, David took a stone and put it in his sling.

25. Read 1 Samuel 17:32-58 and write where David hit Goliath with the stone.

26. Explain why Goliath gives us a picture of many people in the world today that trust their weapons or some other thing instead of trusting in the Lord.

27. Explain why you think that David chose to put his trust in the Lord instead of the armor of Saul.

The armor of Goliath covered him completely except for one spot on his forehead. That was the spot where the rock struck Goliath and killed him. Then David ran to the body of Goliath and used the sword of Goliath to remove the head of Goliath. The army of the Philistines immediately began to flee. The army of Israel rose up and began to chase the Philistines. That day the army of Israel won a great victory over the army of the Philistines. That victory was due to the fact that one man had faith in the promises of God and trusted the Lord for victory.

28. Read 1 Samuel 17:32-58 and write what David did with the armor of Goliath after he killed him.

29. Explain why the victory of David over Goliath gave the army of Israel the courage to go and fight with the rest of the Philistine army.

30. Explain why you think that the key to victory in your own life is to have your trust in the

promises of the Lord.

When David returned to Saul, David met Jonathan, the son of Saul. Then these two young men became very close friends. To show his love for David, Jonathan gave David his robe and his sword. At the same time, Saul added David to his army. David was a good soldier and also had his trust in the Lord. He was placed over other men even though he was very young. Because of the courage that David had due to his trust in the Lord, David soon became a favorite of the people of Israel. The women spoke very highly of David.

31. Read 1 Samuel 18:1-30 and write what the women of Israel said about Saul and David.

32. Explain why David quickly became a favorite of the people of the nation of Israel.

33. Explain why you think that David was able to exercise very effective leadership even though he was very young.

When Saul heard that the women were saying that Saul had slain his thousands and David his ten thousands, he was immediately filled with jealousy and anger. This jealousy quickly turned to hate. The next day the evil spirit came on Saul again. Then David was asked to come and play his harp for the king. While David was playing the harp, Saul threw a javelin at David and tried to kill him. Twice David escaped the javelin of Saul. Then Saul tried another way to get David killed. He placed David in charge of one thousand soldiers. However, David placed his trust in the Lord and was doing the things that pleased the Lord and the Lord protected him. This caused Saul to have an even greater fear of David.

34. Read 1 Samuel 18:1-30 and write how the people of Israel felt about David.

35. Explain why the words of the women of Israel immediately caused Saul to be filled with jealousy and anger.

36. Explain why you think that jealousy stirred up such a great hatred in the life of Saul that he tried to kill David.

Saul saw that the people of Israel loved David. Saul decided to try and kill David by giving the enemy the opportunity to kill him. Saul offered his older daughter to David if David would fight against the Philistines. This way Saul thought that the Philistines would kill David. When the Philistines did not kill David, Saul broke his promise and gave his older daughter to another man. Then Saul learned that his younger daughter loved David so Saul decided to make a bargain with David. Saul said that he would allow David to marry Michal if David would kill one hundred Philistines.

37. Read 1 Samuel 18:1-30 and write the number of Philistines that David killed instead of the one hundred Philistines that Saul had requested.

38. Explain why Saul decided that the best way to try and destroy David was to put him in a position where the Philistines would kill him.

39. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life about the danger of allowing jealousy to become a part of your life.

David was also interested in marrying Michal and so he accepted the offer of Saul. Then David and his men went to fight against the Philistines. The Lord was with David and David was able to kill two hundred Philistines. Then Saul gave his daughter Michal to David and she became his wife. Saul was also able to see that there was real love between David and Michal. This only caused Saul to be filled with greater fear. As we study the life of Saul, we get a real picture of the destructive results of jealousy and sin when a person does not repent.

40. Read 1 Samuel 18:1-30 and write what Saul became to David because Saul saw that the Lord was with David.

41. Explain why Saul was filled with even greater fear when he saw that his own daughter also loved David.

42. Explain why you think that it is very important for every husband and wife to really learn to love their partner.

Now reread 1 Samuel 16:1-18:30 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of 1 & 2 Samuel

Lesson 7

1 Samuel 19:1-21:15

Saul had been rejected as the king of the nation of Israel by the Lord because of his rebellion and disobedience. As a result, Saul had a great fear of David because Saul was afraid that David would take the kingdom away from him. Here we see the powerful impact of fear in the life of a person that is disobedient to the Lord. This fear caused Saul to try to kill David several times. However, the Lord protected David each time that Saul tried to kill him. In our lesson today God will use both the daughter and the son of Saul to protect David from their father. In this lesson we will also see that David gives us a real example of the fact that we can trust the Lord to provide protection.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain how the daughter of Saul protected David.
- Explain why Jonathan and David made a covenant.
- Explain how Jonathan protected David from Saul.
- Explain why David and his men ate the bread at the tabernacle.

Saul became so filled with fear of David that he finally gave instructions to Jonathan and his other servants to kill David. However, Jonathan had a great love for David. Instead of killing David, Jonathan warned David by telling him about the words of his father. Then Jonathan said that he would go and talk to his father. Jonathan reminded Saul of all that David had done for him. Then Jonathan asked his father why he wanted to kill an innocent man. After hearing the words of Jonathan, Saul agreed that he had done wrong. He promised that he would not try to kill David any more. As a result, David was able to come and see Saul again.

1. Read 1 Samuel 19:1-24 and write what David did when he went out to fight against the Philistines.
2. Explain why the fear of Saul caused him to tell his own son and his servants to kill David.
3. Explain why you think that Jonathan chose to warn David about the words of his father and then remind Saul that David was innocent.

David won a great victory and killed many Philistines. As soon as Saul heard about the great victory of David, the evil spirit came on him again. When David returned, Saul tried to kill David with the javelin again. Here we see that promises mean nothing when a person is under the control of an evil spirit. Then David left quickly and went to his own house. Meanwhile Saul sent men to watch the house of David so that they could kill him the next morning. Michal heard about the plan of Saul and let David down from a window. Then she took an image and placed it in the bed where David usually slept. She put a pillow in the place where his head would normally be and covered the pillow with a cloth.

4. Read 1 Samuel 19:1-24 and write what Michal told the messengers of Saul when they came to kill David.
5. Explain why Saul started to try to kill David again once the evil spirit began troubling him after David won the great victory for him over the Philistines.
6. Explain why you learn about the control of an evil spirit over a person that is in rebellion against God.

The messengers returned and told Saul that David was sick. Then Saul told the messengers to return to the house of David and bring David in his bed. Saul thought that it would be easy to kill David while he was sick and unable to defend himself. When the messengers returned to the house of David, they saw that David was not in the bed. Instead they had been tricked.

When Saul heard that he had been tricked again, he was very angry. He immediately took out his anger on his daughter and asked her why she had deceived him.

7. Read 1 Samuel 19:1-24 and write who David went to see when he escaped from Saul.

8. Explain why fear will often cause a person to become angry toward whoever happens to be around him at that time.

9. Explain why you think that the fear and anger of Saul meant that anyone that came to him would feel his anger.

Saul heard that David had gone to visit Samuel. Then Saul sent messengers to find David. When these messengers reached Ramah, they met a group of prophets. God caused the messengers of Saul to prophesy with the prophets. Then Saul sent a second and a third group of messengers in an attempt to find David. These groups also met the prophets and began to prophesy. Finally Saul decided to go to Ramah himself. Instead of capturing David, the Lord also caused Saul to prophesy. As a result, Saul was not able to do what he had planned to do to David. Here we see that the Lord was protecting David from the anger of Saul.

10. Read 1 Samuel 19:1-24 and write what Saul did as he prophesied when he came to the town where Samuel lived.

11. Explain why Saul continued to try and kill David.

12. Explain why you think that God caused Saul to prophesy when he went to get David so that he could not kill David.

When David saw that Saul was continuing to try and find him, David went to speak to Jonathan. David asked Jonathan why Saul wanted to kill him because David could not think of anything that he had done wrong. Here we see that the first action of David had been to examine his own life to make certain that he was not guilty of sin. Jonathan answered that he would know if his father planned to do something evil to David. However, David realized that Saul would not tell Jonathan about his plans because he knew of the love of Jonathan for David. Then Jonathan agreed to help David. David then asked Jonathan to come and tell him what Saul said when David did not come to the table of the king at the time of the new moon.

13. Read 1 Samuel 20:1-23 and write why Jonathan was to say that David had gone to Bethlehem.

14. Explain why it is important to see that the first thing that David did was to examine his own life to make certain that there was no unconfessed sin.

15. Explain why David realized that Saul would not tell Jonathan why he planned to kill David.

David explained to Jonathan that the thing that he wanted to know was the way that Saul answered when David was not at the table. Here we see that David knew that the way people say things often tells their real intent. David and Jonathan also agreed to meet in a certain field three days later. Jonathan promised that he would tell David exactly what his father said. Because Jonathan loved David, Jonathan was willing to help David in any way that David requested. Here we see an example of real love. True godly love is so strong that it does not change with the things that are happening. Jonathan prayed that the Lord would be with David. David and Jonathan also promised to show kindness to the families of each other.

16. Read 1 Samuel 20:1-23 and write what Jonathan made with David and his entire house.

17. Explain why David realized that the way that Saul would say what he was going to say would show the real intent of his heart.

18. Explain why it is important for you to begin to understand that the way that you say things is often more important than what you say.

Jonathan made a covenant with David and his entire house because each of them loved the other person as much as he loved himself. Then the two men made an agreement to meet in three days at a rock called Ezel. They agreed to use three arrows to give a signal and show how Saul had answered. The location of these arrows would let David know whether he was safe or

whether it was necessary for him to hide from Saul. Then they each agreed that they would show kindness to the family of the other forever. Here we see that this covenant was a commitment as long as either of them had families to which the other could show kindness.

19. Read 1 Samuel 20:1-23 and write what Jonathan said he would say to the young man that he sent to get the arrows.

20. Explain what you learn about the meaning of the godly love that Jonathan and David had for each other.

21. Explain why it was important to both David and Jonathan for them and their families to show kindness to the families of each other forever.

After David and Jonathan had talked together, Jonathan returned home and David went and hid so that he would be protected for the next three days. The king did not say anything the first day when David did not come to eat with him. However, on the second day Saul could keep quiet no longer. Saul asked Jonathan why David was not there. Then Jonathan replied that David had gone to Bethlehem for a sacrifice that his family was offering. Suddenly Saul was filled with anger. He told Jonathan that he was a very rebellious son because he loved David more than he loved his own father. Saul showed that he was controlled by fear by the anger that he showed when he called Jonathan a rebellious son.

22. Read 1 Samuel 20:24-42 and write why Saul asked Jonathan to bring David to him.

23. Explain why the fear of Saul began to control his thoughts and his actions more and more.

24. Explain why you think that Saul called Jonathan a very rebellious son when Saul was the person that was in rebellion against God.

Jonathan immediately asked his father what David had done that should cause Saul to want to put him to death. Instead of answering, Saul threw his javelin at his son. Saul could not answer because his conscience was bothering him. Then Jonathan knew that Saul definitely planned to kill David. Jonathan was so angry that he got up and left the table without eating. The next morning Jonathan went out to the field to speak to David. He took his bow and arrows with him. When Jonathan shot the first arrow, he shouted a message to the young boy that went after the arrow for him. The thing that Jonathan shouted was actually a secret message to David.

25. Read 1 Samuel 20:24-42 and write what Jonathan shouted to the boy.

26. Explain why Saul threw his javelin at Jonathan in order to try and kill his own son with his javelin.

27. Explain why you think that the conscience of Saul was bothering him so much that he would even turn against his own son.

The words of Jonathan were a message to David that Saul planned to kill him. Then Jonathan gave his bow and arrow to the young boy and told him to return to the city. As soon as the young boy was gone, David came out of the place where he was hiding. David and Jonathan were both filled with sorrow because they both realized that they might never see each other again. As they left each other, Jonathan reminded David of their covenant. His prayer was that the Lord would watch over both of them and also their families forever.

28. Read 1 Samuel 20:24-42 and write what Jonathan and David did to show their sorrow to one another after the boy returned to the city.

29. Explain what these verses show about the way that bitterness and hatred had affected the life of Saul.

30. Explain why you think that it was important for Jonathan to encourage David at this time in David's life.

David knew that he had to leave the area quickly to escape from Saul. David left Jonathan and quickly left the area so that he could find a place to hide from Saul. When David reached Nob, he visited the priest. The priest was afraid when he saw that David had no soldiers with him. Only a few of the close servants of David were with him. David told the priest that he was on a secret mission for the king. Since it was a secret mission, he had not brought a large group of

soldiers with him. He said he had to leave so quickly that he had no food for he and the few men with him.

31. Read 1 Samuel 21:1-15 and write what David asked the priest to give to him.

32. Explain why the first place that David went after he left Jonathan was to see the priest.

33. Explain why you think that David fled to the place where he could talk to the priest that led the people of Israel in their worship of God.

The priest answered David that the only bread that he had was the showbread that was placed on the table of showbread in the tabernacle each week. The priests were the only ones that were supposed to eat that bread. However, the priest said that he would give the bread to David and his men if none of them had engaged in sexual relations during the previous three days. David replied that the men with him had not been near a woman for the previous three days. Then the priest gave the showbread to David. However, we see that one of the servants of Saul saw the priest give the showbread to David.

34. Read 1 Samuel 21:1-15 and write the name of the servant of Saul that saw David with the priest that day.

35. Explain why God chose to allow David and the men with him to eat the showbread that was normally only eaten by the priests.

36. Explain why you think that the priest felt that it was all right in this particular case to let David and his men eat the showbread.

David also asked Ahimelech, the priest, if he had a sword that David could use. David said that he did not have any sword with him. The priest said that there was only one sword at the tabernacle. That was the sword of Goliath. David felt that the sword of Goliath would work fine for him. David knew that he could depend on the Lord to use whatever weapon that he had in his hand. It did not matter whether that weapon was large or small. David knew that that important thing was to let the Lord use whatever he had in his hand.

37. Read 1 Samuel 21:1-15 and write what David said to the priest about the sword of Goliath.

38. Explain why David knew that the Lord could use the sword of Goliath even though Goliath had been a much larger man than David.

39. Explain why you think that it is important to be ready to use whatever the Lord has placed in our hands.

David then went to the king of Gath to escape from Saul. He knew that Saul would not come to Gath to try to destroy him. However, the people of Gath told the king of Gath that the people of Israel were comparing David and Saul. Suddenly David was filled with fear. Instead of asking the Lord what to do that day, David depended on his own strength. As a result, David decided to act like a man that was crazy. He acted in a strange way and allowed his spit to run out of his mouth and into his beard. The king immediately decided that David was crazy just as David had hoped.

40. Read 1 Samuel 21:1-15 and write what the king of Gath said he did not need in his presence.

41. Explain why David suddenly became fearful when he heard the people tell the king of Gath that the people of Israel were comparing him to Saul.

42. Explain why you think that David chose to act like he was crazy as a way to protect himself from the king of Gath.

Now reread 1 Samuel 19:1-21:15 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters today.

Survey of 1 & 2 Samuel
Lesson 8
1 Samuel 22:1-24:22

In our last lesson we learned that David was forced to flee from Israel because of the fact that Saul wanted to kill him. He went first to the city of Gath but also had to leave that area for his own safety. Today we will learn about several of the things that happened as David hid from Saul. We will also see what fear did to Saul in his personal life. That fear caused Saul to kill many innocent people. This is an example of the fact that unconfessed sin always leads to more sin. Although Saul was trying to kill David, we see that David still showed kindness to Saul. In fact David even protected Saul when it would have been easy for David to kill Saul.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain why Saul killed the priests.
- Explain how Saul tried to destroy David at Keilah.
- Explain how the Lord protected David at En Gedi.
- Explain why David protected the life of Saul.

In our last lesson, we saw the great fear and hatred that Saul had for David. This fear and hatred was the result of his own jealousy. To escape from Saul, David went and hid in a cave. There a group of people came to David for help. These people had problems of various kinds and they looked to David as their leader. Although David was in constant danger, he was also concerned about his parents. David knew that Saul might kill his parents in order to hurt David even though David had done nothing wrong. As a result, David made arrangements for his parents to stay in Moab so that they would be protected from Saul. At the same time, a prophet of God also told David to return to the land of Israel.

1. Read 1 Samuel 22:1-23 and write where Saul was living at this time.
2. Explain why the group of people that gathered around David were a group of people that also had problems of their own.
3. Explain why you think that jealousy could produce such great fear and hatred in the life of a person.

One day Saul called together all of his servants. He asked these servants if David would give them fields and vineyards if he became their king. Saul reminded these servants that David was from a different tribe. Saul said that David would probably favor his own tribe rather than the men of the tribe of Benjamin. Then Saul said to his servants that David was planning to kill and destroy him. Here we see that the guilty conscience of Saul caused him to blame his own sins on someone else. It was just the opposite way because he was the one that was planning to kill David. Saul told his servants that he wanted any information that they had about David. One of his servants told Saul how the priest had helped David.

4. Read 1 Samuel 22:1-23 and write the name of the servant that told Saul how the priest had given food and a sword to David.
5. Explain why a person that has such a hatred for another person that he wants to kill him will often say that the other person is planning to destroy him.
6. Explain why you think that Saul made the choice to stir up tribal prejudice by focusing on the fact that David was from a different tribe than the servants of Saul.

Saul was filled with anger when he heard that the priest had helped David. Then Saul ordered Ahimelech and the other priests to come to him. Of course the priests did not know why Saul wanted them to come to him. They did not know about the fear and the hatred that Saul had toward David because of the fact that he was afraid that he would lose his position as king.

Ahimelech felt that David was one of the most faithful servants of Saul. David was also the son-in-law of the king and went where the king told him to go. Ahimelech said that he had no way of knowing that Saul was angry with David. For that reason he could not have joined a plot against Saul.

7. Read 1 Samuel 22:1-23 and write what Saul said should happen to Ahimelech for helping David.

8. Explain why Saul accused the priest of joining with David in a plot to try and destroy Saul.

9. Explain why you think that Saul turned against the priests because of his fear of losing his throne.

Because of his own sin of jealousy, Saul decided that he would kill all of the priests. However, the servants of Saul refused to kill the priests. Then Doeg, the Edomite, began killing the priests. That day Doeg killed eighty-five priests. In addition to killing all of the priests, Saul ordered the murder of all of the men, women and children that lived in the city of Nob. Out of the entire city, only one man escaped. That man was one of the sons of Ahimelech. He escaped and went to tell David what had happened to the priests. When David heard what had happened, he was filled with sorrow and asked the son of Ahimelech to remain with him.

10. Read 1 Samuel 22:1-23 and write the name of the son of Ahimelech that came and told David what had happened to the priests.

11. Explain why Saul killed the priest, the members of his family and all of the rest of the people of the city of Nob.

12. Explain why you think that the fear of Saul caused him to murder an entire city of people.

One day David received word that the Philistines were robbing the crops of the people of Keilah. Then David asked the Lord what he should do. This gives us a real example of what we should do when we see a need. When we see a need, we should ask the Lord to show us what He wants us to do to meet that need. The Lord told David to go and fight against the Philistines. The Lord also promised David that he would win a victory over the Philistines. However, some of the men with David were fearful. They reminded David that he was already in danger from Saul. This would put him in danger from both sides. However, the Lord had told David to go to help the men of Keilah and so David was ready to obey the Lord and go.

13. Read 1 Samuel 23:1-12 and write what the Lord promised David He would do to the Philistines.

14. Explain why it is important to ask the Lord what He wants us to do when we see a need in the life of a person or a group of people.

15. Explain why you think that some of the men with David were fearful when David said that they were going to fight against the Philistines.

David believed the promise of the Lord. David knew that the Lord could give them a great victory over the Philistines or any other enemy. Then David and his men went to the city of Keilah. There they fought the Philistines and won a great victory. In this way the Lord used David to protect the city of Keilah from the Philistines. However, Saul soon heard that David had protected the city of Keilah from the Philistines. Instead of thanking God for the victory, Saul decided that this would be a good time to go after David and destroy him.

16. Read 1 Samuel 23:1-12 and write why Saul thought that he would be able to defeat David at Keilah.

17. Explain why David had confidence that the Lord would keep His promises and give David and his men victory over the Philistines.

18. Explain why you think that it is important for you in your own life to have your confidence in the Lord.

Saul thought that Keilah would be an easy place to defeat David since it would be easy to capture that city. However, David knew that Saul was planning some kind of a trap. David

asked Abiathar if the men of the city of Keilah would turn him over to Saul when Saul arrived. Abiathar asked the Lord what the men of Keilah would do. God said that the men of the city would certainly turn David over to Saul. Here we see that the men of Keilah were very quick to forget the protection that David had given them. God knew that their only thought would be their own protection.

19. Read 1 Samuel 23:1-12 and write what the Lord told David that the men of Keilah would do when Saul came against him

20. Explain why the people of Keilah were quick to forget how David had helped them and would have turned David over to Saul.

21. Explain why you think that many people are often quick to forget when others help them.

David was forced to flee again in order to protect his life. This time David and the six hundred men that had joined him went into the wilderness. Saul was not ready to give up his efforts to kill David. He continued to hunt for him every day. As a result, David continued to move from place to place each day. One day David received a visitor. Jonathan came to visit David and encourage him. In this way David was encouraged to depend on the strength that the Lord provides to protect him from Saul. Jonathan assured David that God would protect him. Then David and Jonathan renewed the covenant that they had made earlier.

22. Read 1 Samuel 23:13-29 and write what group of people went to talk to Saul about that time.

23. Explain why the visit of Jonathan to David was a real encouragement to David as he continued to flee from Saul.

24. Explain why you think that Saul continued his efforts to find David so that he could kill him.

The Ziphites told Saul that David was hiding in the forests near the place where they lived. They told Saul that they would help Saul find David if Saul would come down with them. Saul was very happy when he heard the words of these men. Saul said that they would be blessed of the Lord for showing compassion to him. Saul suggested to these men that they go ahead of him and spend several days finding all of the places where David and his men were hiding. Then Saul said that he would come down and these men could show him the hiding places of David. Saul told them to do this because David was very tricky.

25. Read 1 Samuel 23:13-29 and write where David and his men went.

26. Explain why Saul told the Ziphites to find all of the hiding places of David before he came down to try and kill David.

27. Explain why you think that Saul claimed that the Lord was showing compassion to him when the Ziphites said that they would help Saul find David.

When Saul heard that David and the men that were with him had gone to the wilderness of Maon, Saul immediately went to that area to try and kill David. One day he almost caught David. David was on one side of a hill and Saul was on the other side of the same hill. Saul thought that he would certainly catch David this time. Suddenly a messenger came to Saul with a very urgent message. The Philistines had just invaded the land of Israel. Saul knew that he must stop the invasion or the Philistines would destroy the land of Israel. As a result, the Lord used the invasion of the Philistines to protect David and his men from Saul.

28. Read 1 Samuel 23:13-29 and write where David and his men fled when they left the area of Maon.

29. Explain how the Lord used the invasion of the Philistines to protect David from Saul this time.

30. Explain how you think that David felt when he learned how the Lord had protected him from Saul again.

While Saul was fighting with the Philistines, David went to the wilderness of En Gedi. As soon

as Saul finished fighting with the Philistines, he also went to En Gedi to look for David. This time Saul took three thousand of the best soldiers of Israel with him. While Saul was hunting for David one day, Saul became tired and decided to go into a cave for a short rest. What Saul did not know was that David and his men were hiding in that very same cave. When Saul came into the cave, the men of David hid against the edges of the cave so that Saul would not see them. Then Saul lay down and immediately went to sleep in the cave.

31. Read 1 Samuel 24:1-22 and write what David did after Saul had gone to sleep.

32. Explain why the Lord led Saul to decide to take a short rest in the very cave where David and his men were hiding.

33. Explain why you think that the Lord was showing David and his men that the Lord could protect them in many different ways.

The men with David told him that this was his opportunity to kill Saul. However, David said that he would never kill Saul because Saul had been chosen by the Lord to be the king of Israel. It would be wrong for David to take judgment into his own hands. David knew that the Lord was the One that must judge Saul at the time that the Lord chose and in the way that the Lord chose. Instead of killing Saul, David cut off the bottom part of the robe of Saul. A short while later Saul awoke and left the cave. David waited until Saul and his men were a short way from the cave. Then David went out and called to the king.

34. Read 1 Samuel 24:1-22 and write the first thing that David said to Saul as he stood in front of the cave.

35. Explain why the fact that the Lord had originally chosen Saul to be the first king of Israel was the reason that David refused to kill Saul.

36. Explain why you think that David said that he would leave the judgment of Saul to the Lord.

David told Saul that he had just had the opportunity to kill Saul if that would have been his desire. However, anyone that said that David wanted to kill Saul was only telling lies. David had no desire to kill Saul. To prove to Saul that he had been close enough to Saul to kill him, David held up the part of the robe of Saul that he had cut off. Then David told Saul that he would never try to kill Saul. Instead he would leave all judgment to the Lord. David knew that the Lord is the One that is the true judge. David had also seen that the Lord was able to deliver him from the hand of Saul.

37. Read 1 Samuel 24:1-22 and write what Saul said that he knew that the Lord would do for David in the future.

38. Explain why David did not kill Saul when he had the opportunity to kill him that day.

39. Explain how you think that Saul felt when he saw David holding the bottom of his robe that David had cut off.

When Saul heard that David could have killed him and chose not to kill him, Saul cried with a loud voice. He realized that David had shown great kindness to him at the same time that he was trying to kill David. Saul was experiencing the consequences of his own guilt. Then Saul said that he knew that David would one day be the king of Israel. Saul said that he had one request of David since David would one day become the king. Saul asked David to show kindness to his family. David promised that he would do as Saul had requested.

40. Read 1 Samuel 24:1-22 and write what Saul did after he had spoken to David.

41. Explain why the kindness that David had shown to Saul caused Saul to recognize that the Lord was going to bless David in the future.

42. Explain why you think that their own guilt is one of the greatest things that drives people to do what they do to others.

Now reread 1 Samuel 22:1-24:22 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of 1 & 2 Samuel
Lesson 9
1 Samuel 25:1-27:12

David protected the life of Saul when it would have been easy for David to kill Saul. As a result, Saul stopped chasing David for a short time. However, Saul soon became fearful of David again and began to try again to kill David. Today we will learn in our lesson how David protected Saul for a second time. David again spared his life when he could have killed Saul. Even when Saul continued to try to kill David, we see that David continued to show love and kindness to Saul. In this way David gives us an example of what we should do when people do evil to us.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Tell about the evil actions of Nabal.
- Explain why Abigail showed kindness to David.
- Explain why David protected Saul a second time.
- Explain why David again acted like a crazy man.

In our last lesson, Saul said that he had done wrong to try to kill David. He said this after He saw that David had spared his life. For a short time Saul stopped chasing David. During that time Samuel died. Meanwhile David had gone to the wilderness of Paran because he knew that Saul would soon start trying to kill him again. When David and his men were in the wilderness of Paran, they protected the shepherds that lived in that area so that no evil happened to their flocks. One of the men whose flocks they protected was a man by the name of Nabal. He was a very rich man and had a large flock of sheep and goats. The wife of Nabal was a very beautiful woman with good understanding. That was not true of her husband.

1. Read 1 Samuel 25:1-13 and write the name of the wife of Nabal.
2. Explain why David knew that Saul could not be trusted and that he would soon try to take the life of David again.
3. Explain why you think that when people have remorse for their sins and do not repent of their sins that they are still under the control of Satan.

Although Nabal had a good wife, he was a very evil man. One day David heard that Nabal had gone to shear his sheep. David felt that Nabal should give a little food to the men with David because they had protected the flocks of Nabal from evil. As a result, David sent ten of his young men to go and talk to Nabal. These men were to tell Nabal how they had protected his shepherds and flocks so that no one did any evil to them. They were to ask him to give a gift of anything that happened to be in his hand. Then the young men of David went to Nabal and spoke the words that David had told them to speak to him.

4. Read 1 Samuel 25:1-13 and write the first question that Nabal asked.
5. Explain why David sent the young men to ask Nabal to give them a little food for protecting their flocks and shepherds.
6. Explain why you think that David and his men had provided protection for the shepherds and the flocks in that area.

Because Nabal was so evil, he refused to give anything to the servants of David. In fact Nabal spoke in a very evil way to the young men that David had sent. He said that the food that he had was for his own servants and he did not plan to give anything to David. He did not care how much the men of David had helped his shepherds. Then the young men returned to David and told him what Nabal had said. David immediately decided that the evil of Nabal must be judged because he refused to help the men that had protected his flocks. David then told four

hundred of the men with him to get their swords.

7. Read 1 Samuel 25:1-13 and write what David had the other two hundred men with him do while he took the four hundred.

8. Explain what these verses show you about the evil character of Nabal and what this shows you about his heart.

9. Explain why you think that people can have such an evil heart that the only person they can think about is themselves.

One of the servants of Nabal went and told his wife what Nabal had said to the servants of David. The servant also told how much David and his men had helped them as they cared for the flocks in the wilderness. The servant then suggested to Abigail that she do something to help David and his men because otherwise David and his men would come and destroy Nabal. Abigail took the advice of the servant and quickly prepared some food to take to David and his men. Then Abigail sent a messenger to tell David that she was coming. Meanwhile David had gathered his men and they were coming to judge Nabal because Nabal had decided to return evil for good.

10. Read 1 Samuel 25:14-44 and write what Abigail did when she met David and the men with him.

11. Explain why the servant of Nabal quickly went and told Abigail what Nabal had said to the men of David.

12. Explain why you think that Abigail was quick to show kindness to David and his men even though Nabal was very evil.

Abigail wanted to show David that she was concerned about doing what was right even though Nabal had no desire to do so. Then she told David that her husband was a worthless man who cared for no one but himself. However, she asked David not to do anything evil to Nabal. Instead she said that she had brought some food for David and his men. Abigail also told David that she recognized that the Lord had chosen him to fight the battles of the Lord and become the king of Israel. Then she begged him not to kill a man without a cause because that would give him a guilty conscience for the remainder of his life.

13. Read 1 Samuel 25:14-44 and write what David said when he heard the words that Abigail spoke to him.

14. Explain why Abigail asked David not to do anything to hurt Nabal even though Nabal was a worthless man.

15. Explain why you think that Abigail said that her husband was a worthless man that cared about no one but himself.

David realized that the Lord had used Abigail to teach him a very important lesson. David had been prepared to take judgment into his own hands. He had forgotten that the Lord is the One that is the true judge. Now he realized that he had been wrong to try to get even with Nabal. God was the One that would judge Nabal. When Abigail returned home, Nabal was having a big feast. He was so drunk that he did not even realize that his wife had been gone. The next morning Nabal was sober. Then Abigail told Nabal what she had done.

16. Read 1 Samuel 25:14-44 and write what happened to Nabal when he heard the words of his wife.

17. Explain why it was important for David to realize that he should not take judgment into his own hands.

18. Explain why you think that we also need to be reminded that all judgment belongs to the Lord and that we are not to make ourselves personal judges.

Nabal was such an evil man that the words of his wife were very hard on him. He had no thought of showing kindness to anyone. His spirit died within him and he became like a rock. The Lord allowed Nabal to live ten more days and then killed him when he did not turn from

his evil. When David heard that Nabal had died, he was very thankful that he had allowed the Lord to judge Nabal instead of judging Nabal himself. Then David sent a messenger and asked Abigail to become his wife. When Abigail received the message of David, she was filled with joy and went to David and became his wife. The Lord provided her with a caring husband after her evil husband had died.

19. Read 1 Samuel 25:14-44 and write what Saul had done with his daughter Michal, the wife of David.

20. Explain why it is important to let the Lord judge evil men instead of trying to judge them ourselves.

21. Explain why you think that the spirit of Nabal died within him when he heard that his wife had shown kindness to David and his men.

One day the Ziphites again sent word to Saul that David was in their area again. They said that they would be glad to help Saul capture David. Then Saul took three thousand of his best soldiers and went to try again to catch David. David heard that Saul was coming and sent spies to learn whether the purpose that Saul was coming was to try and catch David so that he could kill David. The spies reported that the reason why Saul was coming was to kill David. David then went to the place where Saul and his army were camping. He watched carefully to see the place where Saul would lay down to sleep that night. The place was right in the middle of the camp. That night David asked two men if they would be willing to go with him to the camp of Israel.

22. Read 1 Samuel 26:1-25 and write who agreed to go with David to the camp where the army of Saul was camped.

23. Explain why David watched carefully to see where Saul laid down in relation to the rest of the soldiers.

24. Explain why you think that Saul forgot what he had promised David and began to try again to kill him.

That night David and Abishai went down into the camp to go to the place where Saul was sleeping in the middle of the camp. They slipped between the sleeping soldiers until they came to the place where Saul was sleeping. Then Abishai said that he would kill Saul with his spear. However, David warned Abishai that the Lord would bring great judgment upon him if he destroyed the one that the Lord had anointed to be the king of Israel. David said that one day the Lord would judge Saul. David then suggested that they take the spear of Saul and his jug of water that was next to the head of Saul. They left the camp of Saul and returned to where they had been. No one even knew that they had come or gone.

25. Read 1 Samuel 26:1-25 and write why no one woke up as David and Abishai moved through the camp.

26. Explain why David would not let Abishai kill Saul even though the opportunity to do so was there.

27. Explain why you think that David was willing to let the Lord judge Saul at the time that the Lord determined.

Then David went across the valley and climbed to the top of a high hill that was a long way from the camp of Saul. The next morning David called to Abner, the captain of the guard of Saul. David told Abner that he should die because he had not protected his master during the night. Then David showed the spear and the jug of water that he had taken from the ground next to the place where Saul had been sleeping. Suddenly Saul recognized the voice of David. Saul realized that David could have easily killed him during the night.

28. Read 1 Samuel 26:1-25 and write what Saul said to David when he recognized that the voice that he heard was the voice of David.

29. Explain why David chose to speak to Abner first and tell him that he had not protected his master during the night.

30. Explain how you think Saul felt when he recognized that David had spared his life for the second time.

When Saul recognized the voice of David, Saul admitted that he had sinned because he had tried to kill David again. Saul promised as he had done when David had spared his life in the cave that he would not try to kill David again. Saul said that he had been a great fool to try and kill David. Saul realized that it would have been very easy for David to have killed him. Saul said that he hoped that the Lord would be as concerned for his life as David had been. Here we see that Saul was showing that he knew that he deserved to be judged by the Lord. Saul also said that David would be blessed by the Lord. In fact David would do great things because of his trust in the Lord. Saul recognized that the Lord blessed those who are obedient to the Lord in spite of the fact that Saul was living in rebellion against the Lord.

31. Read 1 Samuel 26:1-25 and write what Saul did after he had spoken to David.

32. Explain why Saul called himself a fool when he realized that David had shown kindness to him and spared his life.

33. Explain why you think that people will often act like fools when they are controlled by fear and hatred.

David had seen that Saul would not keep his promise not to try and destroy David again. He had shown that clearly by his actions. As a result, David decided to go to the land of the Philistines so that Saul would not try to kill him again. Then David and the six hundred men with him went to the city of Gath. They asked the king if they could live in the area of Gath. The king of Gath agreed to allow David, his men and their families to live in the area of Gath. Then someone went and told Saul that David had moved to the city of Gath.

34. Read 1 Samuel 27:1-12 and write what Saul did not do any more after heard that David and his men had gone to Gath.

35. Explain why David knew that the actions of Saul showed that David could not believe the words of Saul.

36. Explain why you think that it is important to recognize the actions of people rather than listen to the words of people.

David asked the king of Gath if there was a small city where he and his men could live rather than living right in the city of Gath. Achish agreed to allow David to live in the city of Ziklag. After David moved to Ziklag, he and his men went out and fought against some of the people that God had told Israel to completely destroy when they entered the land several hundred years earlier. One group that David fought against was Amalek. This was the nation that God had told Saul to completely destroy. Here we are reminded that David was obeying the Lord in the very same area where Saul had disobeyed by not destroying the Amalekites.

37. Read 1 Samuel 27:1-12 and write how long David and his men lived in the land of the Philistines.

38. Explain why David was obedient to the Lord and went to fight against the people of Amalek.

39. Explain why you think that the Lord gave David victory over the cities and the people that the Lord told him to destroy.

When David went against the cities that God told him to destroy, he destroyed all of the people so that none of the people could escape and tell the king of Gath what David had done. When David came back with the possessions of the people that he had destroyed, the king of Gath asked him where he had gone and what he had destroyed. David replied that he had fought against the south edge of Judah. Achish was happy when he heard the words of David. He thought that the actions of David would cause the people of Israel to have a great hatred for David.

40. Read 1 Samuel 27:1-12 and write how long Achish thought that David would continue to serve him.

41. Explain why Achish thought that the people of Israel would have a great hatred for David after Achish heard the report of David.

42. Explain why you think that David did not tell the truth to Achish about what people he had destroyed.

Now reread 1 Samuel 25:1-27:12 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of 1 & 2 Samuel
Lesson 10
1 Samuel 28:1-31:13

Several lessons ago we learned why the Lord had rejected Saul as the king of Israel. However, Saul continued to rule as the king of Israel for several years. During this time the Lord was preparing David to become the new king. We saw in our last lesson that David was forced to live among the Philistines for a time in order to be protected from Saul. During this time the Philistines began fighting against Israel again. We will learn more about that fighting in our lesson today. We will see that the Philistines almost forced David and his men to fight against their own people. However, the Lord kept David from fighting against his own people and gave him a different enemy to fight instead.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain why Saul went to visit a witch.
- Explain how David was protected from fighting against his own people.
- Explain how David rescued the people of Ziklag.
- Explain how Saul was killed.

One day the king of the Philistines came to David and asked him if he and his men would go with the Philistines to fight because they were going to fight against Israel. Achish promised David that David would be responsible for protecting him if David helped him fight. Meanwhile Saul was very fearful when he heard that the Philistines were coming to fight against him. Samuel was dead so Saul could not ask Samuel what God wanted Israel to do. In addition, Saul had also destroyed those who said that they could communicate with the dead. When the Philistines started to come toward Israel, Saul tried to talk to the Lord but he received no answer.

1. Read 1 Samuel 28:1-25 and write who Saul asked his servants to find to help him get advice about what to do.
2. Explain why the king of the Philistines promised David that he would be responsible for protecting him if David helped him fight against Israel.
3. Explain why you think that Saul did not know what to do when he heard that the Philistines were coming to fight against him.

Saul asked his servants to find a woman with a familiar spirit so that he could inquire of her what he should do. A medium with a familiar spirit is a person that claims to be able to speak to the dead. In fact the voice of the dead person is supposed to come from the mouth of the medium. What actually happens is that the familiar spirit (evil or demonic spirit) speaks rather than the dead person actually speaking. A familiar spirit is one of the demons of Satan. That demon has observed every word and action of a person during the life of that person. As a result, the spirit is able to tell anything that happened in the life of the person. In this way it is very easy for another person to be deceived into thinking that the dead person is the one that is actually speaking.

4. Read 1 Samuel 28:1-25 and write in what town this particular medium or witch lived.
5. Explain why a demon is actually the one that gives a medium the ability to deceive people and make them think that they are communicating with the dead.
6. Explain why you think that people can easily be deceived by those who are depending on demonic spirits for help.

Saul disguised himself and went to the woman at En Dor at night. At first the woman refused to try and communicate with the dead because she thought that it was a trap to find out if she

was a medium. She knew that Saul had earlier ordered the death of all mediums. However, Saul promised the woman that he would protect her life if she would help him. Then Saul told the woman that he wanted to communicate with Samuel. When the woman tried to contact the familiar spirit that had observed Samuel, the evil spirit came in the form of Samuel. The woman was filled with fear.

7. Read 1 Samuel 28:1-25 and write what the woman told Saul that she saw.

8. Explain why the woman was filled with fear when the demon came in the form of Samuel.

9. Explain why you think that Saul went to a medium for help even though earlier he had ordered the death of all of the mediums.

The person that the woman described was a person that looked like Samuel. This spirit asked Saul why Saul had bothered him. Then Saul said that he was filled with fear because he could get no message from God about the Philistines because the Spirit of the Lord had departed from him. Then the spirit gave Saul a message of judgment. Evil spirits do not need to lie when they know that the truth will be just as effective. Because Saul had failed to destroy Amalek, God had given the kingdom to David. Now Saul was going to lose his life. The spirit said that Saul and his sons would be killed on the battlefield the next day. In fact the Philistines would win a great victory over the army of Israel.

10. Read 1 Samuel 28:1-25 and write what Saul did when he heard the words that the demon spoke to him.

11. Explain why this demon told Saul that he and his sons would be killed on the battlefield the next day.

12. Explain what you learn from these verses about the way that mediums or evil spirits deceive those who come to them for advice.

When Saul heard these words of the judgment that would come to him and his sons, he fell on the floor in a state of great fear. Then the woman of En-dor came and spoke to Saul. She asked him to eat some food since she had told him what he wanted to learn. At first Saul refused to eat any food. However, the woman and the servants of Saul strongly urged him to eat some food because they realized that he was physically weak from the lack of food. Saul was so fearful that he had not eaten for an entire day. Today some people still forget to eat because of the great fear in their lives.

13. Read 1 Samuel 28:1-25 and write what the woman had in her house that she fixed for Saul and his servants.

14. Explain why people can become so controlled by fear that they will even forget that they need to eat.

15. Explain why you think that Saul become totally controlled by fear after he heard the message of the demon.

Meanwhile David was with the Philistine army. However, he did not want to fight against his own people. When some of the princes of the Philistines saw David with Achish, they were very angry. They did not want David to go to battle with them because they did not trust David. These princes knew that David had a great influence on many of the people of Israel. They were afraid that David would start fighting for the army of Israel when they actually got into the battle. Then Achish called David and explained to him that the other leaders of the Philistines did not want David to go along with them to fight against Israel.

16. Read 1 Samuel 29:1-11 and write what Achish told David to do so that the other leaders of the Philistines would be happy.

17. Explain why the princes were afraid that David would switch sides during the battle and join the Israelites in fighting against the Philistines.

18. Explain why you think that the other princes of the Philistines did not trust David and did not want him to go with them to fight.

David immediately asked Achish why he could not go along with the army of the Philistines to fight against Israel. At first David thought that he had done something wrong. He did not yet realize that the Lord was preparing a way so that it would not be necessary for him to fight against his own people. Achish answered that he trusted David but said that the other princes of the Philistines did not trust David because they did not know him. Then Achish told David that it would be good if he and his men would leave early the next morning to return to the city of Ziklag.

19. Read 1 Samuel 29:1-11 and write when Achish asked David to leave the area with the men that were with him.

20. Explain why the Lord protected David from fighting against his own people by causing the Philistine princes to have a lack of trust in David.

21. Explain why you are thankful that you can trust the Lord to work out every situation as you trust in Him.

When David arrived back at Ziklag three days later, he found that the city had been completely destroyed by a group of Amalekites. As you remember, Saul had failed to completely destroy the Amalekites as God had told him to do. Now we see that the Amalekites had come and destroyed the city of Ziklag. The Amalekites had taken the women, children and flocks captive as well as taking the possessions of the city. In addition, they had also burned the city to the ground. David and the men that were with him were filled with sorrow. In fact the men even spoke of stoning David. David prayed and asked the Lord to show them whether they should go after the Amalekites and try to recapture their families and possessions.

22. Read 1 Samuel 30:1-31 and write what the Lord said.

22. Explain why David immediately began to pray to the Lord and ask the Lord what the Lord wanted them to do.

24. Explain why you think that the men that were with David even spoke about stoning David because the city had been destroyed and their families taken.

Two hundred of the men of David were so tired that they had no strength to chase the Amalekites. As a result, David told those men to stay there and guard the possessions of the rest of the men. Then David and the other four hundred men went after the Amalekites. As they traveled, they found a very sick man lying in the field. They gave the man some food and water and he revived. David asked the man what had happened. The man replied that he was a servant of an Amalekite and that his master had left him three days before when he had become sick. He also said that the Amalekites were the ones that had burned the city of Ziklag.

25. Read 1 Samuel 30:1-31 and write the question that David asked the man when he heard that he had been with the Amalekites who had burned the city of Ziklag.

26. Explain why the Lord led David and his men in such a way that they found the man that was sick lying in the field.

27. Explain why you think that the Amalekites had decided to leave the sick man to die instead of caring for him.

David realized that this man would know where to find the Amalekites. The man agreed to lead David and his men to the camp of Amalek if David promised not to kill him or return him to his master. When they reached the camp of Amalek, the Amalekites were having a great dance with much drinking to celebrate their victory. Suddenly David and his men made an attack. They completely destroyed the Amalekites except for four hundred young men that escaped on camels. David and his men recaptured all of their own possessions as well as the cattle and possessions of the Amalekites.

28. Read 1 Samuel 30:1-31 and write what David did with the flocks and the herds of the Amalekites that they had destroyed.

29. Explain how the Lord gave David and his men victory over the Amalekites.

30. Explain why you think that the Amalekites were so busy celebrating that they were

completely surprised when David and his men attacked them.

David and his men returned to Ziklag with their families and possessions. Some of the men that went with David felt that those who had remained with the baggage should not receive any of the captured possessions. David answered that the Lord was the One that had given the victory and that it was not a result of their efforts. As a result, David said that the captured possessions should be divided equally between the six hundred men. David also sent part of the captured spoil to the cities where he had been when he was hiding from Saul.

31. Read 1 Samuel 30:1-31 and write what David said these gifts were to the elders of these cities.

32. Explain why David said that the captured possessions of the Amalekites should be divided equally with the men that had stayed with the baggage.

33. Explain why you think that David sent part of the captured spoil to the cities where he had been hiding from Saul.

Meanwhile Israel and the Philistines had been fighting. The battle did not go well for the army of Israel. The army of Israel was not able to stand against the Philistines. During the battle the Philistines tried particularly to kill Saul and his three sons. As a result, the three sons of Saul were killed. Suddenly Saul was hit by an arrow and severely wounded. He realized that he would soon die. Then Saul asked his servant to kill him so that the Philistines would not capture him and torture him. When the servant refused to kill Saul, he took a sword and fell on it.

34. Read 1 Samuel 31:1-13 and write what the armor bearer of Saul did when he saw that Saul had died.

35. Explain why Saul wanted his servant to kill him rather than allow the Philistines to capture him.

36. Explain why you think that Saul and the army of Israel were not able to stand against the Philistines.

Israel suffered a great defeat that day. Saul and his three sons were all killed. In addition, most of the men that were in the army of Israel were also killed. This caused great fear to spread through the entire nation of Israel. The people that lived in the cities close to the Philistines fled to other parts of Israel. Then the Philistines moved into the cities that the people of Israel had deserted. The Lord had told Saul several years before that he would be removed from being the king because of his disobedience. Now God had completed that promised judgment.

37. Read 1 Samuel 31:1-13 and write what the Philistines did to the body of Saul when they found it the next day.

38. Explain what you learn about the judgment of Saul from these verses.

39. Explain why you think that the entire nation of Israel became controlled by fear when they heard what the Philistine army had done.

The next day the Philistines came to take the possessions of the men of Israel that had been killed in the battle. There they found the bodies of Saul and his three sons. In order to show others their victory over Saul, the Philistines cut off the head of Saul and placed it in the house of their gods. They also hung his body on a wall so that everyone passing by could see it. However, some of the men of Israel heard what had happened to the body of Saul. They traveled all night and took down the body of Saul and buried it during the night.

40. Read 1 Samuel 31:1-13 and write the name of the city from which the men came to bury the body of Saul.

41. Explain why the men showed kindness to Saul by rescuing his body from the wall where the Philistines had hung it.

42. Explain why you think that the Philistines decided to place the head of Saul in the house of their gods.

Now reread 1 Samuel 28:1-31:13 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of 1 & 2 Samuel
Lesson 11
2 Samuel 1:1-3:39

In our last lesson we learned about the death of Saul on the battlefield. A man of Amalek had come by just as Saul was leaning on his sword. As a result, this man claimed that he was the one that had actually killed Saul. He saw an opportunity to gain riches for himself. This man came and told David that he had killed Saul as he thought that he would receive a reward from David for killing Saul. Instead David told the man that he was condemned by his own words. He had lifted up his hand against the man that had been appointed by God to be the king of Israel. As a result, David said that the man of Amalek must be judged.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain how David felt when he heard about the death of Saul.
- Tell about the civil war that happened in Israel.
- Explain why the strength of David continued to increase.
- Tell about the murder of Abner.

David had just returned from destroying the Amalekites that had captured the city of Ziklag. On the third day after he returned, a man came to David from the army of Saul. Although this man was an Amalekite he said that he had been with the army of Israel when Israel was defeated by the Philistines. When this man reached David, his clothes were torn and he had mud on his head. Then David asked the man how the battle had gone. The man told David that many of the men of Israel had been killed including Saul and Jonathan. Immediately David wanted to know how this man knew that Saul and Jonathan were dead. Then the man told his story of what had happened.

1. Read 2 Samuel 1:1-27 and write what the man said that Saul had done as this man watched him.
2. Explain why this Amalekite man came to tell David about what had happened in the battle between Israel and the Philistines.
3. Explain why you think this man chose to come and tell David that Saul and Jonathan had been killed in the battle.

As you remember from our study of 1 Samuel, Saul wanted to kill himself so that the Philistines would not capture him and torture him. However, this man said that Saul did not kill himself when he leaned on his sword. The man said that when Saul saw that he had not died, he asked this man to finish the job of killing him because it seemed that he could not kill himself. Then the man said he had killed him. He had also brought the crown and bracelet of Saul to show David that Saul was dead. David and his men were filled with sorrow when they heard that Saul and Jonathan were dead. They spent the day fasting and mourning.

4. Read 2 Samuel 1:1-27 and write the name of the nation from which the man said that he came.
5. Explain why this man said that he was the person that had actually killed Saul on the battlefield.
6. Explain why you think that David and the men with him spent the day fasting and mourning when they heard about the death of Saul and Jonathan.

God had told Saul to completely destroy the Amalekites. Saul had disobeyed and failed to completely destroy them. As a result, God allowed an Amalekite to be the one that to either actually killed Saul or at least claimed to have killed Saul. The man came to David because he thought that David would reward him for killing Saul. Instead David asked the man who he

thought had given him the right to kill the one that God had appointed as the king of Israel. David said that this man was condemned by his own words because he had killed Saul. Then David ordered one of his young men to kill the man of Amalek.

7. Read 2 Samuel 1:1-27 and write why David said that the blood of the man was upon his own head.

8. Explain why David said that this Amalekite man had condemned himself by his own words.

9. Explain why you think that David asked the man why he thought he had the right to kill the one that God had anointed to be the king of Israel.

David was filled with sorrow because of the death of Jonathan and Saul. He ordered the people of Judah to teach their children how to use the bow so that they would know how to fight with bows and arrows as well as with swords and spears. As David expressed his sorrow at the death of Saul and Jonathan, he spoke particularly of his love for Jonathan. David and Jonathan had been like two brothers that were very close. God had given them such a great love for each other that they were more concerned about the other person than they were about themselves. This is the kind of love that the Lord wants us to have for others.

10. Read 2 Samuel 1:1-27 and write how David described the love that he had for Jonathan.

11. Explain why David felt that it was important to teach the people of Israel to fight with bows and arrows as well as with swords and spears.

12. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life from the things that happened in this chapter.

When David heard that Saul was dead, he prayed and asked the Lord if he should return to Judah. Here we see the importance of asking the Lord to guide and lead us to the places where He wants us to go. The Lord told David and his men to return to the city of Hebron in the land of Judah. When David reached Hebron, the men of Judah gathered together and anointed David as their king. The first thing that David did as the king was to send a message to the men of Jabesh Gilead to thank them for getting the body of Saul and burying it properly. Meanwhile, Abner, the captain of the army of Saul, had made Ishbosheth the king over the rest of the tribes of Israel.

13. Read 2 Samuel 2:1-32 and write how long Ishbosheth ruled.

14. Explain why David shows the importance of asking the Lord for guidance by asking the Lord what the Lord wanted him to do.

15. Explain why you think that the first thing that David did after he was anointed king of Judah was to send a message to the men of Jabesh Gilead thanking them for burying the body of Saul.

One day the leader of the army of Ishbosheth and the leader of the army of David met. They decided to have twelve young men from each army fight rather than having their entire armies fight against each other. The young men killed each other at the same time so that they all died. Then the two armies started to fight against each other. The men of David under the command of Joab defeated the army of Abner. Then Abner began to run in order to escape. Asahel, the brother of Joab, ran after Abner. Abner told Asahel to stop following him. When Asahel refused, Abner killed him.

16. Read 2 Samuel 2:1-32 and write who stood with Abner to help him stop the army of David.

17. Explain why this conflict developed between the army that followed David and the army that followed Ishbosheth.

18. Explain why you think that Abner killed Asahel when Asahel refused to stop following him.

As Abner and the men of Benjamin stood on the top of a hill, Abner called to Joab and encouraged him to stop fighting before great bitterness developed between Israel and Judah. Abner knew that bitterness would develop if Judah continued to fight against the other tribes. Joab listened to the words of Abner. As a result, Joab blew his trumpet and ordered his men to stop fighting. Then Abner took his men and returned to the place where Ishbosheth was ruling

over the other tribes of Israel. Joab also took his army and returned to David. They also took the body of Asahel and buried it.

19. Read 2 Samuel 2:1-32 and write the name of the town where the body of Asahel was buried.
20. Explain why Abner was concerned to prevent any bitterness from developing between the men of Israel and the men of Judah.
21. Explain why you think that fighting between groups of people will often produce bitterness between those groups.

Although Abner and Joab stopped their battle, fighting continued between the men of David and the men of Ishbosheth. However, David became stronger and Ishbosheth became weaker. Abner was the only person that kept the army of Ishbosheth strong. One day Ishbosheth accused Abner of having sexual relationships with the concubine of his father. Abner was filled with anger because he felt that Ishbosheth was treating him like a dog. Abner reminded Ishbosheth of the fact that he had protected Ishbosheth from the army of David. Abner then said that he would do his best to turn the kingdom over to David because of the words of Ishbosheth.

22. Read 2 Samuel 3:1-21 and write why Ishbosheth could not answer the words of Abner.
23. Explain why Abner was so angry when Ishbosheth accused him of having sexual relationships with the concubine of his father.
24. Explain why you think that this caused Abner to tell Ishbosheth that he would do his best to turn the kingdom over to David.

Abner sent a messenger to David and told him that he would like to make an agreement with David to help David become the king of Israel as well as the king of Judah. David said that he would be glad to make such an agreement with Abner if Abner would meet one condition. David wanted his wife, Michal, returned to him. Then David sent a message to Ishbosheth demanding the return of his wife. Because Saul had accepted the payment of one hundred dead Philistines for Michal, Ishbosheth had to send Michal to David even though the armies of the two men were fighting against each other.

25. Read 2 Samuel 3:1-21 and write to whom Abner sent a message next.
26. Explain why David gave Abner one condition to meet if he wanted to help David become the king of Israel as well as king of Judah.
27. Explain why you think that Abner was now working to do what he could to turn the kingdom of Israel over to David.

Abner sent a letter to the elders of Israel and reminded them that they had once requested David to become their king. Abner also reminded the elders of Israel that God had promised to use David to give Israel victory over the Philistines. Abner then told the elders that it was time for them to make David their king rather than Ishbosheth. The elders accepted the words of Abner. Then Abner went to meet with David in order to make arrangements for Israel and Judah to become one nation again. When David and Abner met, they had a feast. Then they made an agreement for Abner to help David become the leader of Israel as well as the leader of Judah.

28. Read 2 Samuel 3:1-21 and write to what particular tribe Abner talked in addition to talking to the elders of Israel.
29. Explain why the accusations of Ishbosheth caused Abner to do everything possible to help David become the king of all of the tribes.
30. Explain why you think that David and Abner were able to reach an agreement to bring Judah and Israel together as one nation again.

Joab had been away fighting when Abner came to visit David. When Joab heard that Abner and David had eaten together and then David had sent Abner away in peace, Joab was filled with anger. In his anger Joab went to talk with David. Joab told David that Abner had come as a spy. Joab said that the reason Abner had come was to find out about the activities of David and see where David lived so that he could return and destroy David. Joab could tell that David

did not believe his words. Then Joab sent messengers to tell Abner to come back and talk with him. However, Joab had other plans.

31. Read 2 Samuel 3:22-39 and write what Joab did to Abner as the two men talked together.

32. Explain why Joab was so angry when he heard that David had eaten with Abner and sent him away in peace.

33. Explain why you think that Joab accused Abner of being a spy whose goal was to find out how to destroy David.

Joab had told David that he should not listen to Abner because Abner was not a man that could be trusted. However, we see the real reason why Joab did not want David to listen to Abner. Joab was filled with hatred toward Abner and wanted revenge because Abner had killed his brother, Asahel. This feeling of hatred and revenge actually caused Joab to become guilty of murder. David was filled with sorrow when he heard what Joab and Abishai had done to Abner. David said that the judgment for the murder of Abner must rest on Joab and his family.

34. Read 2 Samuel 3:22-39 and write what David said should always be in the family of Joab because of his sin.

35. Explain what these verses teach about the fact that hatred can lead to a desire for revenge and even murder.

36. Explain why you think that David said that Joab and his family must bear the judgment for the murder of Abner.

David said that the family of Joab would be physically judged as a result of the sin of Joab. Throughout the Bible we are reminded that sin always brings judgment. Many times children also suffer because of the sins of their parents. This happened to the family of Joab. Then David ordered Joab and his men to mourn the death of Abner. When it came time for the burial of the body of Abner, David personally led the group of mourners that followed the coffin of Abner. It was easy for all of the people of Israel to see that David was filled with sorrow because of the death of Abner. They realized that his death was the sin of Joab and that David was not responsible for it.

37. Read 2 Samuel 3:22-39 and write what David did at the grave of Abner.

38. Explain what these verses teach about the danger of hatred and a desire for revenge by any person.

39. Explain why you think that David chose to personally lead the group of mourners that followed the coffin of Abner.

As David spoke of Abner at the funeral, he told how evil men had killed Abner. After the funeral, David refused to eat any food that day. He said that he would eat nothing until the sun had gone down. These actions of David pleased the people of Israel because they could see that David was not responsible for the death of Abner. This was very important for the people of the other tribes of Israel to realize. If they would have felt that David was responsible for the death of Abner, they would never have accepted David as their king so that the nation could be reunited.

40. Read 2 Samuel 3:22-39 and write how the Lord will reward all those who choose to do evil.

41. Explain why the actions of David in relation to the death of Abner caused the people of the other tribes to be pleased with David.

42. Explain why you think that David had a great concern to show the people of Israel that he was not responsible for the death of Abner.

Now reread 2 Samuel 1:1-3:39 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of 1 & 2 Samuel
Lesson 12
2 Samuel 4:1-6:23

In our last lesson we learned that David had become the king of the tribe of Judah but at first did not become the king of the other tribes of the nation of Israel. Instead one of the sons of Saul named Ishbosheth became the king of the other tribes of Israel. We saw that one day Ishbosheth accused the leader of his army, Abner, falsely. As a result, Abner went to David and wanted to help him become the king of all of the tribes. Because of his anger Joab killed Abner. In our lesson today we will learn about the death of Ishbosheth. After his death, the people of the other tribes came to David and asked him to become their king. We will also learn about the terrible results of trying to do the right thing in the wrong way.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Tell how Ishbosheth died.
- Explain how David captured the city of Jerusalem.
- Explain how the Lord gave victory over the Philistines.
- Explain the results of doing the right thing in the wrong way.

When Ishbosheth heard about the death of Abner, he was filled with fear. He knew that he would have been killed long before except for the fact that he had Abner to protect him. The entire nation of Israel also became fearful. Then Ishbosheth appointed two brothers to serve as the captains of his army. These two men were from the tribe of Benjamin. We are also introduced to the son of Jonathan for the first time. We read that Jonathan had a son that was five years old at the time that Jonathan was killed. In order to protect this son, his nurse had taken him and ran to escape from the Philistines. As the nurse was hurrying to escape from the Philistines, the boy fell and became lame so that he was unable to walk.

1. Read 2 Samuel and write the name of the son of Jonathan.
2. Explain why Ishbosheth and the people of Israel became fearful when they heard about the death of Abner.
3. Explain why you think that fear will always control a person what that person is depending on his own strength.

One day the two captains of the army of Ishbosheth came to his house at noon while Ishbosheth was resting. They acted as though they were coming to get some wheat. However, these men had developed a plot that they thought would give them the opportunity to gain riches. Instead of getting food, these two men came to Ishbosheth and murdered him while he was resting. Then they cut off his head and escaped. That night they traveled throughout the night so that they could reach Hebron by morning. There they took the head of Ishbosheth to David. They told David that they had taken revenge on the family of Saul for him. They thought that David would give them a great reward for killing Ishbosheth.

4. Read 2 Samuel 4:1-12 and write the names of the two brothers that had killed Ishbosheth.
5. Explain why these two men thought that David would give them a reward for murdering Ishbosheth.
6. Explain why you think that these two captains showed that they were controlled by the desire for money and riches.

David reminded these two brothers of what he had done to the man that said he had killed Saul in order to receive a reward. Now David said that these men would receive a greater judgment because they had killed an innocent man while he was resting in his own bed. David told these men that they had condemned themselves by their own words. They must die because they had

killed an innocent man. Then David commanded his young men to kill the two brothers because of their sin. The young men killed the two brothers and cut off their hands and their feet.

7. Read 2 Samuel 4:1-12 and write where David buried the head of Ishbosheth.

8. Explain what these verses teach about those who are willing to kill to gain a reward for themselves.

9. Explain why you think that David told these two men that they had condemned themselves by their own words.

When the people of Israel saw that Ishbosheth was dead, the elders of Israel came to Hebron to talk to David. They spoke of the way that David had led them even when Saul was the king of Israel. The elders said that they knew that the Lord had chosen David to lead the people of Israel and be a shepherd to them. Now they had come to do as the Lord had said and make David their king. Then the elders of Israel anointed David to be the king of the entire nation of Israel. David had begun to reign over the tribe of Judah when he was thirty years old. Now he became the ruler of the entire nation of Israel at the age of thirty-seven. After David became the king of the entire nation of Israel, he went to fight against the Jebusites in Jerusalem.

10. Read 2 Samuel 5:1-25 and write what the Jebusites boasted to David about the blind and the lame in their city.

11. Explain why the leaders of Israel made it clear that they recognized that the Lord had chosen David to lead the nation of Israel.

12. Explain why you think that the elders chose to say that they looked to David to serve as a shepherd to the people of Israel.

The Jebusites were making a great boast to David. They said that their city was so strong that it could easily be protected by the blind and the lame. However, the people of the city did not realize that there was one place where it was easy to enter the city of Jerusalem. That entrance was the water shaft where the water came into the city. As a result of that one weak spot, the entire city of Jerusalem was captured by the men of David. This is a reminder to us in our own lives. We also are no stronger than our weakest point. If we have any sin in our lives, we will not be able to have a life of victory in Christ. Because David had his trust in the Lord and was obedient to Him, the Lord blessed David and caused him to become great.

13. Read 2 Samuel 5:1-25 and write who sent men and lumber to David to build a house for David.

14. Explain why the pride of the Jebusites made them boast that their city could be protected by the blind and the lame.

15. Explain why you think that it is important for each of us to realize that we are no stronger than our weakest point.

Hiram saw that the Lord was blessing David and so he made a treaty with David and built him a house. David also made Jerusalem the capital city of the nation of Israel. Then the Lord gave David several additional sons after he moved into Jerusalem. When the Philistines heard that David had become the king of the entire nation of Israel, they came to fight against him.

Instead of worrying, David prayed to the Lord and asked the Lord if he should fight against the Philistines. The Lord promised David that He would certainly deliver the Philistines into his hands. Then the Lord gave David a great victory and he rolled over his enemies like a flood.

16. Read 2 Samuel 5:1-25 and write what the Philistines left on the battlefield in their hurry to escape.

17. Explain why David chose to pray and ask the Lord how the Lord wanted him to fight against the Philistines.

18. Explain why you think it is important for each of us in our own lives to ask the Lord how He wants us to do the work that He has called us to do.

The Philistines left the battlefield in such a hurry that they did not take time to take their idols. Then David and his men burned the idols of the Philistines. However, the Philistines had not been completely defeated. Later they came to fight against the nation of Israel again. Again David prayed to the Lord and asked the Lord what the Lord wanted him to do. The Lord told David to go around behind the army of the Philistines and hide in the mulberry trees. The Lord promised that He would fight for Israel if David would do as God commanded. That day the Lord gave the army of Israel a great victory over the Philistines.

19. Read 2 Samuel 5:1-25 and write what the Lord promised David that he would hear in the mulberry trees.

20. Explain why the Lord chose to give Israel a great victory over the army of the Philistines.

21. Explain why you think that the Lord told David to do things in a different way this time than he had done in the previous time that he fought against the Philistines.

Many years earlier the sons of Eli had taken the Ark of the Covenant from the tabernacle to the battlefield. They thought that if they had the Ark of the Covenant at the battlefield that the Lord would give them victory. Instead the Philistines captured the ark. However, the Philistines had returned the ark to Israel on a new cart because the Lord had caused great suffering to the Philistines as long as the ark remained in the land of the Philistines. When the ark was returned to Israel, it was placed in the house of Abinadab instead of being returned to the tabernacle. Now David wanted to bring the ark back to the tabernacle where it belonged. This was certainly the right thing to do but David did the right thing in the wrong way.

22. Read 2 Samuel 6:1-11 and write how David and those with him decided to move the ark back to the tabernacle.

23. Explain why the Lord had allowed the Philistines to capture the Ark of the Covenant.

24. Explain why you think that it was right and important for David to bring the ark back to the tabernacle.

God had told the people of Israel in Numbers chapter 4 exactly how they were to carry the Ark of the Covenant. It was to be carried on the shoulders of the priests. However, they did not follow the instructions of the Lord and so they put the ark on a cart to haul it back to the tabernacle. Everyone was filled with joy as they started on their way to bring the ark back to the tabernacle. They were playing many different musical instruments as they marched behind the cart with the ark as this was a day of rejoicing. Suddenly the joy turned to sorrow. The oxen shook the cart and a man by the name of Uzzah reached out to steady the ark so that it would not fall.

25. Read 2 Samuel 6:1-11 and write what happened when Uzzah touched the Ark of the Covenant.

26. Explain why it is important to do the work of the Lord in the way that the Lord tells us to do His work and not do things in our own way.

27. Explain why you think that the Lord had said that the ark was to be carried on the shoulders of the priests and not hauled on a cart.

Israel was doing the right thing because they were bringing the Ark of the Covenant back to the tabernacle. However, they were doing the right thing in the wrong way. As a result, it cost Uzzah his life. Then the people of Israel were afraid to take the ark any further. In order to protect the ark, they placed the ark in the house of a man by the name of Obed-Edom. As long as the ark remained in his house, the Lord blessed his house. Today we sometimes made the same mistake that David made. We sometimes think that that it does not matter how we do the work of the Lord as long as we are doing His work and get it done.

28. Read 2 Samuel 6:1-11 and write the name of the group of people from which Obed-Edom came.

29. Explain what these verses teach about the fact that it is dangerous to do the right thing in the wrong way.

30. Explain why you think that it is important that we study the Word of God so that we are able to do the work of the Lord according to His instructions.

David heard about the way that the Lord was blessing the house of Obed-edom. Then David decided that the ark should be brought up to Jerusalem. However, this time David realized that the Ark of the Covenant should be brought according to the plan of God explained in the book of Numbers. This time David had the priests carry the ark on their shoulders rather than placing the ark on a cart. After the priests had carried the ark for six steps, David stopped and offered sacrifices to the Lord before going any further. David wanted to make certain that they were obedient to the instructions of the Lord as they brought the ark to Jerusalem.

31. Read 2 Samuel 6:12-23 and write what David did as he went ahead of the Ark of the Covenant.

32. Explain why David realized that it was important to follow the instructions of the Lord about the right way to move the ark.

33. Explain why you think that it is important for you to be obedient to the Lord in your own life by the way that you do His work.

David was filled with joy because they were bringing the ark back to the place where it was supposed to be. As a result, David showed this joy by jumping and leaping as he went along in front of the ark. This was an event that filled David with joy. All of the rest of the people of Israel were also filled with joy. They were playing trumpets and shouting to express their joy to the Lord. This was a day of gladness and the people wanted to express their joy. As this large group of people came into Jerusalem, Michal, the wife of David, looked out the window and saw David dancing in front of the Ark of the Covenant.

34. Read 2 Samuel 6:12-23 and write how Michal felt when she saw David dancing before the ark.

35. Explain why the fact that the people were bringing the ark back to the tabernacle filled both David and the people with joy.

36. Explain why you think that David chose to show his joy by jumping and leaping as he walked in front of the ark.

We read about people dancing eighteen different places in Scripture. Nine times it was dancing related to sin. Nine times the dancing speaks of times of joy and rejoicing such as the occasion mentioned here. The tragic part was that whether the dancing was due to sin or due to joy that it usually caused conflict as it did here even though it was dancing for joy. In this case we see that although David was dancing for joy in this passage, it caused his wife to despise him. As a result of her anger and hatred, we read that God brought judgment on her.

37. Read 2 Samuel 6:12-23 and write what David gave to all of the people that came to celebrate the return of the ark to the tabernacle.

38. Explain what you learn about dancing from these verses even when that dancing was dancing for joy.

39. Explain why you think that Michal chose to despise David for leaping and jumping as he went in front of the ark.

After the ark reached Jerusalem, David brought it to the place where the tabernacle had been set up. Then David led the people in offering sacrifices to the Lord. David also gave a gift to each of the people that had come to the celebration. Then David went to his home. Michal was waiting for David when he returned to bless his house. She told David that he had acted like a fool as he had danced before the Lord. In addition to her hatred, Michal was also rejecting the place of spiritual leadership of her husband. She had appointed herself to be the spiritual leader and decision maker. God saw her attitude and He brought judgment on her.

40. Read 2 Samuel 6:12-23 and write how God judged Michal for her sin.

41. Explain why Michal said that David had acted as a fool as he danced before the ark.

42. Explain why you think that the Lord brought judgment on Michal for her sin by not giving

her any children.

Now reread 2 Samuel 4:1-6:23 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of 1 & 2 Samuel
Lesson 13
2 Samuel 7:1-9:13

One day David started thinking about the fact that he lived in a beautiful house that was made of the most expensive woods. At the same time he realized that the Ark of the Covenant was in a tent. David decided that he should build a house for the Lord. David told Nathan about his desire. Nathan encouraged him until the Lord spoke to Nathan. The Lord told Nathan that David could not build the house for the Lord because he was a man of war. Instead the Lord said that the son of David would build the temple. However, the Lord made a wonderful covenant with David because of his desire to build a house for the Lord.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain the covenant that the Lord made with David.
- Tell about the prayer of David.
- Explain the way that the Lord blessed and expanded the kingdom of David.
- Explain why David showed kindness to Mephibosheth.

For many years David had been a man of war. He had fought against the enemies that were trying to destroy Israel. However, the Lord finally gave peace to the nation of Israel. One day as David was sitting in his house, he called for Nathan, the prophet. David told Nathan that God had given him a beautiful home. Now David felt that a good building should be built for the house of God instead of just a tent. When Nathan heard the words of David, he told the king to do whatever he desired. Nathan was glad to hear that David wanted to show his love for the Lord by building a house for the Lord. Often people seem to forget the Lord when they have everything.

1. Read 2 Samuel 7:1-17 and write who spoke to Nathan that night.
2. Explain why David explained to Nathan that he had a great desire to build a house for the Lord.
3. Explain why you think that David felt it was important to build a house for the Lord instead of just keeping the Ark of the Covenant in a tent.

The Lord spoke to Nathan and gave him a message to give to David. For about four hundred years the ark had been kept in a tent. However, no one had ever suggested building a house for the Lord. During that entire time the people had only thought of building houses for themselves. Because David had thought of the Lord, the Lord now had a wonderful message for David. This message is known as the Davidic Covenant. God began by telling how He had called David to be the king while David was caring for the sheep. From the time that the Lord had called David, the Lord had gone with David wherever he went. The Lord had given him victory over all of his enemies and the Lord had made his name great.

4. Read 2 Samuel 7:1-17 and write how great the Lord had chosen to make the name of David among the nations.
5. Explain why the Lord began to speak to David by reminding him of the way that David had followed the Lord from the time that the Lord had called him.
6. Explain why you think that David was the first person to think about building a house for the Lord even though the ark had been kept in a tent for four hundred years.

The Lord then gave a promise to the nation of Israel as a whole. God said that the day would come when the nation of Israel would have a place of her own. This place would be a place where evil men would no longer come to fight against the people of Israel. Then the Lord began to give His promise to David. God said that He would build the house of David. By this

the Lord made it clear that the family of David would continue to have a kingdom even after the death of David. His kingdom would not be like the kingdom of Saul. God said that was the way the kingdom that the Lord was giving to David was going to be established.

7. Read 2 Samuel 7:1-17 and write how long the Lord said that the kingdom of David would be established.

8. Explain why it was important that the Lord told David that the Lord was going to build his house and establish his family.

9. Explain why you think that the promise to Israel that it will one day have a place where evil men no longer come against it has not been fulfilled yet.

God knew that the life of David would not be perfect even though the Lord was establishing this covenant with David. God said that when David sinned that it would be necessary for him to be judged. God also said that he would use other men to judge David. However, God would never take the kingdom of David from him as God had taken the kingdom from Saul. Instead the kingdom would belong to the family of David forever. This was actually a promise to David that Christ would one day come from the family of David. The family of David would be established forever because Christ will rule forever.

10. Read 2 Samuel 7:1-17 and write what God promised David would not depart from his family.

11. Explain the covenant that God made with David in your own words.

12. Explain why you think that the covenant that the Lord made with David will still have its complete fulfillment in the future.

After David heard the words of the Lord, he prayed to the Lord. David realized that this was a great covenant that the Lord had made with him. In his prayer David asked the Lord why the Lord was going to give him such a great blessing since he was not important. David told the Lord that it was the Lord that had brought him this far. Now he was filled with wonder and amazement as he heard the Lord promise that One from his family would rule forever. David was very thankful that the Lord had shown such kindness to him by giving him such a wonderful promise. He was also thankful to the Lord for making these things known to him.

13. Read 2 Samuel 7:18-29 and write what David said about the greatness of the Lord as he thanked the Lord.

14. Explain what the Lord meant when the Lord promised David that one from his family would rule forever.

15. Explain why you think that David was filled with wonder and amazement at the things the Lord promised him.

David recognized that there was no other god that could compare with the True and Living God. Truly God is a great and wonderful God. There is no person or no thing that can be compared to Him. In addition, God had shown His great kindness by choosing the nation of Israel. God chose that nation so that He could show His greatness and His kindness to the people of that nation. God had brought the nation of Israel out of the land of Egypt. He also promised them that they would be His people forever. Nothing would ever end the promises of God to the nation of Israel. Now God had also spoken about the family of David and said that it would be established as a family that would rule forever.

16. Read 2 Samuel 7:18-29 and write what David said about the name of the Lord.

17. Explain why this promise to David included both promises to the nation of Israel and promises to the family of David.

18. Explain why you think that God chose to tell David that One from his family would rule forever.

The desire of David was that the people of the nation of Israel and his family would continue to lift up the name of the Lord and give praise to Him forever. It should also be our desire that our

families will continue to praise and serve the Lord. In his prayer we see that David also emphasized the fact that he was a servant of the Lord. Today we also need to realize that we have the privilege of being the servants of the Lord. Our greatest desire should be to serve Him. Just as David did, we also need to recognize that God is the One that is good and true.

19. Read 2 Samuel 7:18-29 and write what David said that the Lord had revealed to His servant.

20. Explain why it is important to follow the example of David and realize that we are also servants of the Lord.

21. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life from the prayer of David in this chapter.

David had placed the Lord first in his life. As a result, the Lord had chosen to bless David in many ways. One of the ways that the Lord blessed David was by giving him victory over the nations that surrounded the nation of Israel. One of the nations that had made the people of Israel suffer often was the Philistines. For many years the Philistines had controlled some of the cities of Israel. Now the Lord gave Israel victory over the Philistines. Then David fought against the people of Moab. The Lord also gave David victory as he fought against the people of Moab. Moab was defeated and the people became the servants of David.

22. Read 2 Samuel 8:1-18 and write what the people of Moab brought to David because they had become his servants.

23. Explain why the Lord blessed David by giving him victory over the surrounding nations.

24. Explain why you think that the people of Israel had often suffered from the actions of the surrounding nations.

David also went to fight against the people of Zobah. The people of Syria then came to help the people of Zobah. God gave the army of Israel victory over these combined armies. A thousand chariots of Zobah were destroyed. Then the horses were hamstrung so that they could not be used to pull chariots of war any more. Because the Syrians came to help Zobah, the Syrians also became the servants of David. They also brought gifts to David. In this way the power of David became greater and greater because he trusted in the Lord. In fact we read that the Lord blessed David and was with David wherever he went.

25. Read 2 Samuel 8:1-18 and write what David did with the shields of gold that he captured.

26. Explain why the Lord chose to bless David and go with him wherever he went.

27. Explain why you think that the Lord told David to hamstring the horses so that they could no longer be used for war.

We also read what David did with the riches that he captured from these different nations. David gave these riches to the Lord. Here we see that David put the Lord ahead of possessions. Many times it is easy for us to begin to think about things. When this happens, we begin to put those things ahead of the Lord. The Lord also gave David victory over many other nations. The people of these nations served David as a result. We also see that David was a good ruler and did the things that were pleasing to the Lord. The Lord was with David in all that he did.

28. Read 2 Samuel 8:1-18 and write what the reign of David was like as he ruled over the nation of Israel.

29. Explain why the Lord gave David many victories over his enemies.

30. Explain why you think that David chose to give the riches that he received from other nations to the Lord instead of keeping them for himself.

David had made a promise to Jonathan that he would show kindness to the family of Jonathan. Although many things had happened to David, he had not forgotten his promise to Jonathan. One day David called one of the servants of Saul to ask if any of the members of the family of Saul remained to whom he could show kindness for Jonathan's sake. Ziba answered that Jonathan had one son that was still alive. This son was crippled and could not walk. In an earlier lesson we learned that this son had become crippled when he had fallen while fleeing from the Philistines.

31. Read 2 Samuel 9:1-13 and write where Mephibosheth was living at the time that David talked to Ziba.
32. Explain why David wanted to know if there were any members of the family of Saul to whom he could show kindness for Jonathan's sake.
33. Explain why you think that David wanted to have the opportunity to show kindness to Jonathan even though he was dead.

As soon as David heard that Mephibosheth was alive, he sent messengers to go and get him and bring him to David. By this time Mephibosheth had become a man. When Mephibosheth came in front of David, he fell on his face before him. He did not know why David had asked him to come. However, he knew that David could have him put to death if David chose to do so.

Mephibosheth also called himself the servant of David. Then David told Mephibosheth not to be afraid. David said that he wanted to show kindness to him because of his love for Jonathan.

34. Read 2 Samuel 9:1-13 and write what David said that he would restore to Mephibosheth.
35. Explain why David was very thankful for the opportunity to show kindness to a son of Jonathan.
36. Explain why you think that Mephibosheth was filled with fear as he was brought before David.

David wanted to show great kindness to the family of Saul and especially to the family of Jonathan. He began by returning all of the land of Saul to Mephibosheth. In addition, David told Mephibosheth that he should eat with him each day. This was a great change for Mephibosheth. He was no longer living in Lo-debar which means the land of emptiness. Instead he had been brought into the house of the king and would eat from the table of the king. This is exactly what happened to us when we became Christians. Before we became Christians, our lives were empty. When we became Christians, the Lord filled our lives with His Spirit and we now are able to eat with Him.

37. Read 2 Samuel 9:1-13 and write who David said should be servants of Mephibosheth.
38. Explain why David chose to show kindness to Mephibosheth and bring him from the land of emptiness to eat from the table of the king.
39. Explain why you are thankful that the moment you became a Christian that you became the child of the King of kings and now enjoy the blessing of fellowship with Him.

It was hard for Mephibosheth to understand the kindness of David. Then David said that Ziba and all of his family and servants were to serve Mephibosheth. These servants were to gather the fruits of the fields and bring them to Mephibosheth. Ziba said that he would do exactly what the king had instructed him to do. He promised to be a faithful servant. Today God also wants us to be His faithful servants. As we are faithful in serving the Lord, we can expect Him to bless us with spiritual blessings. Mephibosheth also had a son that had been born to him at Lo-debar.

40. Read 2 Samuel 9:1-13 and write the name of this son that had been born to Mephibosheth while he had lived at Lo-debar.
41. Explain why it was hard for Mephibosheth to understand the desire of David to show kindness to him.
42. Explain why you think that it is important for Christians to be faithful servants of the Lord.

Now reread 2 Samuel 7:1-9:13 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of 1 & 2 Samuel
Lesson 14
2 Samuel 10:1-12:31

One day David sent messengers to show kindness to the new king of the nation of Ammon. Instead of returning that kindness, the king of Ammon did evil to the servants of David. This led to war between Ammon and Israel. As the king, David should have been the leader of the army on the battlefield. However, David remained at home. One day David committed adultery with the wife of one of his most faithful soldiers. As a result, he ordered the death of the faithful soldier to cover his own sin. Then God sent a prophet to David to tell David that judgment for his sin would come.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Tell about the evil actions of the king of Ammon.
- Explain the various ways that David sinned.
- Explain how David tried to cover his sin.
- Explain how God said that David would be judged for his sin.

One day the king of Ammon died and his son became the new king. David decided to show kindness to this new king and sent messengers to offer comfort to Hanun. However, the princes of Hanun told him that David was trying to trick him. They said that the servants of David had come as spies so that they could study the city and learn the easiest way to destroy the city. Hanun listened to his princes and decided to do evil to the servants of David. In order to make the men of David feel ashamed, Hanun cut off half of the beard of each man. He also cut off the bottom half of the robe of each of the men.

1. Read 2 Samuel 10:1-19 and write where David told the men to remain until their beards had grown.
2. Explain why David chose to show kindness to the new king of Ammon by sending messengers to offer comfort to him.
3. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life from the actions of the king of Ammon.

The king of Ammon suddenly realized that he had made a terrible mistake to get David angry with him. Instead of telling David that he was sorry, Hanun hired the army of Syria to come and help him fight against David. David quickly sent Joab with part of the army while he gathered the rest of the soldiers. Joab divided his army into two groups. He led the strongest group against the Syrian army. Abishai led the rest of the men against the army of Ammon. That day the men of Israel defeated both the Syrians and the Ammonites. However, both groups escaped and returned to their own cities.

4. Read 2 Samuel 10:1-19 and write what the Syrians did when they saw that they had been defeated by the army of Israel.
5. Explain why the king of Ammon hired the king of Syria to come and help him fight against the army of Israel.
6. Explain why you think that Joab was able to defeat both the army of Ammon and the army of Syria.

The defeat of part of the army of Syria caused the Syrians to be ashamed. As a result, their pride caused them to gather their entire army together to go and fight against Israel. When David heard that the army of Syria was coming to fight against the army of Israel, he gathered the army of Israel and went to fight with the Syrians. God was with David and the army of Israel and gave them a great victory over the Syrian army. Then all of the kings that had served the Syrians made peace with David and began to serve him instead. After that time the Syrians

refused to help the people of Ammon fight against Israel any more.

7. Read 2 Samuel 10:1-19 and write the name of the king of Syria that came to fight against the army of Israel.
8. Explain why the Lord chose to give David a great victory over the army of the Syrians.
9. Explain why you think that the Syrians were afraid to try and fight against David and the army of Israel any more.

David also decided that Ammon must be judged just as the Syrians had been judged. However, David decided to have Joab lead the army of Israel instead of leading it himself as he should have done. While the army of Israel was fighting, David remained at Jerusalem. That night David got up from his bed and walked upon the roof of his house. From the roof he saw a very beautiful woman washing herself in her house. As David continued to look, his looks turned to lust. In order to satisfy his lust, David sent someone to get the woman and bring her to his house. Then he committed adultery with her and sent her home. Sometime later a message was given to David from Bathsheba.

10. Read 2 Samuel 11:1-27 and write what the message said.
11. Explain why the sin of David began with a look, turned to lust and finally led him to commit adultery.
12. Explain why you think that David chose to have Joab lead the army instead of leading the army himself.

David was filled with fear when he heard that Bathsheba was pregnant and so he decided to try and cover his sin. He sent a messenger to Joab requesting Uriah, the husband of Bathsheba, to come back to Jerusalem. David asked Uriah about the way the fighting was going and then told him to go home for the night. However, Uriah slept at the door of the house of David because he did not think that it was right for him to go home and have sexual pleasure with his wife while the rest of the men in the army of Israel were on the battlefield. The next night David forced Uriah to get drunk in an effort to get him to go home and have a sexual relationship with his wife.

13. Read 2 Samuel 11:1-27 and write what Uriah did not do even though David had gotten him drunk.
14. Explain why Uriah did not feel that he should go home to his wife when the rest of the army of Israel was out on the battlefield.
15. Explain why you think that David tried very hard to cover his sin so that no one would know what he had done.

David had failed in his efforts to cover his sin and so he decided to try and cover his sin in a different way. David wrote a letter to Joab and had Uriah carry it to Joab. In this letter David instructed Joab to put Uriah in front of the rest of the soldiers at the most dangerous place. Then Joab was to order the men behind Uriah to come back and leave Uriah by himself so that he would be killed. Here we see that David decided to try and cover his adultery with murder. This is an example of the fact that one sin often leads to another sin as the person tries to cover up the first sin. We realize that sin cannot be covered and hidden.

16. Read 2 Samuel 11:1-27 and write what happened to Uriah when Joab followed the instructions of David.
17. Explain why people will often commit additional sins to try and cover their earlier sins.
18. Explain why you think that as faithfully as David had followed the Lord that he could now commit adultery and then murder to cover his adultery.

Joab sent a messenger to David to let him know how the battle was going. This messenger was instructed to tell about the battle and then tell David that Uriah had been killed. When David heard the message, he told the messenger not to worry. He gave instructions to make the battle stronger the next day. David thought that he had successfully covered his sin. Meanwhile

Bathsheba heard about the death of her husband and was filled with great sorrow. Later David sent for Bathsheba and she became his wife. However, the sin of David had greatly displeased the Lord because he could not hide his sin from the Lord.

19. Read 2 Samuel 11:1-27 and write the name of the nation from which Uriah had originally come.

20. Explain what this passage teaches about the fact that one sin leads to another and that such sin cannot be hidden.

21. Explain why you think that David thought that he could cover his sin and that no one would know what he had done.

David thought that he had successfully covered his sin. However, the Lord knew what David had done and sent Nathan, the prophet, to speak to David. Nathan began by telling a story to David. He said that in a certain city there was a rich man and a poor man. The rich man was so rich that he had great flocks of sheep and herds of cattle. However, the poor man had nothing except one small lamb. One day a visitor came to visit the rich man. Then the rich man went and took the only lamb of the poor man and fed it to his visitor. David was very angry when he heard this story.

22. Read 2 Samuel 12:1-12 and write what David said should happen to the rich man for what he had done.

23. Explain why Nathan told a story to help David realize the seriousness of his own sin.

24. Explain why you think that David was very angry when he heard how the rich man had treated the poor man.

David said that the man that had done this terrible thing must be judged. He must also give back four times as much. Then Nathan made a statement that could have cost him his life. Nathan told David, "You are the man." God had been kind to David and had protected him from Saul and made him the king of Israel. David had married many wives and had received great riches. If David needed more, God was willing to give more to him. However, David had ignored all that the Lord had given him and had sinned. David had killed Uriah and had taken his wife.

25. Read 2 Samuel 12:1-12 and write what God said would never depart from the house of David.

26. Explain why David spoke so strongly about the fact that the rich man must be judged for his sin.

27. Explain why you think that people that have a guilty conscience are quick to condemn others for sin.

God said that there would be great suffering in the family of David because of the sin of David. God said that this sorrow and suffering would come because David had shown hatred to the Lord by taking the wife of Uriah as his wife. God told David some of the consequences that would happen in his life because of his choice to commit this sin. God said that the wives of David would be taken from him and given to another man. This man would commit adultery with those wives in the sight of all of the people. David had done his sin secretly. However, this judgment would happen where all of the people could see it.

28. Read 2 Samuel 12:1-12 and write what else would see this judgment in addition to all of the people.

29. Explain what you learn from the judgment that God promised to David through the prophet Nathan.

30. Explain why you think that the Lord said that David had shown hatred against the Lord by the sin that he committed.

Then David confessed that he had sinned. He did not try to hide his sins or blame someone else for them. Instead David said, "I have sinned against the Lord." Nathan then told David that

because he had confessed his sin that he would not die for his sin. However, the child that was born to Bathsheba would die because David had given men an opportunity to speak against the Lord. As soon as Nathan left the house of David, the child became very sick. Then David began to pray to the Lord for the child. He also fasted as he prayed to show his sorrow for his sins. He did this until the day that the child died.

31. Read 2 Samuel 12:13-31 and write when the child died.

32. Explain why sin will produce its own consequences even though sin is confessed to the Lord and forgiven by Him.

33. Explain why you think that David realized that his real sin was sinning against the Lord.

David had been so filled with sorrow that his servants were afraid to tell him when the baby died. For seven days they had not been able to get him to eat or even get up from the ground. As a result, they whispered as they walked around so that David would not know that the baby had died. However, David saw them whispering and asked if the baby had died. As soon as David knew that the baby was dead, he got up and washed himself. Then he changed his clothes and went to the temple to worship the Lord. When David returned home, he asked for food.

34. Read 2 Samuel 12:13-31 and write why David said that he was doing all of these things now that the baby was dead.

35. Explain why David refused to eat or do anything else as long as the baby was alive.

36. Explain why you think that the first place that David went after the baby died was to the temple to worship the Lord.

David said that it no longer did any good to fast. He could not bring the baby back to life. Later he would go to be with the baby but right now the baby would not return to him. In this statement David gives one of the greatest promises that any Christian parent could want at the time of the death of a young child. David knew that he could not bring the child back to him. However, David also knew that he would one day see the child again. When a child dies before reaching the age of accountability, that child goes to be with the Lord. Christian parents can be filled with joy even in their sorrow because they know that they will one day be reunited with that child. Then they will be in the presence of Christ along with that child for all eternity.

37. Read 2 Samuel 12:13-31 and write why David said that he had fasted as long as the child was alive.

38. Explain what these verses teach about the future of a young child that the Lord has taken to Himself through death.

39. Explain why the words of David can provide real comfort to Christian parents that have experienced the death of a young child.

Bathsheba was also filled with sorrow at the death of her child. However, the Lord was merciful and gave David and Bathsheba another son. They named their second son Solomon. Meanwhile, Joab had been leading the army of Israel against the capital city of Ammon. One day Joab sent a message to David to come quickly so that he could receive the credit for the victory over Ammon rather than Joab. Then David gathered the rest of the men of Israel together and went and captured the city of Rabbah. Then they took the crown from the head of the king of Ammon and placed it on the head of David.

40. Read 2 Samuel 12:13-31 and write how much the crown of the king of the nation of Ammon weighed.

41. Explain why it was important for the Lord to give David and Bathsheba another son and for them to know that the Lord loved Solomon.

42. Explain why you think that Joab said that it was important for David to be on the battlefield when the Lord gave the final victory.

Now reread 2 Samuel 10:1-12:31 and write down the three most important lessons that you

learned from these chapters.

Survey of 1 & 2 Samuel
Lesson 15
2 Samuel 13:1-15:37

In our last lesson we learned that David committed the sins of adultery and murder. When Nathan confronted David with his sins, Nathan told David that he would be judged for his sins. David repented of his sins but those sins still produced serious consequences in the life and family of David. God allowed the sons of David to bring great suffering to the life of David even though he had repented. This reminds us that sin will always have consequences even when that sin is forgiven. One son of David raped his sister. Another son rebelled against David and tried to become the king. We will be studying about these sons in our lesson today. This is a reminder of the high cost of sin.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Tell about the sin of Amnon.
- Explain why Amnon was murdered.
- Tell how David finally forgave Absalom.
- Explain how Absalom got the people to follow him.

As a result of the sins of David, God had said that David would be judged in the same ways that he had sinned. This meant that there would be both immorality and murder within the family of David. We have seen that David had many wives. The daughter of one wife was loved by the son of another wife. Amnon loved (lusted for) Tamar so much that he became sick because he could not have her. One day a friend of Amnon asked him why he was so sad. Amnon answered that he was in love with his half-sister, Tamar. Then Jonadab suggested a plan to Amnon. He suggested that Amnon pretend that he was sick and then ask for Tamar to come and fix a meal for him.

1. Read 2 Samuel 13:1-20 and write what Amnon did when Tamar placed some cakes in front of him to eat.
2. Explain why Amnon said that he loved Tamar when in actual fact he was just lusting for her sexually.
3. Explain why you think that many people described their sinful lusts as love rather than recognizing that it is sin.

Amnon was actually carrying out the plan that Jonadab had suggested. Amnon sent all of the people out of his house so that he was alone in his bedroom with Tamar. Suddenly Amnon grabbed Tamar and asked her to have sexual relationships with him. Tamar refused and said that the idea of Amnon was very evil. Instead Tamar suggested that Amnon ask David for permission to marry her. She was sure that David would allow them to be married. However, Amnon refused to listen to Tamar. Instead he took Tamar and raped her because he was much stronger.

4. Read 2 Samuel 13:1-20 and write how Amnon felt toward Tamar after he had raped her.
5. Explain why Amnon was not even willing to listen to the suggestion of Tamar to ask David to let them get married but chose to rape her instead.
6. Explain why you think that many people are so controlled by their sinful lusts that they want to satisfy them immediately.

Here we see that the love of Amnon for Tamar was not love at all. Instead Amnon was totally controlled by his sinful lusts. Once Amnon had raped Tamar, we read that he hated her exceedingly. Tamar was filled with shame and sorrow because Amnon had raped her. Amnon was controlled by his own sinful lusts so once he had raped Tamar, his feeling toward her

turned to hate. He told her to get out of his house because he was not interested in her any more. Many young women learn the hard way that once they allow a man to have sexual relationships with them before marriage that the men soon lost interest in them. The reason is the fact that the men are filled with lust rather than love. Once such men satisfy their own sinful lusts, their feelings toward the girl turn to hate or rejection. They do not care what happens to the girl once they have satisfied their own lusts.

7. Read 2 Samuel 13:1-20 and write what Amnon had his servant do with Tamar to show his hatred and disrespect for Tamar.

8. Explain what these verses teach about the sinful lust of Amnon.

9. Explain why you think that many young women are deceived by men who say that they love them and then reject them after they have had a sexual relationship with them.

David was angry when he heard what Amnon had done to Tamar. However, her brother Absalom was filled with a very great hatred toward Amnon. That hatred continued to burn in his heart. Two years later Absalom could control that hatred no longer. Absalom invited his father and brothers to come to a feast. However, David was unable to go. Then Absalom asked David to at least encourage the sons of David including Amnon to come to the feast. Finally the king agreed. Absalom then gave his servants instructions about what they were to do when he gave the signal to them.

10. Read 2 Samuel 13:21-39 and write what Absalom told his servants to do to Amnon when Amnon became drunk and was not in full control of himself.

11. Explain what this passage shows about the danger to any person of allowing hatred to remain in his life.

12. Explain why you think that Absalom became so controlled by hatred that the day came when he could no longer control his hatred.

The servants obeyed the words of Absalom. As soon as Amnon was drunk, they killed him. Then the rest of the sons of David got up and ran to protect themselves. They were afraid for their lives because they thought that Absalom might kill them also. One of the men did not even wait to see what had actually happened. Instead he ran and told David that all of his sons had been killed. However, Jonadab told David what had actually happened. Jonadab said that Absalom had been planning to kill Amnon ever since the day the Amnon had raped Tamar.

13. Read 2 Samuel 13:21-39 and write what Absalom did after he had killed his brother Amnon.

14. Explain why some people are like this man that was so eager to spread bad news that he ran and told David before he even knew what had actually happened.

15. Explain why you think that all of the sons of David became fearful when they saw the servants of Absalom kill Amnon.

Absalom knew that his life was in danger because he was guilty of murder. As a result, he decided to escape before anyone could capture him. Meanwhile the rest of the sons of David had arrived back at the city of Jerusalem. As soon as these sons could be seen from the city, Jonadab told David that only Amnon had been killed just exactly as he had said. When all of the sons of David arrived, they began to cry with loud voices because of the things that had happened. For the next three years David mourned for his son Absalom every day. Here we see that David greatly loved his son even though his son had murdered another son.

16. Read 2 Samuel 13:21-39 and write to what place Absalom fled.

17. Explain what these verses teach about the impact of the hatred that Absalom had toward Amnon.

18. Explain why you think that David mourned for his son Absalom even though he knew how sinful the choices and actions of Absalom were.

Joab wanted to see Absalom and David reunited and brought back together again so he finally

thought of a plan that he thought would work to bring Absalom back to Jerusalem. Joab sent for a woman of Tekoa and asked to pretend that she was mourning. She was to act like she had been mourning a long time for a dead son. Joab told the woman exactly what to say. She was to say that one of her two sons had killed his brother while the two of them were fighting. Then she was to say that everyone around her wanted the other son killed because he was guilty of murder. However, that would leave her without any family. When David heard her story, he said that he would give instructions so that no one would touch her remaining son.

19. Read 2 Samuel 14:1-33 and write what David told the woman.

20. Explain why Joab told this woman to go to David and tell him this story so that Joab could carry out his plan to bring Absalom back to Jerusalem.

21. Explain why you think that Joab chose to make a woman tell a false story in order to carry out the plan of Joab.

When David said that not one hair of her son would fall to the earth, the woman knew what to say next. This was the word for which the woman had been waiting. As soon as David promised to protect the son of the woman, the woman told David that he was saying one thing and doing another because he was allowing his own son to remain in exile. Then the woman said that her real reason for coming to the king was to speak to him about his own son. She said that she had done this because she was afraid that something would happen to her and her son if she failed to speak to the king about his own son Absalom.

22. Read 2 Samuel 14:1-33 and write who the woman said had ordered her to speak to David about his son.

23. Explain why the woman quickly explained to David that her real purpose in telling her story was to get him to allow Absalom to return from exile.

24. Explain why you think that the woman quickly changed her story and said that she had come to the king to speak about his own son.

The king had thought from the story of the woman that Joab was the one that had made up the story. Now David learned that his guess was exactly right. Then David called Joab to him. David told Joab to go and find Absalom and bring him back to the land of Israel. Joab fell on his face in front of David and thanked him for giving permission for Absalom to return to the land. However, David refused to allow Absalom to come and visit him when Absalom returned. We also read that Absalom was very beautiful and once each year would cut a great amount of hair from his head.

25. Read 2 Samuel 14:1-33 and write how long David refused to see Absalom after he returned to the land of Israel.

26. Explain why David told Joab to bring Absalom back to the land of Israel but refused to allow Absalom to come and visit him.

27. Explain why you think that these verses talk about the beauty of Absalom and the amount of hair that Absalom cut from his head once each year.

One day Absalom sent a messenger to Joab and asked Joab to come and talk to him. When Joab ignored the message, Absalom decided to take action. He ordered his servants to set the barley field of Joab on fire. Then Joab came to ask Absalom why his servants had burned his field. Absalom replied that burning the field was the only way that he could get Joab to come and visit him. Absalom told Joab to make arrangements for him to see his father. Then Joab did as Absalom requested and brought the two of them back together.

28. Read 2 Samuel 14:1-33 and write how long Absalom lived in the city of Jerusalem without ever having the opportunity to see David.

29. Explain how Joab brought David and Absalom back together

30. Explain why you think the fact that Absalom set the barley field of Joab on fire shows that Absalom had an attitude that caused him to want to get his own way.

Once Absalom had seen his father, he began planning how he would take over the kingdom. Whenever he went for a ride in his chariot, he would have fifty men run in front of the chariot so that it would look like he was a very important person. He also waited at the gate and talked to any of the people that came to visit his father. He would tell them that his father was very busy. Then he said that he would be glad to hear their case if he was the ruler. Absalom would also act like he was a special friend of the person by giving the person a kiss.

31. Read 2 Samuel 15:1-37 and write what Absalom did to the hearts of the people of Israel by these actions.

32. Explain why the actions of Absalom show that he was purposely working to get the people to turn against his father and follow him.

33. Explain why you think that Absalom made it a point to tell the people that he would be glad to hear their case if he was the ruler.

Here we see that Absalom really knew what to do to get the people to follow him. One day Absalom told David that he had promised to offer a sacrifice to the Lord. Meanwhile Absalom had sent messengers throughout the land with instructions to say that Absalom ruled as the king in Hebron as soon as they heard the sound of trumpets. Absalom had also invited two hundred of the leading men of Israel to go with him to Hebron to the sacrifice so that it would look like these men also supported Absalom. Suddenly a messenger came to David with the word that Absalom had declared himself the king of the nation of Israel. David realized what Absalom had done and quickly gathered his family and left Jerusalem.

34. Read 2 Samuel 15:1-37 and write who David left to take care of his house as he fled to get away from Absalom.

35. Explain how Absalom had carefully planned this plot to make himself the king of the nation of Israel.

36. Explain why you think that Absalom really wanted the two hundred of the leading men of Israel to go with him to Hebron for the sacrifice.

David left ten of his concubines to care for the house when he fled. One of the men that started to go with David was a foreigner by the name of Ittai. David told Ittai to return to Jerusalem since he was only a stranger. He could not be certain of his future if he followed David. However, Ittai said that he was willing to give his life for David. He said that he would serve David regardless of what happened to him. Then David told the priest to take the ark of God and return to Jerusalem. David told the priest that he would be able to help David by remaining in Jerusalem because he would be able to learn about the plans of Absalom.

37. Read 2 Samuel 15:1-37 and write why Ittai insisted that he wanted to go with David as he fled.

38. Explain how Ittai gives us an example of the way that we should want to serve the Lord.

39. Explain why you think that David wanted the priest to take the ark and return to Jerusalem instead of going with him.

David learned that Ahithophel had also joined with Absalom. Ahithophel was a very smart man and David knew would be able to give Absalom many ideas about the way to defeat David. Another man that was also very wise was a man named Hushai. However, he had chosen to follow David. David asked Hushai to return to Jerusalem and pretend to follow Absalom so that he could defeat the plans that Ahithophel suggested to Absalom. Hushai said that he would be willing to do anything to help David. As a result, he returned to Jerusalem to try and stop the plans of Ahithophel.

40. Read 2 Samuel 15:1-37 and write who David said would help Hushai when he went back to Jerusalem.

41. Explain why David realized that it was important to ask Hushai to return to Jerusalem to try and stop the plans of Ahithophel.

42. Explain why you think that it is important to have several wise people that you can go to

and ask for counsel and advice in your own life.

Now reread 2 Samuel 13:1-15:37 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of 1 & 2 Samuel
Lesson 16
2 Samuel 16:1-18:33

In our last lesson we learned that Absalom had appointed himself as the king of Israel. As a result, David was forced to flee from Jerusalem because he knew that Absalom would try to kill him. Today we will learn what happened to David while he was away from Jerusalem. As David was fleeing from Absalom, he met a man by the name of Shimei. This man said many evil things about David. However, David refused to destroy him. Meanwhile Absalom had reached Jerusalem. He wanted to show all of the people his power over his father so he committed adultery in plain view of all of the people.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain how Absalom tried to show his power over David.
- Explain how Hushai stopped the plan of Ahithophel.
- Explain what happened to Absalom.
- Tell about the sorrow of David when he heard of the death of Absalom.

David met several people as he hurried to escape from Absalom. One of these men was Ziba, the servant of Mephibosheth. Ziba brought some food for David and those with him. Ziba also brought some donkeys so that the family of David would be able to ride rather than walk as they hurried to escape from Absalom. Then David asked Ziba what had happened to Mephibosheth. Ziba said that he had remained in Jerusalem because he thought that this would be the day that the kingdom would be returned to him and his family. We will learn later that Ziba was actually telling a lie about Mephibosheth. When David heard the words of Ziba, he said that he would give the possessions of Mephibosheth to Ziba.

1. Read 2 Samuel 16:1-23 and write the name of the next man that David met as he fled from Absalom.
2. Explain why Ziba provided help for David and his family but told a lie about the reason that Mephibosheth remained in Jerusalem.
3. Explain why you think that many people are like Ziba and only tell the information that might benefit them.

Shimei was also from the family of Saul. When Shimei saw that David was coming, he began to curse and throw rocks at David. As Shimei was cursing, he called David a bloody and worthless man. He said that David was getting exactly what he deserved because he had taken the kingdom away from the family of Saul. Abishai offered to go and kill Shimei because of the things that he was saying. However, David said to leave Shimei alone. David said that the Lord would show kindness to them if they did not destroy Shimei. As a result, Shimei continued to walk along the edge of the hill cursing David as he fled.

4. Read 2 Samuel 16:1-23 and write what Hushai said to Absalom when he returned to Jerusalem.
5. Explain what this chapter shows about the bitterness of Shimei because his family did not receive the kingdom.
6. Explain why you think that bitterness can be so destructive in the life of a person that becomes controlled by it.

Absalom asked Hushai why he had not gone with David as he fled. Then Hushai replied that he wanted to follow Absalom just as he had followed David. He was willing to serve whoever the Lord chose to rule over the nation of Israel. Absalom decided to ask Ahithophel what to do to show his complete lack of respect for his father. Ahithophel suggested that Absalom rape the

concubines of David on the roof of his house so that all Israel could watch him do it. Then Absalom committed adultery with these concubines where all of the people could see him. This fulfilled the promise to David that his hidden immorality would be followed by open immorality among his sons.

7. Read 2 Samuel 16:1-23 and write what the counsel of Ahithophel was like in those days.
8. Explain why the consequences of the sin of David led his family to publicly do even greater evil.
9. Explain why you think that Absalom had such a desire to show a complete lack of respect for his father.

Ahithophel also had another suggestion for Absalom. He suggested that Absalom send two thousand men with him so that he could go after David that night and destroy David while he was weak. Ahithophel knew that David and the people with him were tired and weak. He thought that he could easily kill David and then all of the people would accept Absalom as their new king. Absalom and the leaders of Israel thought that the idea of Ahithophel was a very good idea. However, Absalom wanted to hear what Hushai thought of the idea of Ahithophel. He called Hushai and explained the plan of Ahithophel to him.

10. Read 2 Samuel 17:1-29 and write what Hushai said about the plan that Ahithophel had suggested to Absalom.
11. Explain why Ahithophel was so eager to make sure that David was killed that very night before he could escape.
12. Explain why you think that Absalom wanted to know what Hushai felt about the plan of Ahithophel.

Hushai knew that the words of Ahithophel were exactly right. As a result, he had to think quickly in order to protect David. Hushai reminded Absalom that David and the men with him were very powerful and also very tricky. They would hide and then destroy a part of the army of Absalom. As soon as the people heard that David had destroyed part of the army of Absalom, they would all begin to follow David again and Absalom would be defeated. Hushai suggested that Absalom wait until all of the men of Israel could be gathered. The people of Israel would all recognize Absalom as their king when he won a great victory over the men of David.

13. Read 2 Samuel 17:1-29 and write what Absalom said about the advice that Hushai had given him.
14. Explain why Hushai warned Absalom that David and the men with him were very tricky and Absalom would probably have the people turn against him.
15. Explain why you think that Hushai appealed to the pride of Absalom to get him to reject the plan to go after David immediately.

Hushai quickly sent a messenger to the priests to tell them about the plans of Absalom. He asked them to send a message to David warning David to hurry and escape before Absalom decided to change his mind and follow the plan of Ahithophel. The two sons of Zadok went to tell David. However, a boy saw them go and told Absalom. Absalom immediately sent men after the sons of Zadok. However, they climbed down into a well and a woman put a cover over the well and spread wheat on the cover. In this way they escaped and brought the message to David.

16. Read 2 Samuel 17:1-29 and write what Ahithophel did when he saw that Absalom did not follow his advice.
17. Explain why Hushai warned David not to take any chances but escape across the Jordan River that night.
18. Explain why you think that Hushai realized that David needed to escape immediately in case Absalom changed his mind.

Ahithophel felt rejected when Absalom did not follow his plan so he hanged himself and died. Then Absalom gathered all of the men of Israel together to go and fight against David. He appointed one of his relatives named Amasa to be the head of the army. Meanwhile there were a few men that were showing real kindness to David in the place to which he had escaped. They brought David and those with him beds for sleeping. They also brought food for David and the people with him. Here we see that there are always some people that are concerned to help the followers of the Lord when they see that they have a need.

19. Read 2 Samuel 17:1-29 and write the name of the man that showed kindness to David as he was escaping from Absalom.

20. Explain what you learn from this chapter about the character of Ahithophel.

21. Explain why you think that Ahithophel hanged himself when Absalom did not immediately follow his counsel.

David heard that the army of Absalom was coming to fight against him. As a result, David prepared his men for battle. David divided his army into three groups and appointed a man to lead each of the groups. Then David said that he would lead the army as they fought against the army of Absalom. However, the men that were with David convinced him that he should remain in the city because David was the only one that Absalom wanted to kill. If David were out on the battlefield, the army following Absalom would all try to kill David. If David was in the city, then the army with Absalom would have to fight against the army with David.

22. Read 2 Samuel 18:1-18 and write what David instructed his men about Absalom as they went out to fight against him.

23. Explain why the counselors of David realized that it would be easier to protect David if he was inside the city wall.

24. Explain why you think that David chose to listen to the advice of his counselors rather than try and lead the army himself.

David warned all of the men that followed him that they were not to do anything to Absalom. David loved his son even though he was a rebellious son. Everyone heard the instructions of David. Then they went to fight. The fighting took place in a very thick forest. The army of David won a great victory. However, the forest killed more of the men of Absalom than the army of David. Meanwhile Absalom met some of the men of David. He fled quickly on his mule to escape. As he was fleeing, his great head of hair got caught in the branches of a tree. His mule kept running and left Absalom hanging by his hair.

25. Read 2 Samuel 18:1-18 and write what one of the men went and told Joab when he saw Absalom.

26. Explain why David made sure that all of his men heard that they were not to do anything to Absalom as they went to fight.

27. Explain how you think that Absalom felt as he hung helplessly by his hair that was caught in the branches of the tree.

Absalom had been caught as a result of his own pride. He was very proud of his long hair. Now he was hanging in a tree as a result of his long hair getting caught in the branches of the tree. Our pride will always get us into trouble. Many times God will use the things that are causing pride to judge those who are proud. Joab asked the man why he had not killed Absalom when he saw Absalom hanging in a tree. Joab said that he would have given the man a reward if he would have killed Absalom. Then the man reminded Joab of the words that David had spoken about Absalom.

28. Read 2 Samuel 18:1-18 and write what the man told Joab when Joab asked why he had not killed Absalom.

29. Explain why you learn about the pride of Absalom from these verses.

30. Explain why you think that many people learn only too late that their pride defeats them in their plans and can be very destructive.

Joab knew that David had not wanted him to kill Absalom. He had been reminded of that fact by the man that had seen Absalom hanging by his hair. However, Joab was not concerned about obeying the orders of David. His only desire was to destroy Absalom. Joab came to the place where Absalom was hanging by his hair. He saw that Absalom was still alive. Then Joab killed him as he hung by his hair in the tree. Joab also blew his trumpet and told his men to stop fighting against the men of Israel. Joab then took the body of Absalom and threw it into a great pit and covered the body with stones.

31. Read 2 Samuel 18:1-18 and write how many sons Absalom had.

32. Explain why Joab chose to kill Absalom even though he knew exactly what David had said and knew that he was disobeying a direct order of David.

33. Explain why you think that Joab was controlled by his rebellious nature even though he was leading part of the army of David.

The son of Zadok asked Joab for permission to go and tell David that the army of David had defeated the army of Joab. Joab told Ahimaaz that he could not go because Joab knew that he had killed the son of the king. However, Ahimaaz did not know how Absalom had been killed. Then Joab decided to send a man from Cush to tell David what had happened. After the man of Cush had left to go to David, Ahimaaz asked again if he could also run to tell David. Joab gave him permission to run. Ahimaaz ran so fast that he caught up with the man of Cush and reached the city first.

34. Read 2 Samuel 18:19-33 and write the first question that David asked when Ahimaaz reached him.

35. Explain why Joab finally allowed Ahimaaz to go to tell David even though Ahimaaz did not know exactly what had really happened.

36. Explain why you think that Joab kept Ahimaaz from learning exactly what had happened to Absalom.

Here we see again the great concern that David had for his son. He was more concerned about his son than he was about what had happened at the battle. David had a real love and concern for Absalom even though Absalom had rebelled against him. This is a real example of the kind of love that all parents should have for their children even if the children are rebellious. Today we live in a day when many parents are more concerned about their own interests than they are about their children. Such parents let their children destroy themselves because the parents are too busy with other things to take the time to really love and teach their children.

37. Read 2 Samuel 18:19-33 and write what Absalom had set up so that he would be remembered after he died.

38. Explain what these verses teach about the love and concern that David had for Absalom even though Absalom was in total rebellion against his father.

39. Explain why you think that it is important for parents to continue to love their children even when those children are rebellious.

Ahimaaz was not able to answer the question of David. He knew that there had been a great battle. However, he did not know what Joab had done to Absalom. Then the man of Cush came to David. David asked the man of Cush about the safety of Absalom. The man of Cush replied that David could hope that what had happened to Absalom would happen to all of the enemies of David. By these words, David knew that Absalom had been killed. David was filled with great sorrow and cried with great sorrow when he heard about the death of Absalom.

40. Read 2 Samuel 18:19-33 and write what David said when he heard that Absalom was dead.

41. Explain why the man of Cush had as his only concern to deliver the message of Joab and was not concerned about the effect that message would have.

42. Explain why you think that David was filled with such grief when he heard about the death of Absalom.

Now reread 2 Samuel 16:1-18:33 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of 1 & 2 Samuel
Lesson 17
2 Samuel 19:1-21:22

In our last lesson we learned that Joab had killed Absalom even though David had told him and all of the rest of the men in his army to protect the life of Absalom. Once Absalom was dead, those who had followed him were scattered and the way was prepared for David to return to Jerusalem as the king of Israel. However, there were many conflicts even though David did return as king. Judah and the ten tribes argued with each other about which group had the right to bring David back as their king. This led to a rebellion by the men of Israel against David.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain why Joab spoke angrily to David.
- Explain why there was a conflict between Israel and the tribe of Judah.
- Explain how the rebellion of Sheba was ended.
- Explain why restitution was made to the Gibeonites.

Joab became very angry when he heard David crying because of the death of Absalom. Joab told David that he was wrong to cry for his dead son. The joy of the people with David because of their victory had been turned into sorrow because of the sorrow of David. Joab told David that he was causing the people that had protected his life to be filled with shame. Joab said that David was acting as if he loved his enemies and hated his friends. Joab went on to say that David was acting like he would have preferred to see his own friends die so that Absalom could have lived. Here we see that Joab spoke to David with great anger.

1. Read 2 Samuel 19:1-23 and write where David went and sat after he heard the words of Joab about his sorrow.
2. Explain why Absalom said that it was wrong for David to show sorrow over the death of Absalom.
3. Explain why you think that Joab spoke to David with such great anger as he rebuked him for showing his love for Absalom.

The people started talking when they saw David sitting in the gate of the city where he had fled from Absalom before Absalom was killed. As the people talked, they began talking about the fact that they should bring David back to Jerusalem and recognize him as their king again. Here we see that the people of the nation of Israel still wanted David to be their king. Only the tribe of Judah failed to talk about making David their king again. Then David sent the priests to talk to the leaders of the tribe of Judah. The priests reminded the people of the tribe of Judah that David came from their tribe. David also sent a messenger to Amasa to ask him to become the leader of the army of David.

4. Read 2 Samuel 19:1-23 and write the message that the men of Judah sent to David in response to his message.
5. Explain why it was the men of Israel rather than the men from his own tribe of Judah that first asked David about coming back as their king.
6. Explain why you think that David asked Amasa to become the leader of his army even though Amasa had followed Absalom.

The men of Israel had talked about returning David to Jerusalem and again recognizing him as their king. However, the men of the tribe of Judah took action and brought David back to become the king again. When David crossed the Jordan River, Shimei was the first to meet him. Shimei realized that he had done wrong to curse David as David was fleeing from Absalom. Now he came to David and asked for forgiveness. Immediately one of the men that had been with David when he was fleeing wanted to put Shimei to death because he had cursed

David. However, David said that no one was to die that day. Instead David wanted to show forgiveness.

7. Read 2 Samuel 19:1-23 and write what David said would not happen to any of the men of Israel that day.

8. Explain why David chose to show forgiveness as he returned toward Jerusalem instead of using the opportunity to judge Shimei and make an example of him.

9. Explain why it is important to you in your own life to be quick to forgive those who sin against you.

Another man also came to meet David as he was returning to Jerusalem. That man was Mephibosheth. Then David also asked Mephibosheth why he had not gone with David when he was forced to flee from Jerusalem. Mephibosheth said that his servant had tricked him and taken his donkey so that he could not flee because he was crippled. The servant had also told lies about Mephibosheth when he came to David. Here we see that the servant had used the opportunity to seek to gain for himself. As a result of the lies that Ziba had spoken to David, David had promised the land of Mephibosheth to Ziba. When David heard the whole story, he said that these two men should divide the land instead.

10. Read 2 Samuel 19:24-43 and write who else also came to meet David at the Jordan River.

11. Explain why the two very different stories by these two men meant that David really did not know who was telling the truth.

12. Explain why you think that David told the two men to divide the land since he did not know which man was telling the truth.

As you remember, Barzillai was the man that had shown great kindness to David and his men as they were fleeing from Absalom. Now he wanted to be among the first to welcome David back. Barzillai was an old man of eighty years. Then David invited Barzillai to return to Jerusalem with him. David thought that this would give him the opportunity to return the kindness that had been shown to him. However, Barzillai said that he was an old man that would just be a burden to David if he returned to Jerusalem with him. He felt that he just wanted to walk and talk with David for a little while as David traveled toward Jerusalem.

13. Read 2 Samuel 19:24-43 and write where Barzillai wanted to die.

14. Explain why David wanted to reward Barzillai for his kindness by having him come to Jerusalem to live.

15. Explain why you think that the only thing that Barzillai wanted as his reward was to walk and talk with David for a little while.

Barzillai wanted to die in his own city so that he could be buried in the grave of his parents. However, Barzillai had another suggestion. He suggested that his servant, Chimham, go to Jerusalem with David instead. Then David could show kindness to this servant. David agreed to take the servant of Barzillai with him so that he could show kindness to him. In addition, David also offered to help Barzillai any time that he had any needs. After the two men had talked together, David kissed Barzillai and he returned home.

16. Read 2 Samuel 19:24-43 and write who conducted the king to Jerusalem.

17. Explain why David was so eager to find some way to show kindness to Barzillai.

18. Explain why you think that Barzillai wanted to die in his own city rather than in the city of Jerusalem.

The men of Israel were angry with the men of Judah because all of the men of Israel had not been called to help bring David back to Jerusalem. The men of Israel accused the men of Judah of being thieves because they had not invited the men of the rest of the tribes of Israel to participate in bringing David back to Jerusalem. This made the men of Judah angry and they answered that David was a close relative of theirs and it was their right to bring him back to Jerusalem. Soon the two groups of men became very angry and spoke evil words to each other.

19. Read 2 Samuel 19:24-43 and write what the words of the men of Judah were like as they answered the men of Judah.
20. Explain why many people create conflict by speaking with words of anger instead of words of peace.
21. Explain what you think really caused this division between the men of Israel and the men of Judah.

One of the worthless men of Israel decided to take advantage of the anger between the men of Israel and the men of Judah. Sheba told the men of Israel that they should not consider David as their king any longer. Then all of the men of Israel went home so that only the men of Judah brought David to Jerusalem. When David reached Jerusalem, he told Amasa to gather the men of Judah to go after Sheba before he entered a strong city. When it took Amasa longer than expected to gather the men of Judah, David sent Abishai with a small group of men after Sheba.

22. Read 2 Samuel 20:1-25 and write the question that Joab asked Amasa when the two men met on the way to fight against Sheba.
23. Explain why people that are worthless men will try to stir up disagreement and conflict between others
24. Explain why you think that Sheba was able to get the men of Israel to listen to him and turn away from David.

Following the question, Joab kissed Amasa. While he was kissing Amasa, Joab pulled out his sword and killed Amasa. Joab did this because he wanted revenge due to the fact that David had appointed Amasa to replace Joab as the head of the army. This is an example of what happens when people allow hatred to take root in their hearts. Then Joab called the men of Judah to follow him to go and fight against Sheba. Meanwhile Sheba had gone to Abel of Beth Maachah and was inside the city wall so that he would be protected. Then Joab prepared to destroy the city in order to capture Sheba. Here we see that he did not even consider other ways to kill Sheba.

25. Read 2 Samuel 20:1-25 and write who called to Joab from the city before he was able to attack the city.
26. Explain what these verses show about the danger of a person allowing hatred to take root in his heart.
27. Explain why you think that Joab was ready to destroy the city of Beth Maachah instead of asking the leaders of the city to deliver Sheba to him.

A woman in the city called to Joab and said that she was a woman of peace. She had done nothing evil and so she wanted to know why Joab planned to destroy her and her city. Joab replied that it was not his plan to destroy the city. His plan was to destroy Sheba. Joab told the woman that he would not destroy the city if the people of the city would deliver Sheba to him. The woman replied that they would soon throw the head of Sheba over the wall. As soon as the head came over the wall, Joab gave the command for the men of Judah to return home.

28. Read 2 Samuel 20:1-25 and write where Joab went after the head of Sheba was thrown over the wall to him.
29. Explain what lessons you learn from the way that the Lord led the people of the city to judge Sheba for his rebellion.
30. Explain why you think that the Lord used this wise woman to get the leaders of the city to protect their city by getting the leaders to judge Sheba.

One day a famine came to the land of Israel. This famine lasted for three years. Finally David realized that the Lord must have sent this famine for a purpose. Then David asked the Lord for the reason for the famine. The Lord replied that the famine had come because Saul had killed many Gibeonites even though Israel had made a treaty not to destroy them. Then David went to the Gibeonites to ask them what should be done to make atonement for the sins of Saul. The

Gibeonites replied that they did not want any money or revenge against the nation of Israel as a whole.

31. Read 2 Samuel 21:1-22 and write for what the Gibeonites asked for from the family of Saul.
32. Explain why the Lord brought a famine on the land of Israel because of the sins that Saul had committed against the Gibeonites.
33. Explain why you think that the Lord used a famine to cause Israel to realize that the sins of Saul must be judged.

When the men of Gibeon said that they wanted to be able to hang seven men from the family of Saul, David agreed to honor the request of the Gibeonites. However, he protected Mephibosheth because of the promise that he had made to Jonathan many years earlier. Saul had a concubine by the name of Rizpah who had two sons. Michal, the wife of David, had a sister named Merab and she had five sons by Adriel. As a result, David took the two sons of Rizpah and the five sons of Merab and gave them to the Gibeonites. Then the Gibeonites hanged these seven men together at the beginning of the time of harvest.

34. Read 2 Samuel 21:1-22 and write what Rizpah did when she saw that her two sons had been killed.
35. Explain why the men of Gibeon did not want any punishment of Israel as a whole but just judgment against the family of Saul.
36. Explain why you think that David allowed the Gibeonites to judge the sons of Merab and Rizpah.

In order to show her great sorrow, Rizpah put sackcloth on a rock and then would not allow any birds or animals to get on the sackcloth from the beginning of the barley harvest until the rainy season came several months later. Although David allowed the Gibeonites to judge the seven grandsons of Saul, David also showed kindness. David took the bones of Saul and Jonathan and gave them a proper burial. Then he took the bones of the seven grandsons and buried them also. After David had done these things, the Lord heard the prayer of David and caused the famine to end.

37. Read 2 Samuel 21:1-22 and write what happened to David when he went to fight against the Philistines.
38. Explain why this chapter teaches that God sent a famine on the nation of Israel.
39. Explain why you think that David wanted Saul and his grandsons to have a proper burial of their bones.

The Philistines came to fight against the people of Israel again. While Israel and the Philistines were fighting, David became faint and a giant almost killed David. Then the men of Israel said that David should not go out to fight any more because of his age. These men wanted to protect their king in his old age. The Philistines had four great giants that were fighting for them. These giants were the sons of Goliath. Each of these giants was killed. These verses explain why David took five stones when he went to fight with Goliath many years earlier. He had been prepared in case the sons of Goliath came to help their father.

40. Read 2 Samuel 21:1-22 and write how the four sons of the giant of Gath were killed.
41. Explain why the men of Israel realized that they needed to protect David by not allowing him to go out to the battlefield any more.
42. Explain why you think that many years earlier David had taken five stones when he went to fight against Goliath.

Now reread 2 Samuel 19:1-21:22 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of 1 & 2 Samuel
Lesson 18
2 Samuel 22:1-24:25

Today we will learn about the consequences when choices are made based on pride. God had told Israel that they were never to count the total number of fighting men in the nation of Israel because this would lead to pride. However, David forgot about the warning of God and decided to number of people that were fighting men. As soon as David had numbered the people, he realized that he had sinned. Then God said that David and the nation of Israel must be judged for their sin. God gave David a choice of being judged in three different ways.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

Tell about the song of deliverance of David.

Tell about the last prophecy of David.

Explain the three forms of judgment that the Lord offered to David.

As we finished our last lesson, we read about the deaths of the four sons of Goliath. As a result, David sang a song of deliverance because of the fact that the Lord had delivered him from all of his enemies. During the first half of our lesson today, we will be studying that song of deliverance. This song of deliverance is also repeated in Psalm 18. David began the song by speaking about the fact that the Lord was that the One that had delivered him out of the hand of all his enemies. David realized that the deliverance was not the result of his own strength. David said that the Lord is like a great rock. He is also our protection. He is our strength. He is the One in whom we can place our trust. He is the One that gives us salvation and provides us a place of refuge.

1. Read 2 Samuel 22:1-25 and write why David said that he would call on the Lord and speak to Him.
2. Explain why it was important for David to realize that his deliverance was not the result of his own strength.
3. Explain why you think that it is important for us to realize that the Lord is also our source of protection and strength.

The Lord is so great that He is the One that deserves all of our praise. He is the One that is able to deliver us from all of our enemies. Many times in his life David thought that he would soon die. Then David called to the Lord and the Lord heard his prayer each time that he cried to the Lord. The Lord even used His creation to show the greatness of His power. An earthquake is just a tiny picture of the power of God. In addition, the Lord is able to make the light and the darkness. He is able to use the thunder and the lightning and every other part of His creation to show His power. Since we serve such a great and powerful Lord, David said that He knew that the Lord was able to protect him when he faced all kinds of dangers.

4. Read 2 Samuel 22:1-25 and write from where the Lord thundered.
5. Explain why the power of the Lord shown through things like earthquakes and lightning should remind us of the power of the Lord.
6. Explain why you think that David had learned that the Lord was able to protect him from any kind of danger.

David said that the power of the Lord even reaches down to the channels of the sea. It is only within the past few years that people have learned that there are rivers in the ocean. Here David made mention of that fact three thousand years ago because the Lord had revealed it to him. Many of the new discoveries that people are making were mentioned in the Bible long ago. People would have been able to understand these things if they would have asked the Lord for understanding. Because the power of the Lord is so great, He was able to deliver David from

his strongest enemies without any problem. When the enemies of David came against him, the Lord was his protection and security because David had his trust in the Lord.

7. Read 2 Samuel 22:1-25 and write why David said that the Lord chose to deliver him.
8. Explain why the Lord led the writers of the Bible to write about things that have only been understood by people within the last few years.
9. Explain why you think that David had learned that he did not need to be fearful when his enemies came against him.

The Lord delivered David because He delighted in him. This is also the reason why the Lord gives us eternal life. He gives us that life because He delights in us and chooses us to be His own. In fact the Lord chose us even before He created the world. The Lord also rewarded David because David continued to serve the Lord throughout his life. David had obeyed the commandments of the Lord. Even when David sinned, he had confessed his sin. As a result, the Lord had rewarded him by giving him victory over all of his enemies. The Lord always chooses to reward those who are obedient to the Lord and obey Him.

10. Read 2 Samuel 22:1-25 and write what David said that he would do because the Lord had given him deliverance.
11. Explain why David gives us an example of the importance of being obedient to the Lord throughout our lives.
12. Explain why you think that the Lord led David to write that the Lord delights in us and chooses us.

We go on to read that the Lord will reward a person according to the actions of that person. God will save those who are afflicted and He will bring down those who are proud. The Lord is also the One that gives us light for our pathway. The Lord will guide and lead us and we can know that His way is perfect. The Word of God has also been tested and shown to be true. The Lord protects all those who place their trust in Him. As it tells us in the New Testament, no one can take away the eternal life that He has given us. Because the Lord is the One that had all strength and power, He is able to work in our lives and guide us in the right way. David reminded us that the Lord will also guide our steps.

13. Read 2 Samuel 22:26-51 and write what David said that God had taught his hands.
14. Explain why it is important to know that the Lord will guide and lead us and give us light for our path.
15. Explain why you are thankful because of the fact that you know that no one can take away the eternal life that the Lord has given you.

David even realized that the Lord was the One that had taught him fight against his enemies. The Lord also protected David with His shield of protection when his enemies came against him. The Lord had given David strength to fight against his enemies until he had destroyed them. He had won a total victory because the Lord had been the One that had given him that total victory. In addition, the Lord had also stopped those who rose up against him. The reason David had won great victories over his enemies was due to the fact that they could not look to the Lord for help because they did not have their trust in the Lord.

16. Read 2 Samuel 22:26-51 and write what the Lord did when his own people argued with him.
17. Explain why the Lord gave David total victory over his enemies.
18. Explain why you think that David said that the Lord is the One that taught him to fight against his enemies.

Even when the people of Israel complained against David, the Lord gave David courage and strength. Foreigners of other nations even submitted themselves to David and asked him to rule over them because they realized that the Lord was with David. Because David recognized that the Lord had done so much for him, David wanted all praise to go to the Lord. The Lord was

the One that had lifted David up and had set him over the nation of Israel. Because of all that the Lord had done, David wanted to give thanks and sing praises to the Lord. This was the reason why David sang among the nations.

19. Read 2 Samuel 22:26-51 and write how long he knew that the Lord would show mercy to his family.

20. Explain why people of foreign nations came to David and asked him to rule over their nations.

21. Explain why it is important to you in your own life to express your thanks to the Lord for what he has done for you.

David knew that he was coming to the end of his life. Then the Spirit of the Lord gave David one final message. The Lord then used David to give this final message so that we still have it today. In that message the Lord spoke through David to give us the requirements that are necessary if a man is going to be a good ruler and leader of his people. He must be a just man. He must fear and serve the Lord. He must be a man that is like a beautiful morning. Then David admitted that his own house was not like this. David realized that he had failed many times and in many ways and that this was the reason why part of his sons had turned away from the Lord and rebelled both against David and against the Lord.

22. Read 2 Samuel 23:1-39 and write what God had made with David even though David knew that he had failed many times.

23. Explain why David said that an effective leader must be one that is just and chooses to fear and serve the Lord.

24. Explain why you think that David felt that he had failed many times and in many ways as he had led the people of Israel.

David said that God had showed His great love to David by making this everlasting covenant with David even though David knew that he did not deserve it. Then David gave a warning to those who are worthless men. Worthless men will be thrown away like worthless thorns because no one can take them in their hands. Such men will die by the spear or the sword and their bodies will be burned. Today we also have many people that have no use for the Lord. Their lives have also become worthless lives. These people will also be judged and then they will burn forever.

25. Read 2 Samuel 23:1-239 and write how many men Adino, one of the mighty men of David, had killed at one time.

26. Explain why David gave a warning to those who are living worthless lives and following sin.

27. Explain why it is important for you to explain to those that are living worthless lives the consequences of their choice to continue to live in sin.

David had thirty mighty men that had served him during the time that he was the king. Some of these mighty men had killed several hundred men even though they did not have other soldiers with them as they fought. One time the Philistines had captured the town of Bethlehem. While David was fighting against the Philistines, he made the comment that he wished for a cup of water from the well of Bethlehem. Three of the mighty men of David immediately made a choice. They chose to risk their lives to go through the Philistines to get some water for David from the well. When David saw that these men had risked their lives, he could not drink the water. Instead he poured the water on the ground as a thank offering to the Lord

28. Read 2 Samuel 23:1-39 and write the name of the mighty man that stood in the center of a plot of land and defended it.

29. Explain why three of the mighty men of David were willing to risk their lives to get David some water from the well in Bethlehem.

30. Explain why you think that David poured the water out on the ground after the three men had risked their lives to get the water.

One day David decided to number all of the men in Israel that would be able to serve as soldiers. In 1 Chronicles 21:1 we read that Satan was the one that led David to make this decision to number the soldiers. David ordered Joab to go and make the count. Joab asked David why he wanted to do such a thing. Instead of answering the question of Joab, David told Joab to hurry and start counting the men that could fight for Israel. It took Joab and his men nearly ten months to complete the task of counting all of the men in the land of Israel that were able to fight. Finally Joab returned to David with his report.

31. Read 2 Samuel 24:1-25 and write the total number of soldiers that they counted in Israel and Judah.

32. Explain why it is important to understand that Satan was the one that led David to count the men in Israel that could fight.

33. Explain why you think that David wanted to know how many men in Israel were able to fight.

We see that the army of Israel had more than doubled since the time that Joshua had led the people of Israel into the land. However, David suddenly realized that he had sinned against the Lord by counting the people. He realized that he had done a very foolish thing to disobey God and number the people. Then God sent a prophet to tell David that he could choose one of three ways in which to be punished. He could choose a seven year famine. He could choose three months of fleeing before his enemies. He could choose three days of pestilence in the land.

34. Read 2 Samuel 24:1-25 and write what God said to the Lord when God gave him this choice.

35. Explain why it is important to understand that the Lord gave David three different choices about the way to be judged for his sin.

36. Explain why you think that it is important for all people to understand that they have choices and they need to think of the consequences as they make the choices.

David knew what the people of other nations would do to him if they were given the opportunity. He knew that it would be better to be judged by the Lord. Here we see that David understood that the Lord is merciful while the nations would show no mercy. Then God sent his angel to destroy part of the men of Israel. This angel killed seventy thousand men. When the angel came to the city of Jerusalem, God said that the punishment was enough. Then David spoke to the Lord. He confessed that he had sinned and done evil. He asked the Lord to judge his family instead of judging the entire nation.

37. Read 2 Samuel 24:1-25 and write where the Lord told David to go and build an altar and offer a sacrifice.

38. Explain how the pride of David in this one situation caused him to sin.

39. Explain why you think that David realized that the choice with the least consequences would be to let the Lord judge Israel rather than other nations judge Israel.

The Lord heard David as soon as he said that he had sinned. Then the Lord told David to build an altar on the threshing floor of Araunah and offer a sacrifice. David immediately wanted to buy the property from Araunah. However, Araunah said that he would give the threshing floor to David along with the animals that he needed for sacrifices. David replied that he would not offer to the Lord something that had cost him nothing. David realized that his sin had cost the lives of seventy thousand men and he did not feel that someone else should provide his sacrifice. Then David offered both burnt offerings and peace offerings to the Lord.

40. Read 2 Samuel 24:1-25 and write what happened after David had offered the sacrifice to the Lord.

41. Explain why David felt that he should not offer a sacrifice to the Lord for which he had not paid the price to buy the sacrifice.

42. Explain why you think that it is important in our own lives to confess our sins to the Lord as soon as we realize that we have sinned.

Now reread 2 Samuel 22:1-24:25 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.