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# 1 Samuel

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The book of **1 Samuel** records how Israel became unified under a human king after rejecting God as their king.

Israel's first king was Saul (tall, good-looking, and popular, but without heart or character). When Saul repeatedly disobeyed God, God replaced him with King David who did have a heart for Him.

Israel's second king was David (young, unknown, and inexperienced, but with a heart for God). David pictured Jesus, another relative unknown from Judah who became king.

The final chapters of 1 Samuel record the last days of King Saul as he relentlessly pursued David to kill him and eliminate him

as a successor. King Saul responded to the fear of losing his kingdom by hating, accusing, attacking, and even consulting a medium.

David was under great pressure as well and responded by running in fear, avenging himself in anger, and resting in faith. In the end, David did not need to lift his hand against King Saul or take revenge. God did.

## High-Level Outline

- Failure of the Priesthood, 1-7
- Failure of the First King, 8-15
- Training of the New King, 16-31

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## Personal Reflection and Application

Notice how those who came to join David were the poor, discontented, and distressed (**1Sam 22**). This was the beginning of David's "army" of most unlikely soldiers. They picture the poor, discontented, and distressed who come to Christ. We are Christ's army of unlikely soldiers.

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## Small Group Conversation Guide

In **1Samuel 8**, Israel told Samuel that they wanted a king rule over them. Here are some possible reasons why:

- Samuel's sons were unfit.
- The elders of Israel were more afraid of the world than they were of God.
- They could "see" that other nations had visible leaders and they preferred to trust in what they could see rather than place their trust in an invisible God.
- They wanted someone to fight their battles for them.

Which of the above reasons do you think were at the heart of their insistence on having a human king?

Who or what is "king" in your life?

- What tempts you to fear the world more than God?
- In what ways is it difficult to trust in a God you can't see?
- When have you wished someone would fight your battles for you?

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## Leadership Principles from 1Samuel

### Compare Your Attributes

Consider the leader attributes of Samuel and Jonathan in the following table. List some of your leader attributes.

<i>Samuel's Leader Attributes</i>	<i>Jonathan's Leader Attributes</i>	<i>My Leader Attributes</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Honest and fair (<b>1Sam 12:3-4</b>)</li><li>• Taught others (<b>1Sam 12:7-23</b>)</li><li>• Confronted others (<b>1Sam 12:5-12</b>)</li><li>• Never gave up (<b>1Sam 12:20-24</b>)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Led the way (<b>1Sam 14:6-13</b>)</li><li>• Trusted God (<b>1Sam 14:6</b>)</li><li>• Got buy-in (<b>1Sam 14:7</b>)</li><li>• Made a plan (<b>1Sam 14:8-10</b>)</li></ul>	

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## Something to Find in Each Chapter

As you read through the book, it may help to have something to find in each chapter.  
Try these:

01. What Hannah prayed for and gave fully to the Lord	02. How the Jewish people were aware of resurrection
03. How a child needed help to recognize God's voice	04. How it was God, not the ark, which assured victory
05. How Dagon (a false idol) bowed down before the ark	06. What happened to the people who looked in the ark
07. What Samuel told Israel to do to return to the Lord	08. Why the people wanted a king (Deu 17:14-20)
09. What Saul's strengths were when he first appeared	10. What Saul was doing when he was to become king
11. How Saul convinced the tribes to join him in battle	12. How Samuel viewed Israel's request for a king
13. How Saul justified disobediendly offering a sacrifice	14. How Jonathan's leadership differed from Saul's
15. How Saul justified disobediendly sparing the enemy	16. How God sees people differently than we often do
17. What David trusted more than a sword or spear	18. Why King Saul began to be suspicious of David
19. How Michal helped David escape from Saul	20. How Jonathan confirmed that David was in danger
21. What weapon David ironically trusted to defend him	22. Why David felt responsible for the priests' deaths
23. What event caused Saul to stop chasing David	24. What David did to Saul instead of killing him
25. How Abigail convinced David to not seek revenge	26. Why David warned Abishai not to hurt King Saul
27. Where David fled to avoid King Saul	28. Why God stopped answering King Saul
29. Why David did not fight alongside the Philistines	30. Where David found strength when greatly stressed
31. How Saul died	