

# The Story of 1 Samuel

A 40-Day Guided Journey through 1 Samuel



DailyLife  
Five Oaks Church  
Week 6: June 13-19

# Day 1

June 15



*Pray / As you open today, thank God for his provision in good times and in bad.*

God can be trusted to provide for his people, and those provisions are most precious in times of desperation.

Despite being anointed as the future king of Israel, David's life couldn't seem to be going in a more opposite direction. He literally is in a nonstop run for his life. There are times in life when desperation begets desperation because it seems it will never end. David has reached this point. What else could explain lying to a priest, escaping to his enemies, the Philistines, and pretending to be a crazy man?

But God has not abandoned David. He is right there to provide for David's needs, regardless of David's flimsy lies and crazy behavior. From the food and sword provided by Ahimelech to the escape from Gath to the companionship and safety of his family to the forming of his ragtag army, God provided for the needs of David in his perfect time.



*Read / 1 Samuel 21:1–15; 22:1–5*



*Reflect / Choose one of the following questions for reflection*

Can you relate to the desperation that would drive a chosen child of God to do the things that David did? Reflect on a situation like that in your life, or in the life of someone you know. How did God's provision provide a way out?

Why do you think God permitted this level of stress and desperation to develop in David's life? Reflect on the stress and desperation in your life. What might God be saying to you through those situations?

Are you a follower of Jesus Christ?

- If so, what provision did God put into your life that brought you into a relationship with him? Reflect on those provisions and how you might be able share your story with others.
- If not, consider what's holding you back. The life of David is a testament to God's faithfulness to those who trust in him. Is it time to put your trust in him?

## *Day 2*

*June 16*



*Pray / Tell God how much you love him. Praise him for never leaving your side.*

Your true source of strength and confidence is revealed most clearly during times of desperation, when your own strength is not sufficient.

David is credited with writing at least seventy-four of the 150 chapters in the book of Psalms. Many of these psalms were written during times of high emotion, both positive and negative, in David's life. Two psalms in particular are linked to David's experiences in 1 Samuel 21.

You might expect that in these times of extreme desperation and stress, David is crying to God for help, or even questioning whether there is a God. In fact, the opposite is true. David's confidence in God's strength and provision and in the wisdom of his plan is unshaken. David expresses praise for the greatness of God and all He has done. He confirms that his ultimate trust rests in God's promises.



*Read / Psalms 34 and 56*



*Reflect / Choose one of the following questions for reflection*

Reflect on the words of David in Psalm 34:22: “The Lord redeems the life of his servants; none of those who take refuge in him will be condemned.” What does taking refuge in the Lord God look like in your life?

The key word of Psalm 56 is *trust*. Twice in that chapter, David uses words similar to this: *In God I trust. I will not be afraid. What can man (or flesh) do to me?* Are there aspects of your life in which you live in fear of the people around you and what they might say or do if you truly lived your entire life for Christ? How can the life and writings of David help you step out in courage in all aspects of your life?

David’s life and actions didn’t just put him in harm’s way; his family and the people he encountered were exposed as well. While David was clearly concerned for their well-being, he didn’t allow risk to those around him prevent him from following God’s instructions. Do you ever hold back on taking a risk for God because how it might impact your family or friends? Do you trust God enough to care for them too?

# Day 3

June 17



*Pray / Ask God to speak to you through his Word, the Bible*

God's will is accomplished through his entire creation: the good, the bad, and the ugly. God's people will suffer here on Earth. God always preserves a remnant.

The depth of the depravity and insecurity that has taken over Saul's mind and life is revealed in his treatment of the priests of Nob. Ahimelech the priest speaks nothing but truth to Saul, attempting to bring reason back into focus, but Saul is having none of it. He can only see the growing evidence that God is with David and not with him. Saul's weak position becomes more apparent when his own soldiers will not obey his order to kill the priests, and he must use his foreign mercenary, Doeg the Edomite, to do his dirty work.

In situations like this, it's difficult to discern God's will, but those who trust God in good times must also trust him in bad times. Here that trust is bolstered by the escape of the priest Abiathar—God was preserving a remnant.



*Read / 1 Samuel 22:6–23*



*Reflect* / Choose one of the following questions for reflection

Dale Ralph Davis in his book, *First Samuel: Looking on the Heart*, classifies Saul as an antichrist—not the Antichrist, with a capital A, but a human who prefigures the characteristics of the final Antichrist with characteristics like false teachings and entering into conflict with God’s people.<sup>1</sup> What antichrists do you observe in the world today? Given that God’s will is accomplished through his entire creation, what should your attitude be toward these antichrists? Are you there?

Ahimelech was put into a very difficult position by both David and Saul. What is your assessment of his performance? What lessons from his behavior can you apply to your life?

Are there times in your life when you can relate to Saul’s perception that everyone around you is against you, or at best, just operating for their own personal benefit? As a child of Christ, on what resources do you have to draw in order to overcome the situation and return to living the life that God intended for you?

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<sup>1</sup>. Dale Ralph Davis, *First Samuel: Looking on the Heart* (Fearn, Scotland: Christian Focus Publications, 2000), 226–227.

# Day 4

June 18



*Pray / Thank God for sending Jesus, our Savior and High Priest,  
providing us a path directly to God.*

Staying on the path that God would have you travel requires constant interaction with him. If your heart is true, God will always make his will clear in his time.

Bolstered by the arrival of Abiathar, the safety of his parents and the support of his ragtag army, David has shaken off fear and desperation and is back to doing what God has called him to do: protecting God's people.

Even though they are called to much the same purpose, the contrast between Saul and David continues to become more and more apparent. In particular we see that David does not take a major action without consulting with God—and God answers—while Saul seems to have lost his way and is completely disconnected from God. The path of God's plan for David to be the king of Israel is becoming clearer.



*Read / 1 Samuel 23:1–13*



*Reflect / Choose one of the following questions for reflection*

The arrival of Abiathar in the camp of David, with the ephod, is significant and symbolic. Abiathar was the last remaining priest from Nob, and the ephod was the symbol of the priesthood in Israel. Priests were the conduit through which the Israelites communicated with God, and the remaining priest was aligned with David. God is clearly signaling a shift here. How did the role of priests change following Jesus' death and resurrection (Hebrews 4:14–16)? What does the communication path to God look like today?

David was clearly in close communication with God. It seems as if David was in God's presence because the answers came back so quickly and so clearly. Today we often refer to prayer as entering God's presence. When you pray, are you able to discern God's presence? What steps can you take to make that more real?

Having a clear understanding of the purpose of prayer is critical to making prayer a meaningful part of your life. Are you crystal clear as to why you pray? Take a few minutes to truly reflect on the purpose of prayer. If it's not clear, find a trusted friend to discuss this with, or make it a priority to read a book like *A Praying Life* by Paul Miller.

# Day 5

June 19



*Pray / Thank God that he loves you unconditionally.*

God's provision comes in so many forms and is so plentiful that we often take it for granted and forget the source.

David's reward for defeating the Philistines at Keilah is to go back on the run, before the very people he saved turn him over to Saul. While on the run, David is able to connect with Jonathan, Saul's son and David's close friend. This friendship was truly unique and surely a source of great encouragement for David.

While hiding in the wilderness of Ziph, the Ziphites betrayed David to Saul and allowed Saul to nearly capture David. At the very moment when David's capture seemed to be assured, Saul received word of an attack by the Philistines in another area, causing him to break off his pursuit of David. When even the Philistines can be used as a tool in God's purposes and provision, you can be assured that God is in control.



*Read / 1 Samuel 23:14–28*



*Reflect / Choose one of the following questions for reflection*

God's provision often takes the form of an encourager who helps someone who has lost his or her way find it back. Jonathan filled that role for David. Barnabas is seen as taking that role for the early church (Acts 4:36; 11:22–24). How have encouragers impacted your life? Is God calling you to be the encourager?

God's provision can also take the form of circumstances—the right place at the right time. That is not fate; that is God. What unique circumstances have influenced your life direction? Were there seemingly bad things that turned out to be for the best? Were there near-misses that offered a second chance or a fresh perspective on God?

True contentment and gratitude flows from a real awareness of all of God's provisions. Take a few minutes to write down a list of some of God's provisions in your life. Reflect on God's trustworthiness. How can you make this awareness a permanent part of your life?

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