

Introduction to Samuel

The books of 1 & 2 Samuel were actually written as one book. 1 & 2 Samuel show Israel's transition from many tribes to a unified kingdom under a king. It is also here where we will see God's promise to establish an eternal kingdom for David. Its background lies in a time where the Israelites were unfaithful to God and broke their covenant (promise) with God. There was chaos, and evil was common among people.

Icebreaker

What do you think about prayer? Does it work? Does God always hear our prayers?

When you are going through a difficult time, what quality do you most appreciate from a friend?

Pray

Ask God to help us understand, accept and obey His word even when it is challenging or hard.

Read 1 Samuel 1:1-28 (map behind)

1. Are there any difficult words?
2. Who are the main characters here? Draw out a relationship diagram for all the characters.
3. What was Hannah's problem? How did Hannah feel about it? (v.5-8, 10, 16)
4. What did Hannah do to try to change her situation? (v.10-12, 15-16)
5. Why do you think Hannah's face was no longer downcast after she prayed? (v.18)
6. What does it mean for God to 'remember'? (v.11, 19)

Priest: person who is responsible for offering sacrifices to God for Israel, and they represented the people before God.

Vow: a promise; swear an oath.

Misery: feeling of great physical or mental discomfort.

Anguish; grief: great pain or suffering; great sadness.

Weaned: the baby is no longer dependent on mother's milk (6 months to 3 years for Israel).

Deliverance: to set free, rescue.

Barren: unable to give birth.

Pines away: becoming weak because of sadness or loss.

Exalts: Raise to a higher position; give honour.

Anointed: God's chosen; God's king.

7. **Read 1 Samuel 2:1-10.** How does Hannah describe God in her prayer?

God's character	Actions towards the faithful	Actions towards the wicked

8. What from God's character stands out to you?

a. How do you think this helped Hannah during her time of suffering and grief?

9. Think of a very difficult time in your life (now or in the past). If you were to know and hold onto one of God's characteristics above...

a. How would it change the way you faced that difficulty?

b. How would it change the way you pray? (you don't need to go into detail about your difficulty)

10. Think of a friend who is going through a difficult time now, how can you use these characteristics of God that you learned today to encourage them? *Do it* in the next few days!

Talk Notes

Turning to God because he rules over all

God as our deliverer (v.1-3)

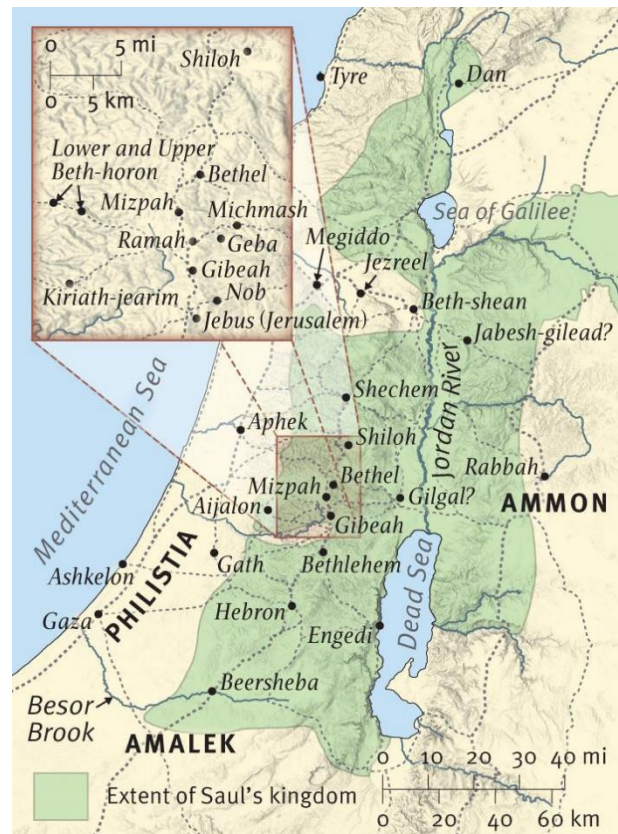
God as our Sovereign King (v.4-8)

God saves through his King (v.9-10)

How will you respond to God who rescues and guards his people?

Turn to God

Remember the signs that point to Jesus' deliverance on the Cross





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Our Sovereign God Hears

1 Samuel 1-2:10