

A DAY WITH THE KING

This week our study is about Saul and the unwise choices he made.



Torchlight

“When called to the throne, Saul had a humble opinion of his own capabilities, and was willing to be instructed.... Had he remained humble, seeking constantly to be guided by divine wisdom, he would have been enabled to discharge the duties of his high position with success and honor.”
– Patriarchs & Prophets pp. 632, 633

A DAY WITH THE KING



A Rebellious Heart



SUNDAY

LET'S PRAY Dear Lord, thank You for my good night's rest. Be with me today and keep me safe. Help me to help someone else today and show kindness to them. I love you Lord. In Jesus' name, Amen.

MEMORY VERSE - PROVERBS 16:18, 19

“Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall. Better to be of a humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud.”

THERE'S **POWER** IN THE WORD!

LET'S READ:

1 Samuel 13:1-15



LET'S THINK ABOUT THIS

Our reading today tells us that, in the second year of Saul's reign as king, his son Jonathan decided to go up and attack the Philistine garrison at Geba, and he was successful. War was declared and Saul called all his men to fight. But when the Israelites saw how big the Philistine army was, most of them ran away and hid. Samuel had previously and specifically told Saul that he had to wait seven days at Gilgal before going to war, so Samuel could come and offer a sacrifice to God for protection and victory. But verse 9 tells us that Saul went ahead and made the offering because he was impatient. As soon as he had made it, Samuel turned up and, instead of repenting for his actions, Saul only offered excuses. During the seven days of waiting, Saul should have encouraged the remaining six hundred men and led them to seek God's forgiveness, thus preparing them for Samuel's arrival to make the divine sacrifice.



God was testing Saul's faithfulness and obedience in times of trial. God does that with us as well. Check out these verses in *Zechariah 13:9*, *1 Peter 1:6-7*, and *1 Corinthians 16:13*.

FIND AND FINISH THIS VERSE - 1 SAMUEL 13:_____

“Then he waited seven days, according to the time set by _____.
_____ _____ _____ _____ _____;
_____ _____ _____.”

WHAT DID YOU LEARN TODAY WITH THE KING?





MONDAY

LET'S PRAY Dear Father, thank You for sending Jesus to die on the cross for my sins. Please forgive me, Lord, for the things I have done wrong. Help me to grow stronger in my faith everyday so I can be faithful to You even when life is hard and difficult. In Jesus' name, Amen.

MEMORY VERSE - PROVERBS 16:18, 19

“Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall. Better to be of a humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud.”

THERE'S **POWER** IN THE WORD!

LET'S READ:

1 Samuel 13:16-23



LET'S THINK ABOUT THIS

In our reading today the Bible tells us that Saul, his son Jonathan, and the six hundred men marched west to Gibeah, which lay opposite the Philistine army at Michmash, with only a deep valley, or ravine, between them. Verse 19 tells us that the Philistines had banned the Children of Israel from having blacksmiths to prevent them from making weapons of war. Because of this the Israelites had to go to the Philistine blacksmiths to get their farming implements sharpened. They were now going into a battle with the Philistines with no weapons except the bow and arrow. Saul and Jonathan were the only two Israelite men with a sword and spear.

We have read before how God had used His people with the very little they had to win a battle. God can also win for us the battles we struggle with everyday. We don't have to have a lot of resources, we just have to trust and be obedient to Him and He will fight our battles for us, if we just let Him. Check out these following verses. *2 Chronicles 20:15*, *1 Samuel 17:47*, and *Deuteronomy 1:29-30*.



FIND AND FINISH THIS VERSE - 1 SAMUEL 13:_____

“But all the Israelites would go down to the Philistines to sharpen each _____, _____, _____, _____.”

WHAT DID YOU LEARN TODAY WITH THE KING?





TUESDAY

LET'S PRAY Dear God, thank You for loving me so much. Thank You for the food You provide for me to eat and the clothes I have to wear. Please be with the children around the world that are alone, hungry, and have no one to love and care for them. Help me to be thankful and grateful. In Jesus' name, Amen.

MEMORY VERSE - PROVERBS 16:18, 19

“Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall. Better to be of a humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud.”

THERE'S **POWER** IN THE WORD!

LET'S READ:

1 Samuel 14:1-23



LET'S THINK ABOUT THIS

Our reading today talks about Saul's son, Jonathan. Because of Saul's unrepentant heart, God was going to use someone else to have the honour of defeating the Philistines. Jonathan was a man of faith and was moved by the Holy Spirit, so he believed that God could deliver them. Without Saul knowing, Jonathan and his servant made their way down the rocky ravine. Jonathan and his servant agreed on a sign and asked God to show them how to proceed. The sign came when the Philistines caught sight of them and told them to 'come up to us'. Jonathan and his servant climbed back up the ravine on the Philistine side, in an area thought to be too difficult to access, and made a surprise attack. Verse 15 tells



us that the earth quaked, which Mrs White says were the angels of heaven fighting for them. Meanwhile, a watchman came up to Saul and informed him that something strange was happening over in the Philistine encampment. Saul called his men together and they went to fight. But, in the surprise and confusion of Jonathan's attack, the Philistines were already attacking one another. The Philistines fled and the Israelites followed in pursuit.

God can cause the enemy to destroy itself. The Bible warns us to walk with the Lord on His path so we can avoid destruction. Check out *Mathew 7:13-14* and *Psalms 16:11*.

FIND AND FINISH THIS VERSE - 1 SAMUEL 14:_____

“Then Saul and all the people who were with him assembled, and they went to the battle; and indeed _____
_____, _____.”

WHAT DID YOU LEARN TODAY WITH THE KING?





WEDNESDAY

LET'S PRAY Dearest Heavenly Father, thank You for all the wonderful truths I'm learning in the Bible. They help me walk closer with You. Please show me the path You wish me to follow. I want to be wise in my decision-making, so please help me with the day-to-day choices I make.
In Jesus' name, Amen.

MEMORY VERSE - PROVERBS 16:18, 19

“Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall. Better to be of a humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud.”

THERE'S **POWER** IN THE WORD!

LET'S READ:

1 Samuel 14:24-35



LET'S THINK ABOUT THIS

Our reading today tells us that Saul, seeing they had an opportunity to chase the distressed Philistines and drive them out of the country, makes two very unwise and rash statements. In verse 24 he makes a command about not eating anything that day, which was totally unreasonable for tired, hungry soldiers whom he expected to fight all day. And the second statement, in verse 24, says “before I have vengeance on my enemies.” Saul wanted to take the full glory of this successful battle for himself; he would not share it with man or God. Jonathan was unaware of the order of not to eat so, while passing through the forest, he ate some honey. At the end of the day when the command to not eat had expired, the



Israelite men fell upon the animals they had captured and started eating the meat with the blood still in it, as they were so hungry. We have studied before in a previous devotional that in Leviticus 7:26-27, God had expressly commanded the Israelites not to eat any meat with the blood still in it. The soldiers, because of Saul's unwise orders, had committed a terrible wrong against God.

Pride had taken possession of Saul's heart and was causing him to make silly decisions that were showing that he didn't think of other people's needs. Saul was only concerned about himself. Always try to remember others. Think about someone else's needs today.

FIND AND FINISH THIS VERSE - 1 SAMUEL 14:_____

“ _____
_____ to Aijalon. So the people were very faint.”

WHAT DID YOU LEARN TODAY WITH THE KING?





THURSDAY

LET'S PRAY Dear Lord, thank You for my Mum and Dad and the things they do for me. Help me to have a humble spirit and to keep pride out of my heart. I want to think more about others and not be so selfish. Please change my heart. In Jesus' name, Amen.

MEMORY VERSE - PROVERBS 16:18, 19

“Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall. Better to be of a humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud.”

THERE'S **POWER** IN THE WORD!

LET'S READ:

1 Samuel 14:36-52



LET'S THINK ABOUT THIS

After the Israelite soldiers had satisfied their hunger, our reading tells us that Saul wanted to continue the battle into the night. The priest encouraged Saul to ask God first as to the course to pursue. But God did not answer Saul's inquiry. Instead of thinking that perhaps God did not want them to go or that God was displeased with his behaviour, Saul blamed his army instead. He asked his army if a sin had been committed that day. Saul found out that Jonathan, not aware of his father's command of not eating that day, had eaten some honey. He demanded that, because of this, his son must die. Saul's army refused to carry out this demand. They told him that if God had not worked through Jonathan, they would not have been successful in battle.

Saul's silly decisions were making him look bad. His thirst for power and control were overruling his wise decision-making. Also, Saul would not take ownership of his mistakes but instead would blame others. I wonder if the Israelites were starting to see their mistake in demanding a king? Think about Samuel's character and Saul's character. Can you see any differences? It's something to think about.



FIND AND FINISH THIS VERSE - 1 SAMUEL 14:_____

“The sons of Saul were Jonathan, Jishui, and Malchishua. And the names of his two _____: _____.”

WHAT DID YOU LEARN TODAY WITH THE KING?





FRIDAY

LET'S PRAY Dear Father, thank You for keeping me safe this past week. Please help me to be faithful and obedient to You. Help me understand what I read in the Bible today. In Jesus' name, Amen.

MEMORY VERSE - PROVERBS 16:18, 19

“Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall. Better to be of a humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud.”

THERE'S **POWER** IN THE WORD!

LET'S READ:

1 Samuel 15:1-9



LET'S THINK ABOUT THIS

God, in his love and mercy, wanted to give Saul another chance to prove that he could be faithful and obedient. Four hundred years before, when the children of Israel had left Egypt, the Amalekites had attacked the Israelites. The Amalekites were a fierce warlike people who committed terrible idolatry. God now instructed Saul to destroy them. This attack was to be wholly on behalf of God as it was prophesied in Deuteronomy 25:19. Samuel gave Saul strict instructions on how it was to be carried out. When Saul arrived with his two hundred and ten thousand men, he advised the Kenites to leave, as they had proved themselves a kind people who had helped the Israelites when they left Egypt. Verses 8-9 tell us that Saul



didn't do everything that God told him to do. Saul had kept King Agag alive and had also kept the best of their animals. God had told him in verse 3 to destroy it all. Saul's prideful heart wanted to parade the evil king in their victorious return so Saul would be honoured. This was a custom of the surrounding nations. But this was God's battle and all honour was to go to Him, not to Saul.

God is merciful and longsuffering. He had given the Amalekites four hundred years to repent and turn from their evil ways, but they had chosen not to. What God had commanded Saul to do through Samuel was one of God's 'strange acts' as found in Isaiah 28:21. Read these following verses to find out more: *Exodus 34:6-7*, *Ezekiel 33:11*, and *Nahum 1:3*.

FIND AND FINISH THIS VERSE - 1 SAMUEL 15:_____

“So Saul gathered the people together and numbered them in Telaim,
_____”
_____.”

WHAT DID YOU LEARN TODAY WITH THE KING?





SABBATH

LET'S PRAY Dear God, thank You for another Sabbath day where I can rest and learn more about You. Help me to be patient and kind towards others as I know that You show patience and kindness to me. Please forgive me for my sins. In Jesus' name, Amen.

MEMORY VERSE - PROVERBS 16:18, 19

“Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall. Better to be of a humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud.”

THERE'S **POWER** IN THE WORD!

LET'S READ:

1 Samuel 15:10-35



THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

In our reading today the Bible tells us that Samuel had a difficult job to do. Samuel loved Saul as his own son. Samuel had taken him under his wing and tried to teach him to love and obey God. Verse 11 tells us that when God told Samuel that He was sorry He made Saul king, Samuel cried out all night. This meant that Samuel had prayed all night for a different outcome. When Samuel had arrived to confront Saul about his disobedience, Saul told Samuel he had done everything that God had asked him to do. Samuel knew that Saul had lied as he could hear the animals making noises in the background. Saul had kept the best of the Amalekite animals so he and his men did not have to give up their own animals as a sacrifice to God. When Samuel told Saul that God had rejected him as king, Saul, in desperation, blamed his people and made a half-hearted attempt at repentance. But Saul was not truly sorry for his sin. He only repented because of the penalty of his sin – losing the honour of handing down the kingship through his family line. That honour was to go to someone else. The tragic thing was that Samuel and Saul never met up again. Verse 35 tells us that Samuel mourned for Saul.



SABBATH QUIZ

1. What did Saul do in chapter 13 that Samuel should have done?

2. Who were the only two people in Israel that had a sword and spear?

3. What did the earth do when Jonathan and his armour bearer invaded the Philistine camp? _____
4. What did Jonathan eat, unaware that there was a command not to eat any food? _____
5. What did Samuel hear in the background when talking to Saul?
