

WEEK 14 — SAUL AND DAVID

Date: about 1052-1011 BC

The Story: God, with some reservation, selects a man to be Israel's first legitimate king: Saul, who is reluctant at first, but later takes such pride in his position that he turns away from God as his own King. God therefore rejects Saul and chooses someone else to be king: a young man, David. David is faithful to God, and God immediately begins to show his power in David's life. He gives David victory over the giant Goliath, then over Israel's enemies repeatedly. Saul becomes afraid of David's rise in popularity and tries to kill him; David has to flee for his life. Some of David's psalms date from this period in his life; in them we hear him express his dependence on God and his desperate need for God's help.

* Kids' readings may not align with the daily full readings. Parents, see the content ratings on the back page.

APRIL 3 1 SAMUEL 8-10

Today's reading relates the story of Saul to be Israel's first legitimate king. Israel's request for a king displeases God, because God alone is to be the nation's king. Nevertheless, God grants their request—but Saul is hesitant, afraid. Will he really be able to lead Israel?

Date: about 1052 BC

In a hurry? 10-minute reading: 1 Samuel 8-10

Kids' Reading*: 1 Samuel 8:1 to 9:10

APRIL 4 1 SAMUEL 11:1 to 13:22

Today's reading finds Saul growing into the role of king. He rescues the city of Jabesh Gilead from an enemy siege, and the nation confirms him as king. The prophet Samuel, the de facto leader of Israel before Saul, retires from his leadership position. But then Saul dishonors God by disobeying him, and Samuel prophesies that God will give Saul's kingdom to someone else.

Date: about 1052 to sometime before 1023 BC

In a hurry? 10-minute reading: 1 Samuel 11:1 to 13:22

Kids' Reading*: 1 Samuel 9:11 to 10:27

APRIL 5 1 SAMUEL 13:23 to 15:35

Today's reading mounts sorrow upon sorrow as King Saul demonstrates both folly and unfaithfulness to God—folly that mars the heroic action of his son, Jonathan; and unfaithfulness that brings Samuel to declare that God has torn the kingdom of Israel from Saul and given it to someone better.

Date: sometime between roughly 1052 and 1023 BC

In a hurry? 10-minute reading: 1 Samuel 13:23 to 14:23 • 1 Samuel 15

Kids' Reading*: 1 Samuel 16:1 to 17:11

APRIL 6 1 SAMUEL 16-17

Today's reading marks a shift in God's work in Israel. God sends Samuel to anoint the next king: David, a shepherd boy. Immediately David's life changes. He begins to work in the royal court, rising even as Saul's position is falling. And he courageously confronts the Philistine giant Goliath in battle, putting God's power on display and saving Israel. But what will Saul think of Israel's new hero?

Date: probably between about 1030 and 1020 BC

In a hurry? 10-minute reading: 1 Samuel 17

Kids' Reading*: 1 Samuel 17:12-58

DAILY BIBLE READINGS — Summit View Church of Christ

APRIL 7 1 SAMUEL 18-20

Today's reading contrasts Saul and his son Jonathan in both their relationship with God and their relationship with God's newly-anointed, David. Saul fears David and tries to kill him; Jonathan loves him and works to preserve his life. David must stay on the run. Saul continues to drift further and further from God.

Date: between roughly 1025 and 1011 BC

In a hurry? 10-minute reading: 1 Samuel 18-19

Kids' Reading*: Psalm 34 • 1 Samuel 21

APRIL 8 PSALM 59 • 1 SAMUEL 21-22 • PSALM 34 • PSALM 52

Today's reading introduces the earliest datable psalms of David. Biblical psalms are songs, prayers, or teachings set to poetry; originally, they were often (maybe always) sung to music. The introductions to today's psalms set them in this period of David's life, as he continually flees from Saul. Their contents give us a peek at David's heart: how he pleads with God for help and faithfully looks to God for his strength. Meanwhile, in 1 Samuel, David continues to elude Saul's bloodthirsty hunt.

Date: between roughly 1020 and 1011 BC

In a hurry? 10-minute reading: Psalm 59 • 1 Samuel 21-22 • Psalm 34

Kids' Reading*: Psalm 57 • Psalm 142

APRIL 9 PSALMS 56-57 • PSALM 142 • 1 SAMUEL 23-24

Today's reading includes more of David's psalms alongside the stories of his gradual rise to power, even as he hides from Saul. In today's psalms, David cries out to God for mercy that will save him from the enemies pursuing him. In 1 Samuel, David's character comes into contrast with Saul's. Saul, who should be protecting Israel from the Philistines, is obsessed with killing David. But David, even on the run, rescues an Israelite city from the Philistines and even spares Saul's own life.

Date: between roughly 1020 and 1011 BC

In a hurry? 10-minute reading: Psalm 56 • Psalm 142 • 1 Samuel 23-24

Kids' Reading*: 1 Samuel 24

Parents' Guide

PG preview for young children

1S 11:2 (V), 7 (V), 11 (V)

1S 14:6 (C), 13-14 (V), 20 (V), 30-31 (V), 32-34 (T), 36 (V)

1S 15:7-9 (V), 15 (V), 18 (V), 20 (V), 33 (V)

1S 17:26 (C), 36 (C), 40-57 (V)

1S 18:10-11 (V), 25-27 (S, V)

1S chapter 19 (T)

1S 19:8-17 (V), 24 (N)

1S 20:1-34 (T), 33 (V)

1S 23:5 (V)

1S chapter 24 (T)

Ps 52:1-7 (T)

Ps 59:1-15 (T)

PG-13 preview for under age 13

1S 15:2-3 (V)

1S 22:17-19 (V)

R shocking, graphic, or disturbing

none

*C = Circumcision
N = Nudity
S = Sexuality
T = Dark/Sensitive Themes
V = Violence*