

1 SAMUEL 11-16

WEEK IN REVIEW + FAMILY GUIDE

WEEK IN REVIEW

In this section of 1 Samuel, we see a clear comparison between the character of Saul and the character of David. As a reminder, the Israelites in their hard hearts wanted a king, which was a decision rooted in a lack of trust in God. However, God gave them what they desired, and appointed Saul as king. We see Saul confirmed as king, however he quickly turns from God and makes some tragic mistakes. Saul's first act as king and one of his most notable mistakes takes place in 1 Samuel 13. The **Philistines** (Israel's enemies) gathered to fight against Israel. Samuel (the prophet) asked Saul to wait for him in Gilgal, because Samuel would come to offer a sacrifice before the army went to battle. Days went by. Samuel was taking longer than expected and Saul started to become impatient and anxious. Their enemy was near and the soldiers were gripped with fear.

Saul decided to take matters into his own hands and gave a **burnt offering**. This burnt offering was a sacrifice he gave to the Lord in order to receive His blessing. Immediately after, Samuel arrived. If he had only waited a little bit longer, Samuel, who was the one who was allowed to offer sacrifices would have been able to do it. Saul acted in disobedience out of fear and lack of trust in God. God is holy and had specific requirements for how he was to be worshiped. The sacrifice for Saul was a means to an end, not an act of worship. Saul was ruled by his feelings and rushed a holy process that he was not allowed to do because he was fearful and panicked. We can be similar to Saul in this way oftentimes! The Lord removed His blessing from Saul, and there would be an anointing of a new king.

1 Samuel 16 recounts the anointing of a shepherd boy named David. Samuel went to the house of Jesse, and the Lord said to Samuel "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart." Samuel went through all the sons of Jesse and determined that they weren't the chosen one. He comes across the youngest, David, who was tending the sheep. Samuel decided David was the one who would be king. Saul on the outside looked like the right man to be king, however he didn't fear the Lord. In contrast, David was a man after God's own heart. We see that God cares more about the state of our heart, as opposed to our physical strength and worldly status.

FAMILY GUIDE

BIG IDEA:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● God doesn't look at the outward appearance, but at the heart
KEY STORIES:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Saul defeats Ammonites ● Saul's disobedience ● God rejects Saul ● David anointed as king
KEY VERSES:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 1 Samuel 13:14 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ "But now your kingdom will not endure; the Lord has sought out a man after his own heart and appointed him ruler of his people..." ● 1 Samuel 15:22 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ "But Samuel replied: 'Does the Lord delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the Lord? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams.'" ● 1 Samuel 16:7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ "The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."
WORDS TO KNOW:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Philistines <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Israel's enemies ● Burnt Offering <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A sacrifice given representing devotion to God

Reflection Questions

1.	What was Saul supposed to wait for in 1 Samuel 13?
2.	What did Saul do instead of waiting for Samuel? Why was this sinful?
3.	Who would be the king to replace Saul?
4.	What does God rejecting Saul and anointing David as king teach us about what God values most?