

1 SAMUEL 23-28

WEEK IN REVIEW + FAMILY GUIDE

WEEK IN REVIEW

David hears that the town of **Keilah** (a city David saves from the Philistines) is being attacked by enemies. He asks the Lord if he should help, and God says yes. David saves the city, but then learns that King Saul is coming to capture him. David escapes with his men into the wilderness, and Saul keeps pursuing him, but God protects David from harm.

While David is hiding from Saul, he takes refuge in various places in the desert. One day, David hides in a cave, and Saul enters the same cave without knowing David is there. David has the perfect chance to hurt Saul but chooses not to—he only cuts a piece of Saul's robe because Saul is God's **anointed** (someone God has placed in a position of authority for a specific reason by His sovereignty). After Saul leaves the cave, David comes out and calls after him. He shows Saul the piece of robe and explains what he did. David tells Saul that he had a great opportunity to hurt him, but didn't because he was chosen by God to be the king. Saul is moved by David's **mercy** (not getting what you deserve) and says David is more righteous than himself.

Later, David asks a rich man named Nabal for help, but Nabal refuses. David is angry and wants to take **vengeance** (punishment or revenge done to someone because of a wrongdoing) on Nabal, but Nabal's wise wife, Abigail, begs David to have mercy. She brings food and gifts and speaks kindly to David, reminding him not to act out of anger. David listens to Abigail, Nabal dies, and David marries Abigail. Not long after, Saul pursues David again. This time, David and one of his men sneak into Saul's camp at night. They find Saul asleep and take his spear and water jug while Saul sleeps. Again, David refuses to hurt Saul, Saul repents and blesses David, acknowledging that David will surely be king one day.

Eventually, David seeks safety from Saul among the Philistines, Israel's enemies. He pretends to be aligned with them, and the Philistine king lets him stay in a town called Ziklag. David secretly continues to fight for Israel while living there. He fools the Philistines into thinking he is attacking Israelite towns, when he is actually attacking Israel's enemies. Saul is afraid of the Philistine army and asks for guidance from God, but God doesn't give him guidance. Saul visits a **medium** (someone who talks to spirits). She helps him speak with the spirit of the prophet Samuel, who tells Saul that he has disobeyed God lots of times and that his time as king is coming to an end. Samuel tells Saul that both he and his sons will die in battle the next day, and that David will become the next king of Israel.

FAMILY GUIDE

BIG IDEA:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● God calls us to be peacemakers!
KEY STORIES:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● David spares Saul ● David, Nabal, and Abigail ● Saul and a medium
KEY VERSES:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 1 Samuel 23:14 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ "Saul sought him every day, but God did not deliver him into his hand." ● 1 Samuel 25:39 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ "Blessed be the Lord, who has pleaded the cause of my reproach from the hand of Nabal..." ● 1 Samuel 27:1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ "Now I shall perish someday by the hand of Saul. There is nothing better for me than that I should speedily escape to the land of the Philistines..."
WORDS TO KNOW:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Anointed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Someone God has placed in a position of authority for a specific reason by His sovereignty ● Mercy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Not getting what you deserve ● Vengeance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Punishment or revenge done to someone because of a wrongdoing ● Medium <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Someone who talks to spirits

Reflection Questions

1.	How do you think David felt being chased by Saul? What does this teach us about seeking God's help when we're unsure?
2.	Why did David choose not to harm Saul? What does this show us?
3.	How did Abigail help stop David from doing something wrong?
4.	What should we do when we're scared or unsure of the future?