

1 SAMUEL 29- 2 SAMUEL 3

WEEK IN REVIEW + FAMILY GUIDE

WEEK IN REVIEW

Our reading this week covered how David becomes the new leader of God's people, while King Saul's time as king comes to an end. David is living among the **Philistines** (enemies of Israel) because he's been hiding from Saul. The Philistines are about to fight Saul's army, and David wants to join. But the Philistine commanders are afraid David might turn on them during the battle, so they send him away. David obeys the Philistine commands and leaves peacefully. David returns home to find his town, Ziklag, burned down by a group called the Amalekites. They took everything in the town, even the women and children. David asks God for help, chases after the Amalekites, and with God's strength, rescues everyone and takes all of the stolen items and people back into his possession. He also shares all of the items with other people, which displays David's heart of **generosity** (sharing what God has given you with other people).

In 1 Samuel 31, King Saul and his sons go to battle with the Philistines and are defeated. Saul is badly hurt and doesn't want the enemy to capture him, so he dies by falling on his own sword. His sons, including Jonathan, David's best friend, also die. The people of Jabesh-gilead risk their lives to bury Saul with respect. A man comes to David with news of Saul's death, expecting a reward, but David is heartbroken, especially about Jonathan. He punishes the man for claiming to have helped Saul die, and he writes a song to honor both Saul and Jonathan.

David asks God what he should do moving forward. God tells him to go to **Hebron**, where the people of Judah make David their king. Saul's son, Ish-bosheth, becomes king over the rest of Israel. This creates division, where the two groups of people now follow different kings, and these two groups start fighting each other. The war continues, but David's side becomes stronger. A powerful leader named Abner, who supported Saul's family, gets angry and decides to help David instead. David welcomes him, but one of David's men, Joab, kills Abner out of revenge. David is very sad and makes it clear he did not agree with the killing. The people view David as a just and kind leader and can see his gracious heart through his actions (or lack of action).

FAMILY GUIDE

BIG IDEA:	● God calls us to love our enemies!
KEY STORIES:	● David defeats the Amalakites ● Saul and his sons die ● David mourns Saul and Jonathan
KEY VERSES:	● 1 Samuel 31:4 ○ “Then Saul said to his armor-bearer, ‘Draw your sword and run me through...’ But his armor-bearer was terrified... so Saul took his own sword and fell on it.” ● 2 Samuel 1:25-26 ○ “How the mighty have fallen in battle! Jonathan lies slain on your heights. I grieve for you, Jonathan my brother; you were very dear to me.” ● 2 Samuel 3:1 ○ “The war between the house of Saul and the house of David lasted a long time. David grew stronger and stronger, while the house of Saul grew weaker and weaker.”
WORDS TO KNOW:	● Philistines ○ Enemies of Israel ● Generosity ○ Sharing what God has given you with other people

Reflection Questions

1.	How can we ask God for help in making decisions?
2.	David was very upset when Ziklag was attacked, but he found strength in God. How can we help each other turn to God when life is hard?
3.	David didn't take revenge, and he was sad when Abner was killed unfairly. Why is it important to do what's right, even when it's hard or unpopular?
4.	David grew stronger because God was with him. What does it mean to “grow stronger” in your faith?