

Bible Challenge 2014
Going Deeper – Questions for Readings
Week 15

What do the Israelites demand of Samuel in 1 Samuel 8? Why? How does God respond to the peoples request through Samuel? What does God tell Samuel to warn the people about before their request is granted? What does this tell us about the nature of human leadership?

How was Saul anointed as prince/king of Israel (1 Samuel 10)? How does this differ from how our country's leaders are "sworn into office" today? What does Samuel tell Saul will be his primary responsibility as the leader of the Israelites?

Why was the Israelites asking for a king considered a sin? How did Samuel instruct the Israelites to live, king or no king? What did Samuel tell the people God would do for them, even in the midst of their sin? (1 Samuel 12)

What is the act that leads to the beginning of the end of Saul's reign as king? What did this act symbolize and why was it so intolerable? (1 Samuel 13:1-15)

Why is God not happy with Saul's "religious" observances and sacrifices? What does Samuel tell Saul God wants from him more than anything else? What does this tell us about how we are to live faithfully in relationship with God? (1 Samuel 15)

How does God instruct Samuel to select the person who will succeed Saul and become the next king of Israel? How does God judge a person's worth? How does this differ from how we, as human beings, judge the worth of other people? (1 Samuel 16)

How is David different from Saul? Why do you think David was selected by God to replace Saul as king of Israel? What did David's anointing symbolize?

Why do you think the story of David and Goliath has become one of the most beloved and memorable stories in the Bible? What does it tell us about God and the potential of human beings? (1 Samuel 17)

What are some of the giants that are looming on the horizon of your life? What are some of the ways they are taunting you? How does their intimidation affect your faith? Is your imagination dominated by Goliaths or by God? [Questions from Eugene H. Peterson's *The Message Study Bible*, p. 420]

How is the relationship between David and Jonathan a model of true friendship? What makes it so special? (1 Samuel 18 & 20)

What causes Saul's love for David to turn to hate?(1 Samuel 18)

Why do you think Psalm 11 and 59 were chosen to be read immediately following 1 Samuel 20? What do these Psalms teach us about David's faith in God?

How does God show providential care for David and his family when they flee Saul and enter into the wilderness? How do David's years in the wilderness change him? How do they impact his faith?

What is the one thing the Psalmist (David) asks for from God in Psalm 27:4? What is the central hope of this request?

What images of God are presented in Psalm 31 & 34? Is there one image of God that the Psalmist (David) presents that is particularly comforting, helpful, and/or meaningful for you in your life right now? Why?