

The New Inductive Study Series

DESIRING GOD'S OWN HEART

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First Samual

Week One

What Will It Take For You to Give God Your Heart?

Have you ever desired something so strongly that you felt you would be ill without it? Have you ever wanted a relationship with someone so badly that you thought you would die if you couldn't have it?

Oh, to long with that same intensity for a personal relationship with the living God! To be willing to pay the price to know Him by spending time in His Word, for there you learn His ways and His character! How pleasing this would be to our God, for He longs deeply to have you know Him, to understand His heart, to walk in His ways.

In this week's lesson, you will encounter people who sought God and others who were unwilling to discipline themselves for the purpose of godliness. Don't miss what you can learn by observing each.

DAY ONE

Since Samuel, Kings, and Chronicles are historical books, it is important to understand where they fit in the history of Israel. First Samuel closes the period of the judges and marks the beginning of the period of the kings of Israel.

This transition is evident since 1 Samuel opens with an account of the life of Samuel, the last judge of Israel, and then leads into the days of the kings as recorded in the books of 1 and 2 Samuel, 1 and 2 Kings, and 1 and 2 Chronicles.

The diagram below will give you a visual picture of the historical parallel of Samuel, Kings, and Chronicles.

Although our study will focus primarily on the books of 1 and 2 Samuel, we will incorporate parallel passages from 1 Chronicles which will give you the complete picture of the times and events you are studying.

Historical books, while documenting facts, offer revolutionary insights into God, into people, and into how man and God relate in the varied circumstances of life. As you follow the lives of the Israelites during the period of Samuel, we pray that you will desire a deeper relationship with God and that the knowledge of His character and His ways will leave you longing to know more of Him.

Begin your study of 1 Samuel today by reading chapter 1. Concentrate on the *who* and the *what* of the 5 W's and an H (refer to "How to Get Started" on page 5). Then in your notebook, list what this chapter is about—the events that take place in 1 Samuel 1 and the main characters who are involved in these events.

DAY TWO

If you have not read the "How to Get Started" section in the front of this book, it would be beneficial to do so before you go any further. That section explains the how and why of inductive Bible study. Now would also be a good time to stop and begin a key word bookmark to use throughout your study of 1 and 2 Samuel and 1 Chronicles. (Again, if you have questions, refer to the "How to Get Started" section.)

As you saw yesterday, three main characters emerge in this first chapter: *Hannah*, *Eli*, and *Samuel*. As you read today, note what you learn about these three people by marking references to each with a distinguishable color or symbol. Remember to mark the synonyms and/or pronouns relating to each character in the same distinctive way. Marking references to these people will reveal what each character does, what has happened in his or her past, what is currently happening, and what will happen in the future. Also, don't miss marking references to Samuel as a child.

Hannah's name occurs only in the first two chapters, but she is a key person in Samuel's life. In chapters 1–4, you will mark Eli's name. However, since Hannah's and Eli's names are mentioned only in the early chapters, don't add them to your bookmark. *Samuel* is a main character throughout, so his name will be the first key word you will want to put on your bookmark.

After you read chapter 1 and mark the three main characters, you will find it helpful to record in your notebook what you observe about each of these people. Therefore, make a list about each

person. Leave enough room to add to the list on Eli through chapter 4. Samuel is the central character of this study, so you will want to leave several pages for the list about him. Also, as you write down your observations throughout this study, you will find it helpful to put the Scripture verse where you find the information next to the observation so that you can see easily where you found your information.

When you have completed your assignment, review what you observed in the lives of Hannah, Eli, and Samuel and think how you can apply any of this to your life.

Record any “Lessons for Life” (LFL) in the margin of your Bible or in your notebook. (If you are unfamiliar with the term LFL, see the “How to Get Started” section.)

Finally, identify the theme of this chapter. Record the theme on the appropriate line of the 1 SAMUEL AT A GLANCE chart on page 62 or make a larger version of the chart in your notebook and fill it out as you go along. If you have an *NISB*, don’t forget to fill in your information there too.

DAY THREE

Read 1 Samuel 2:1-10 and mark every reference to the *LORD* (including synonyms, such as *God* and pronouns such as *He* or *Your*).

Note what you learn about God in these first ten verses and begin a list in your notebook where you can continue to record insights about God.

As you read, notice how Hannah’s prayer relates to her situation. This prayer is packed with lessons for life. Be sure to write in the margin of your Bible or in your notes any “LFL” that you discover.

DAY FOUR

Today you are going to read and mark 1 Samuel 2:11-36. Add to your key word bookmark *sin(s)* and any synonyms such as *evil things*. Later you will mark other synonyms such as *sinned*, *sinning*, *transgression*, *transgressed*, and *iniquity*, so add these to your bookmark now also.

As you have done previously, note what this chapter teaches you about Samuel. Then note specifically how Eli’s sons, Hophni and Phinehas, sinned. Mark every reference to these two men and record what you learn about them in your notebook. Leviticus 7:22-25 is an excellent cross-reference with 1 Samuel 2:12-17, so you might want to write “Leviticus 7:22-25” next to this passage in 1 Samuel. Cross-referencing helps you remember the location of a passage that sheds light on or correlates with the one you are studying. Cross-referencing is also very helpful when you don’t have your study notes, because your notes are right in your Bible!

DAY FIVE

Read 1 Samuel 2:11-36 and focus on what you learn from this chapter about Eli. Look for the 5 W's and an H. Note who interacts with Eli, what he tells him, and why. Add all your insights to your list on Samuel.

Identify the theme of chapter 2 and record it on the 1 SAMUEL AT A GLANCE chart on page 62.

DAY SIX

Today read 1 Samuel 3 and mark every reference, including pronouns, to the *Lord*, to *Samuel*, and to *Eli*. Add to your lists what you learn about the character and behavior of both Samuel and Eli. Be sure to note on your list about Eli what God reveals to Samuel about him. Also note what you see about God in this chapter. As you mark your key words, don't miss the word *iniquity*.

Note how and why God is going to judge Eli and his household. Examine the reasons carefully and record any new insights on Eli in your notebook.

Identify and record the theme of chapter 3 on the 1 SAMUEL AT A GLANCE chart on page 62.

DAY SEVEN

Store in your heart: 1 Samuel 2:2.

Read and discuss: 1 Samuel 2:1-17; 2:29; 3:12,13; Leviticus 7:22-25.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION OR INDIVIDUAL STUDY

- At what point in Israel's history does 1 Samuel begin? (Refer to Day One for help.)
- Describe the sequence of events that occurs in
- 1 Samuel 1–2 as it relates to Hannah's request for a son.
- What did you learn about God from Hannah's prayer in 1 Samuel 2:1-10?
 - a. What does this tell you about Hannah?
 - b. How does knowing God affect your prayer life?
- What reason did God give for judging Eli and his house (2:29; 3:12,13)?
 - a. What was Eli's responsibility regarding his sons? Was he accountable to God for them?
 - b. What had Eli's sons done to deserve this kind of punishment (2:12-17)?
 - c. How important was it for Eli to follow God's instructions regarding the offerings and sacrifices?
- Discuss what you saw in Leviticus 7:22-25.
- What do you learn from this week's lesson that would apply to the role of parents in relation to their children, especially fathers?

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

In these first three chapters of 1 Samuel, you have seen the sharp contrast between Hannah and her son, Samuel, and Eli and his sons, Hophni and Phinehas. In 1 Samuel 2:35, God says that He

will raise up a faithful priest who will do according to what is in His heart and in His soul... and that He will build him an enduring house. Eli was not this kind of man...and thus his house was judged forever. God put Eli's sons to death not only because of their sin but because their father failed to rebuke them. In essence, Eli compromised his priesthood.

Ironically, the very woman Eli rebuked, thinking her drunk, was the woman who, through faith and perseverance, would receive a son who would say to God, "Speak, LORD, for Your servant is listening" (1 Samuel 3:9).

When we become children of God, we become part of a kingdom of priests unto God. Will you be a faithful priest doing what is in God's heart and soul rather than living according to what is in your own?

If you want an "enduring house"—a family who will follow in your footsteps—this is where you begin. Listen to God and do all that He says.

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