

# 1 Samuel – Week 10 – A King Chosen – Bible Study Helps

## **Title: A King Is Chosen**

### Responding to God's Calling

Sermon Summary: Drawing from 1 Samuel 10, this sermon examines the calling and public coronation of Saul as Israel's first king, using his story as a mirror for how every Christian should respond to God's calling. The sermon emphasizes that God does not need human instruments to accomplish His purposes, yet He chooses to use willing participants in His redemptive plan. Through the anointing of Saul, the confirmation signs given by Samuel, and Saul's surprising decision to hide among the stuff when publicly presented, the sermon challenges every believer to step out in faith and fulfill the responsibility God has entrusted to them. The sermon draws a clear distinction between Old Testament signs and the completed revelation of Scripture available to the church today, urging believers to rightly divide the Word of God. Saul's story serves as both a warning against disobedience and a prophetic foreshadowing of the Antichrist, while ultimately pointing forward to Jesus Christ as the true King of kings. The sermon closes with a call to salvation and a reminder that every Christian will one day stand at the judgment seat of Christ to give account of how they fulfilled their God-given calling.

### Key Points:

- God does not need human instruments to accomplish His will, as demonstrated through His use of donkeys and milk cows, yet He desires willing participants in His redemptive plan
- Every Christian is called by God to participate in His work, and the question is not whether God will call but whether the believer will respond faithfully
- Samuel's anointing of Saul with oil marked the first time someone other than a priest was set apart for God's service, signifying that even a king remains under God's authority and must obey His Word
- God confirmed His calling on Saul through a series of precise prophetic signs, each of which came to pass exactly as spoken, leaving Saul without excuse
- Signs in the Old Testament were given to the Jewish people and served as confirmation of God's Word; in the church age, believers have the completed Bible and the indwelling Holy Spirit as their guide
- God gave Saul a new heart and the Spirit of God came upon him to equip him for service, but this was a temporary Old Testament enablement, distinct from the permanent indwelling of the Holy Spirit that New Testament believers receive at salvation
- Saul's decision to hide among the stuff at his own public coronation illustrates the human tendency to shrink back from God's calling out of fear and self-doubt
- God's equipping of His servants takes many forms, including wisdom, opportunity, character development, strength, and the provision of other gifted people to assist in the work

## 1 Samuel – Week 10 – A King Chosen – Bible Study Helps

- Saul serves as a prophetic foreshadowing of the Antichrist, just as David, who follows him, foreshadows the true King, Jesus Christ
- Every Christian will stand at the judgment seat of Christ to give account of how they responded to God's calling and used the resources He provided after salvation
- Salvation is available to all who confess and believe that Jesus Christ is Lord, that He died for our sins, was buried, and rose again defeating sin and death

### Scripture Reference:

- 1 Samuel 10 (primary text, covering the anointing, confirmation signs, and public coronation of Saul)
- 1 Corinthians 1:22-25 (Jews require a sign, Greeks seek wisdom, but the church preaches Christ crucified)
- 2 Peter 1:3 (God has given believers all things that pertain to life and godliness)
- Exodus 3:1-14 (God calls Moses through the burning bush)
- Exodus 31:1-6 (God equips Bezalel and Aholiab with specific skills to build the tabernacle)
- Judges 6:36-40 (Gideon's fleece as a request for confirmation of God's calling)
- 1 Samuel 16:14 (the Spirit of the Lord departs from Saul)
- John 15 (Jesus speaks of those who have heard His words and yet reject Him)
- Hebrews 1:1-2 (God who spoke through prophets has in these last days spoken through His Son)
- 1 Corinthians 12:27 (believers are members in particular of the body of Christ)

### Stories:

- The calling of Moses through the burning bush in Exodus 3, in which God reveals His plan to deliver Israel from Egypt and commissions a reluctant Moses, who protests his inadequacy, to confront Pharaoh
- The story of Gideon's fleece in Judges 6, in which Gideon twice asks God for a miraculous sign to confirm his calling before he will act in obedience, and God graciously complies both times
- The equipping of Bezalel and Aholiab in Exodus 31, in which God fills specific craftsmen with His Spirit and particular skills to construct the tabernacle, illustrating that God calls and equips people for varied forms of service
- The story of Samson, referenced from Judges 14, as an example of one upon whom the Spirit of the Lord came for a specific purpose, yet who was undone by pride, arrogance, and lust

## 1 Samuel – Week 10 – A King Chosen – Bible Study Helps

- The case of Judas Iscariot from Matthew 10, noted as one who was called and sent among the twelve yet whose heart did not remain faithful, illustrating that calling does not guarantee obedience
- The public coronation of Saul in 1 Samuel 10, in which the man chosen by God to be Israel's first king is found hiding among the stuff when his name is called before all the people, and must be physically retrieved before standing before the nation

# 1 Samuel – Week 10 – A King Chosen – Bible Study Helps

## Discipleship Questions

Samuel gave Saul very specific signs to confirm God's calling, and every detail came to pass exactly as foretold -- in what ways does the precision of fulfilled prophecy in Scripture strengthen or challenge your personal trust in God's word?

When God called Saul, He gave him a new heart and equipped him for the task, yet Saul's obedience remained his own responsibility -- how does this tension between divine enablement and human accountability shape the way you approach what God has called you to do?

Saul hid among the stuff when his name was called before all of Israel, even after receiving unmistakable confirmation of God's calling -- in what areas of your own life might you be hiding from a responsibility God has clearly placed before you?

The sermon draws a distinction between Old Testament signs given to confirm God's word and the completed Bible given to the church today -- how does understanding this difference change the way you seek God's direction for your life?

Moses argued that he was the wrong person for the job, Gideon tested God with a fleece twice, and Saul hid in the stuff -- what does this pattern of reluctance among God's chosen leaders reveal about how God works through human weakness?

The sermon emphasizes that every Christian is called to participate in God's work, not just those in formal ministry roles -- what specific gifts, skills, or opportunities has God placed in your life that you may not yet be treating as a divine calling?

Saul's story is described as a prophetic picture of the Antichrist, while David who follows him points forward to Christ -- how does reading Old Testament narratives as foreshadowing of greater spiritual realities change the way you engage with those stories?

The children of Israel rejected God as their king in favor of a human king so they could be like the surrounding nations -- in what ways might Christians today be tempted to exchange genuine submission to God's authority for a faith that looks more like the surrounding culture?

The sermon notes that at the judgment seat of Christ, believers will give account not for sin, which was judged at Calvary, but for what they did with the responsibility and calling God entrusted to them after salvation -- how does that future accountability shape the decisions you are making right now?

God used donkeys, milk cows, a burning bush, a fleece, and a man hiding in stuff to accomplish His purposes and confirm His calling -- what does this pattern of God working through unexpected and even humbling means tell us about the nature of His sovereignty and grace?

# Small Group Guide

## "A King Is Chosen" -- 1 Samuel 10

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### BEFORE YOU MEET

Encourage group members to read 1 Samuel 10 on their own before gathering. Ask them to come prepared with one observation from the text that stood out to them.

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### KEY TAKEAWAYS FROM THE SERMON

- God reveals his calling to his people through his Word and confirms it through his faithfulness.
  - Every Christian is called to participate in God's work -- the question is not whether God will call you, but whether you will respond in faithfulness.
  - God equips those he calls. He provides what is needed to carry out the responsibility he has given.
  - Hiding from God's calling, like Saul hid among the stuff, does not make the calling go away.
  - Christians will one day give an account at the judgment seat of Christ for how they responded to God's calling on their lives after salvation.
  - Proximity to God's work should produce humility and obedience, not pride or self-promotion.
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### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

#### Opening -- Getting Into the Text

1. Read 1 Samuel 10:1-9 aloud together. What details in Samuel's prophecy to Saul stand out to you? What do you think it would have felt like to watch every single one of those details come true in a single day?
  2. The sermon pointed out that anointing with oil had previously been reserved for priests. What does it tell us about Saul's role that Samuel anointed him in this way? What responsibility came with that anointing?
  3. In verse 22, God tells the people that Saul is hiding among the stuff. Why do you think Saul hid, even after experiencing such clear and specific confirmation from God?
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## 1 Samuel – Week 10 – A King Chosen – Bible Study Helps

### Going Deeper -- Connecting to Our Lives

4. The sermon said, "God does not need us, but he wants to use us." How does that truth change the way you think about your role in God's work? Does it make you feel more or less motivated to serve? Why?
  5. Moses said "who am I" when God called him. Gideon asked for a sign, then asked again. Saul hid. Can you identify with any of these responses? What tends to hold you back from stepping into what God is asking you to do?
  6. The sermon made the point that all Christians are called to participate in God's work, even if not all in the same way. How would you describe the specific role or responsibility you believe God has given you in his work right now? If you are unsure, what steps could you take to find out?
  7. The sermon referenced Exodus 31 and the calling of Bezalel, a craftsman whom God specifically equipped to build the tabernacle. What does this tell us about the kinds of roles God considers important in his work? How does this challenge any narrow thinking we might have about what "serving God" looks like?
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### Personal Reflection -- Taking It Home

8. The sermon described the judgment seat of Christ as a future moment when believers will give account for how they responded to God's calling after salvation. How does that reality affect the way you think about your daily choices and priorities?
  9. The sermon warned that Saul's story is an example of what happens when someone is entrusted with God's work but turns inward toward selfishness and pride. What are the warning signs in your own life that you might be drifting in that direction?
  10. God gave Saul another heart to equip him for the work he was called to do. In what area of your life do you need to ask God to change your heart so that you can better fulfill what he has called you to do?
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## PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

Choose one or more of the following to commit to before your group meets again.

**Read and Reflect** Read 1 Samuel 10 and 11 this week. As you read, ask yourself: Where do I see Saul responding well? Where do I see early warning signs of the problems that will come later?

**Identify Your Calling** Set aside 20 to 30 minutes this week in a quiet place. Write down your honest answer to this question: What specific work do I believe God has called me to do right now, and am I actually doing it? Bring your reflections to share with the group next time.

## 1 Samuel – Week 10 – A King Chosen – Bible Study Helps

**Take One Step** If you have been hesitating to step into a responsibility at your church or in your community, identify one concrete action you can take this week. Tell someone in the group what that step is so they can follow up with you.

**Engage in Bible Study** The sermon mentioned the importance of rightly dividing the Word of God and understanding how different parts of the Bible apply to different periods of history. If this is an area where you feel weak, commit to attending a Bible study this week or listening to a teaching that helps you grow in this area.

**Pray with Accountability** Pair up with someone in the group. Share one area where you feel God calling you to act and one area where you know you have been hiding. Pray for each other and check in before the next group meeting.

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### CLOSING PRAYER GUIDE

Close your time together by praying through the following:

- Thank God for the privilege of being called into his work.
  - Ask God to reveal any areas where group members have been hiding from his calling.
  - Pray for humility and obedience as each person steps into the responsibilities God has given them.
  - Ask God to equip each person with exactly what they need to fulfill their calling.
  - If anyone in the group has not yet trusted Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, pray that God would make the gospel clear to them.
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### MEMORY VERSE FOR THE WEEK

1 Samuel 10:6 -- Read this verse in your Bible and meditate on what it means for God to equip a person for his work. Consider what it would look like for God to work in you in a similar way as you step out in obedience.

# 5-Day Bible Reading and Devotional Guide

Based on the Sermon "A King Is Chosen" -- 1 Samuel 10

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## Day 1: God Calls the Unlikely

**Reading:** 1 Samuel 10:1; Exodus 3:10-12

**Devotional:** Saul was hiding when God called him. Moses argued that he was the wrong man. Yet God chose both. The pattern of Scripture is clear: God does not call the qualified -- He qualifies the called. His anointing is not based on your resume but on His sovereign purpose. When God pours out His grace on a life, He is declaring ownership and responsibility at the same time. You have been set apart for His work. The question is not whether God has called you. He has. The question is whether you will answer.

**Reflection:** What excuses have you offered God for why He should choose someone else?

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## Day 2: The Confirming Word

**Reading:** 2 Peter 1:3; Hebrews 1:1-2

**Devotional:** God gave Saul precise, verifiable signs to confirm His calling -- two men at a specific location, three men carrying specific items, a company of prophets on a hill. Every detail arrived exactly as spoken. In this age, God has given something even greater: a completed, perfect Word. Second Peter 1:3 declares that His divine power has granted us everything required for life and godliness. You do not need a burning bush or a fleece. You have the Bible. Open it. Study it. Believe it. The God who confirmed His word to Saul confirms His will to you through Scripture.

**Reflection:** Are you treating your Bible as the living, sufficient Word it truly is?

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## Day 3: A Changed Heart for God's Work

**Reading:** 1 Samuel 10:9; Ezekiel 36:26-27; 2 Corinthians 5:17

**Devotional:** When Saul turned to leave Samuel, God gave him another heart. He was equipped for what God had assigned him. For the believer in this age, something far greater has occurred. At the moment of salvation, the Holy Spirit of God takes up permanent residence within you --

## 1 Samuel – Week 10 – A King Chosen – Bible Study Helps

not a temporary empowerment, but an eternal indwelling. You are a new creation. The old life has passed. God does not save you and then abandon you to figure out His work alone. He places His Spirit within you to lead, convict, strengthen, and guide you. His presence is your provision.

**Reflection:** Are you walking in dependence on the Holy Spirit, or are you attempting God's work in your own strength?

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### Day 4: Hiding Among the Stuff

**Reading:** 1 Samuel 10:21-23; Romans 12:1-2

**Devotional:** God had anointed Saul. The signs had been fulfilled. The Spirit had come upon him. And still, when the moment of public accountability arrived, Saul was found hiding among the stuff. It is a painfully honest picture of how believers often respond to God's calling -- surrounded by the clutter of life, buried under distractions, hoping the moment will pass. God, in His patience, sent people to find Saul and bring him forward. He may be doing the same for you today through this very reading. The stuff of life will always compete for your surrender. Step out of it.

**Reflection:** What is the "stuff" in your life that is keeping you from stepping forward in obedience to God's call?

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### Day 5: Accountability Before the King of Kings

**Reading:** 2 Corinthians 5:10; 1 Corinthians 3:12-15; John 15:22

**Devotional:** Saul was publicly accountable for the responsibility God had entrusted to him. Every believer will one day stand at the judgment seat of Christ -- not to answer for sin, which was settled at Calvary, but to give account of what was done with the life, gifts, and calling God provided. This is not a moment for fear but for sober motivation. God has given you His Word, His Spirit, His church, and His grace. He has withheld nothing necessary for faithful service. Live today with eternity in view. The King is coming. Let Him find you faithful.

**Reflection:** If you stood before Christ today, what would your account of faithful service look like?