

After God's Heart

Portrait of Saul
Taken from 1 Samuel
Chapters 9-11, 13-15, 18, 22, 24, and 26

Lesson 4

FIRST DAY: Review and Overview

1. How did the example of Samuel minister to you?

2. Galatians 3:3 asks, *Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being perfected in the flesh?* This question could very well epitomize the life of Saul, who began with many great advantages. He was from one of the wealthiest families of Israel. He was tall, handsome, humble, and a born leader. However, after assuming leadership of Israel, Saul began to seek his own exaltation rather than God's. His desire for self-exaltation became his downfall.
 We will be highlighting the following aspects of Saul's life. Use the verses below to comment on his:
 - a. Anointing-1 Samuel 10:1

 - b. Success-1 Samuel 11:15

 - c. Disobedience-1 Samuel 15:22-23

 - d. Downfall-1 Samuel 26:21, 28:17-18

3. The work of the Spirit is essential for meaningful Bible study. With this in mind, express to the Lord your desire to learn from the life of Saul. Write your prayer here.

*The Spirit of the Lord will come upon you,
 and you will prophesy with them and be turned into another man.*
 1 Samuel 10:6

SECOND DAY: Taken from 1 Samuel 9:1-10:9

1. Write the facts you learn about Saul and his family from 1 Samuel 9:1-2.

2. In 1 Samuel 9:3-14 Saul went to search for his father's lost donkeys. His search led him to the land of Zuph, where he encountered the prophet Samuel. According to 1 Samuel 9:15-17, what had the Lord already revealed to Samuel concerning Saul?
 - a. Saul thought he was searching for donkeys. However, what was God's intention? 1 Samuel 9:16
 - (1) Consider Proverbs 16:9. How does this minister to you concerning the plans and purposes of God?
 - (2) Share a time when God used something seemingly trivial in your life for a divine purpose.

3. Summarize the events of 1 Samuel 9:27-10:1.

4. List the three *signs* that would confirm Saul's anointing from:
 - a. 1 Samuel 10:2

 - b. 1 Samuel 10:3-4

 - c. 1 Samuel 10:5-6
 - (1) Why do you think these *signs* would be an encouragement to Saul?
 - (2) Recall an instance when the Lord confirmed His Word to you.

5. What was Samuel's instruction concerning these *signs*? 1 Samuel 10:7-8

6. What happened in 1 Samuel 10:9?
 - a. Why did Saul need *another heart*? See Jeremiah 17:9 and Matthew 5:8.

 - b. Why do we need a new *heart*?

THIRD DAY: Read 1 Samuel 10:17-11:15

1. After Saul had been anointed, Samuel gathered the people together to proclaim him as king. According to 1 Samuel 10:21-22 what was Saul doing?

2. Describe what took place in 1 Samuel 10:24-27.
 - a. Note that *some rebels* did not approve of Saul. What was his response? 1 Samuel 10:27b
 - (1) Why do you think this was a wise response?

 - (2) In light of his example, how should you respond to the disapproval of others?

3. Read 1 Samuel 11:1-11 to answer the following questions:
 - a. What terrible threat did Nahash make to the people of Jabesh Gilead? 1 Samuel 11:2

 - b. What happened when Saul *heard this news*? 1 Samuel 11:6a

 - c. How did Saul rally the men of Israel to defend Jabesh Gilead? 1 Samuel 11:7

 - d. Using 1 Samuel 11:11 describe the results of the battle.

4. After God gave Saul this great victory, some people were indignant at those who had rejected Saul's leadership. What was Saul's answer to their desire to defend him? 1 Samuel 11:13
 - a. Share your thoughts on Saul's answer.
 - (1) Read Romans 12:19 and note how we are to respond to those who wrong us.

5. Briefly record the events of 1 Samuel 11:14-15. What influence did God's Spirit have on Saul at the beginning of his reign?
 - a. Share your impression of Saul so far.

FOURTH DAY: Taken from 1 Samuel Chapters 13-15, 22, and 28

1. Complete the following chart by recording the folly and disobedience evidenced in Saul's life:

REFERENCE	CONTEXT	FOLLY/DISONBEDIENCE
1 Samuel 13:3b-4	Jonathan, Saul's son, boldly attacked a Philistine garrison, but notice who <i>blew the trumpet</i>	
1 Samuel 14:24-30	In the midst of battle, Saul <i>placed the people under oath</i>	
1 Samuel 15:7-23	Samuel had given Saul specific instructions from God to <i>utterly destroy</i> the Amalekites.	
1 Samuel 15:12	Saul defeated the Amalekites.	
1 Samuel 22:9-18	Saul was informed that Ahimelech the priest had helped David.	
1 Samuel 28:3-8	The Philistines were gathered for war and God was not answering Saul.	

2. Using what you learned from the chart above, remark on the spiritual digression of Saul.
- a. Read 1 Samuel 13:14 and 15:22-23 and comment on the root of Saul's spiritual problem.
 - b. What warning do you glean from Saul's life?
 - (1) How can you avoid these pitfalls?

FIFTH DAY: Taken from 1 Samuel 18:5-30, 24:1-21, 26:17-21

1. A large portion of Saul's reign was spent pursuing David. 1 Samuel 18:5 identifies the beginning of this conflict. What happened? 1 Samuel 18:5-7
 - a. Describe Saul's reaction. 1 Samuel 18:8-9
 - (1) Use Proverbs 14:30b and 27:4 to comment on Saul's problem.
 - (2) How can we guard against this?

2. Summarize the events from 1 Samuel 18:10-11.
 - a. Why was Saul afraid? 1 Samuel 18:12

3. Observe the progression of Saul's fear from 1 Samuel 18:12, 15, and 29. What do you see?

4. Saul began to aggressively pursue David in order to kill him, yet his plans were continually thwarted. Twice David had an opportunity to retaliate and kill Saul, yet he spared Saul's life. Read the following passages and remark on Saul's confessions on these occasions:
 - a. 1 Samuel 24:17-21

 - b. 1 Samuel 26:21

5. Comment on the tragic results of Saul's behavior.
 - a. What is the greatest lesson you learn from this?

