

SHARE THE BIBLE LESSON  
**WEEK 20**

God judges between David and Saul

1 Samuel 24:1–22



**DAY 1**

David trusted God for vengeance • 1 Samuel 24:1–7

**READ** 📖

1 Samuel 24:1–7

**EXPLAIN** 🎯

**The truth of 1 Samuel 24:1–7**

Many times God's way is not the easy way. David found this out when he was hiding from Saul at Engedi, an oasis on the shores of the Dead Sea. It was a seaside retreat with massive cliffs full of caves—a good place to rest and hide. But Saul soon came after David again (24:1–2). The tables turned, though, when Saul unknowingly entered David's cave alone (24:3). David's men excitedly took this as a God-given opportunity for David to kill Saul. Staring at his enemy in the darkness, David had to decide: should he wait for God, or seek vengeance himself? Should he trust God's timing, or should he end his troubles in a moment? Instead of cutting Saul, David chose only to cut Saul's robe. Yet David regretted doing even that. His conscience bothered him because he knew the law prohibited even speaking badly against a ruler (Exod 22:28). Any action against God's anointed was an action against God Himself (1 Sam 24:6). So David spared Saul and even sternly warned his men not to attack Saul (24:7). He chose God's way, not the quick way.

**ASK** ❓

1. What opportunity did David have?  
*David had a chance to kill his enemy, Saul, when Saul was alone in the cave.*
2. What did David's men tell him to do?  
*David's men told him to kill Saul. They thought God was giving David the opportunity to become king now.*
3. Why did David feel bad about cutting off the edge of Saul's robe?  
*David knew that this dishonored the one God had put in authority over Israel.*
4. Did David let his men attack Saul?  
*No. Saul was allowed to leave safely.*

**DISCUSS** 🗣️

1. Do you find it easy or hard to wait for God's timing? Why is God's timing best?
2. Do you ever get impatient with your parents and complain when you don't get what you want fast enough? What can you learn from David?

## DAY 2

David proved his innocence • 1 Samuel 24:8–15

### READ

1 Samuel 24:8–15

### EXPLAIN

#### The truth of 1 Samuel 24:8–15

While you must not violate God's law, this does not mean you cannot offer a defense when you are suffering unjustly. David spared Saul, but he also delivered a powerful speech against Saul's unjust pursuit. David first showed honor by bowing and calling Saul "my lord the king" (1 Sam 24:8). This genuine respect for Saul's kingship reinforced his words. After this, David proved he was not Saul's enemy (24:9). First, he gave personal testimony and physical evidence of his loyalty (24:10–11). Second, he used a proverb (a well-known phrase) to say, in effect, "You know I won't act wickedly against you because I am not a wicked person" (24:13). Third, he used logic to show Saul how silly it was to waste so much energy chasing someone so unimportant (24:14). Fourth, David appealed to God, twice calling on Him to take vengeance on Saul (24:12, 15). David was able to resist the temptation to take personal revenge because he knew God would do it. So David defended his innocence with humility, integrity, wisdom, respect, and faith in God. This is the right way to respond to persecution.

### ASK

1. After Saul left the cave, what did David do?  
*David showed him the corner of the robe and used words to defend his innocence.*
2. How did David show respect for Saul's position as king?  
*He called Saul "my lord the king" and bowed before him (1 Sam 24:8).*
3. Did David excuse Saul's wickedness?  
*No. He looked to God for judgment.*
4. What did David ask God to do?  
*To repay Saul for his evil pursuit.*

### DISCUSS

1. How do you respond when you feel someone has treated you unfairly? Do you react rashly, or do you stay under control and speak logically, with respect and humility?
2. How do you respect someone's position (1 Pet 2:17), even when the person is not honorable (Ps 15:4)? When those in authority do wrong, is there a highest authority to appeal to (Rom 13:1)?

## DAY 3

Saul confessed David's innocence • 1 Samuel 24:16–22

### READ

1 Samuel 24:16–22

### EXPLAIN

#### The truth of 1 Samuel 24:16–22

The right decision is often hard, but it is always the best way, because God honors those who trust Him and do right (Rom 2:10). God showed David this through the words of wicked Saul. Saul confirmed David's righteousness (1 Sam 24:17) and also confirmed God's word that David would be king and bring blessing to Israel (24:16, 20). David had refused to take the easy way out by killing Saul, and now God

encouraged David that he had made the right choice. David trusted God's word, waited for God's way, and left vengeance in God's hand. Jesus, the promised Davidic king, did the same thing. Like David, Jesus knew He would be exalted as King (Ps 2:8–9). He was also tempted to by-pass God's plan in order to get what God had promised (Matt 4:8–9). He too left vengeance in God's hand (26:53). Like David, Jesus chose instead to do what is right and entrust Himself to God (1 Pet 2:22–23). Because Jesus obeyed, God exalted Him as King (Phil 2:9–11). So choose God's way: it is hard at first, but it ends well (Prov 4:18).

**DAY 3 CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE**

**ASK** 

1. What did Saul do when he heard David's speech?  
*Saul wept, but he did not truly repent.*
2. How did Saul's response encourage David?  
*It showed David that he was innocent and that he was right to trust God to make him king.*
3. Who else refused to take a shortcut on the way to becoming king?  
*Jesus. He waited for God's plan and did not seek sinful vengeance.*

**DISCUSS** 

1. Is it sometimes hard to obey your parents (Eph 6:1)? How do the examples of David and Jesus encourage you that the best choice is to obey, even when it seems hard or unfair?
2. Saul still continued to pursue David even though he knew it was wrong. Do you continue to sin, even when you know it's wrong? Why?

**DAY 4****Submission to authorities • Romans 13:1-4****READ** 

Romans 13:1-7

**EXPLAIN** **The truth of Romans 13:1-4**

David illustrates what Paul is saying. Even dishonorable rulers like Saul must be honored for their positions of **authority**, since God establishes rulers (1 Sam 24:10; Rom 13:1). To rebel against those whom God has placed in positions of leadership is to rebel against God (Rom 13:2). Honor government because it is designed by God to encourage good and restrain evil (13:3-4). But what should you do when you are oppressed by the authority who is supposed to protect you? David left **vengeance** in God's hands, trusting God to punish Saul as payback for harming others. Asking God for vengeance is not wrong (Pss 54:5; 58:6-9; 139:19-24). In fact, those who pray for God to avenge can be the most gentle and peaceful towards their enemies, because they do not need to take their own revenge (Rom 12:19; Deut 32:35-36; Lev 19:18). This is how you should respond to all people, but especially to authority over you. So when your rulers are wicked, cry out to God (Pss 57; 142). He hears the prayers of the oppressed, and He fights against the arrogant oppressor (1 Sam 2:1-10).

**ASK** 

1. What is vengeance?  
*Payback for harming others.*
2. Why did David honor Saul?  
*Because his position as God's appointed king was to be honored.*
3. Who establishes leaders?  
*God. They are designed by God to reward good behavior and punish evil behavior.*
4. What should we do when our leaders treat us unfairly?  
*We can make a lawful defense, as David did. We can appeal to a higher human authority (Acts 25:12). Ultimately, we can pray to God as the highest authority.*

**DISCUSS** 

1. Identify as many authorities as you can: government officials, parents, teachers, policemen, etc. When you have a position of authority, who will ultimately hold you accountable for your actions?
2. Who are you really rebelling against when you rebel against earthly authorities? How can trusting in God's justice and vengeance free you from acting sinfully against wicked rulers?

## DAY 5

Jesus left vengeance to God • Matthew 26:53

### READ

Matthew 26:47–56

### EXPLAIN

#### The truth of Matthew 26:53

When you feel like it is too hard to suffer unjustly, remember that Jesus knows what it's like. On the night before His death, Judas betrayed Jesus into the hands of an armed mob sent by the elders and chief priests (Matt 26:47–49). Peter tried to defend Him, showing heroic courage in the face of overwhelming enemies (26:50–51; cf. John 18:10). So why did Jesus tell Peter to put away his sword (Matt 26:52)? Because Jesus knew He had to do the Father's will (26:56). Jesus could have easily beaten His enemies. He could have called more than 12 legions of angels to fight for Him—up to 72,000 angels (26:53). Remember that it only took one angel to kill 185,000 Assyrians in a single night (2 Kings 19:35)! Yet Jesus refused to take the easy way. He trusted in God's will and God's timing, not His own. He left vengeance in God's hands, knowing that the time for judgment will eventually come (John 5:22; Rev 19:11–20:15). If Jesus was willing to leave vengeance to God, then you must leave it to Him too.

### ASK

1. Who betrayed Jesus?  
*Judas betrayed Jesus with a kiss.*
2. Who drew their sword to defend Jesus Peter. However, Jesus told him not to resist the crowd.
3. Could Jesus have resisted the crowd sent by the chief priests and elders?  
*Yes. He could called 72,000 angels to defend Him.*
4. Why didn't Jesus seek vengeance that night?  
*Because it was God's will for Him to die on the cross the following day; Jesus left vengeance to God.*

### DISCUSS

1. When is the last time you were treated unfairly? How did you respond?
2. Is it better that Jesus did left vengeance to God? How have you benefited from Jesus' submission to God's will and God's timing?

## NEXT WEEK

### God makes David king

2 Samuel 1:1–2:7

