



## 1 AND 2 SAMUEL IN 200 WORDS OR LESS

The books of Samuel focus on the rise and fall of two kings: Saul and David. Each serves as a character study on how humans interact with God's unfolding story of redemption.

Saul is the perfect candidate to be king according to human standards: he is tall, handsome, successful and a warrior. So the people chose him to be their visible king over an invisible God. But Saul is an incredibly flawed character. As the story unfolds it is clear he is a terrible king. He lacks integrity, is dishonest, prideful, and incapable of acknowledging his mistakes. Saul's story ends in tragedy when God rejects Saul as king, because Saul rejected God as King.

Though David is less credentialed than Saul, he possesses the character God desires in a king. David's heart is humble and intensely faithful to God. David's reign also ends in tragedy however, when his family and kingdom is torn apart by rape and murder after his sons imitate his own rebellion against God.

However, unlike Saul, David repents and is given a promise from God that a future, eternal king, will come from his line and set everything right.



## Discussion Questions:

- . Potential Ice Breaker: Just check in with each other. It's been a wild few weeks.
- . If you heard the message this week, was there anything that stood out to you that you would like to share?
- . Read 1 Samuel 17:1-11. Goliath intimidates Saul and Israel until they are immobilized by fear. Has there ever been a time in your life when you felt immobilized by fear?
- . Read 1 Samuel 17:20-40. Through out the story everyone runs *from* Goliath in fear, except David who runs towards Goliath in faith. In what ways does faith help us overcome fear?
- . David's faith is based on his remembering stories of God's deliverance and his own personal experience of God's deliverance. Why is remembering what God has done so crucial to the experience of faith?
- . How do you handle moments when your personal experience doesn't line up with stories of God's past deliverance?
- . Saul tries to dress David in his own armor, demonstrating his continued faith in the externals. Why is it so difficult to move beyond faith in what we can see and feel?

. Read 1 Samuel 17:41-51. The battle against Goliath is almost anticlimactic. David kills the giant rather quickly. It is clear David was well equipped to be used by God despite people's efforts to discount him. Do you ever discount yourself as someone who can be used by God? Have others discount you? What reasons do we often give for discounting ourselves?

. Though David had remarkable faith, he was not foolish in his fight against Goliath. How do we know the line between faith and foolishness in living out who God has called us to be?

. How can you encourage and pray for one another this week to have faith like David?

Resources for further study:

Bible Project—Read Scripture: 1 Samuel  
<https://bibleproject.com/explore/1-samuel/>

Bible Project—Read Scripture: 2 Samuel  
<https://bibleproject.com/explore/2-samuel/>

Interpretation Commentary: First and Second Samuel by Walter Brueggemann  
[https://www.amazon.com/First-Second-Samuel-Interpretation-Commentary/dp/0664238688/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?crid=35P3P5GP0JCO8&keywords=interpretation+commentary+samuel&qid=1584675195&s=books&sprefix=interpretation+commenta%2Caps%2C194&sr=1-1](https://www.amazon.com/First-Second-Samuel-Interpretation-Commentary/dp/0664238688/ref=sr_1_1?crid=35P3P5GP0JCO8&keywords=interpretation+commentary+samuel&qid=1584675195&s=books&sprefix=interpretation+commenta%2Caps%2C194&sr=1-1)

