

A Visitor's Guide to the Old Testament

A Quick Discussion Guide on the Book of 1 Samuel

1. Why don't godly parents always produce godly children (confer the children of Eli *and* the children of Samuel)? What are some common pitfalls adults ought to avoid in raising kids?
2. What role do disappointments/tragedies play in triumphs? (Hannah's disappointments or Israel's tragedy in the loss of the ark)
3. Identify at least FIVE different forms of government. Evaluate the effectiveness of each form under one of these three circumstances:
 - 1) All members of society are practicing Christians.
 - 2) No members of society are practicing Christians.
 - 3) Society is a mix of practicing Christians and confessed non-Christians.
4. Read the Psalm on the back page.
 - 1) Identify the sources of the writer's stress
 - 2) Determine how the stress affects him
 - 3) List what the writer seems to do in order to deal with his stress
 - 4) Answer the same three points above for "yourself" instead of "the writer"
5. Write your memory passage below:
6. What role did others play in David's life during difficult years? Name persons who play similar roles in your life experience:
 - 1) Jonathan (1 Samuel 23:15-18) -
 - 2) David's men (1 Samuel 24:3-7) -
 - 3) Abigail (1 Samuel 25:14-34) -
 - 4) Abishai (1 Samuel 26:9-11) -
7. What role do "prophecy" and "the Spirit of God" play in our world today?

¹ Deliver me from my enemies, O God;
protect me from those who rise up against me.

² Deliver me from evildoers
and save me from bloodthirsty men.

³ See how they lie in wait for me!
Fierce men conspire against me
for no offense or sin of mine, O LORD .

⁴ I have done no wrong, yet they are ready to attack me.
Arise to help me; look on my plight!

⁵ O LORD God Almighty, the God of Israel,
rouse yourself to punish all the nations;
show no mercy to wicked traitors. Selah

⁶ They return at evening,
snarling like dogs,
and prowl about the city.

⁷ See what they spew from their mouths-
they spew out swords from their lips,
and they say, "Who can hear us?"

⁸ But you, O LORD , laugh at them;
you scoff at all those nations.

⁹ O my Strength, I watch for you;
you, O God, are my fortress, ¹⁰ my loving God.

God will go before me
and will let me gloat over those who slander me.

¹¹ But do not kill them, O Lord our shield, ^{F114}
or my people will forget.

In your might make them wander about,
and bring them down.

¹² For the sins of their mouths,
for the words of their lips,
let them be caught in their pride.

For the curses and lies they utter,

¹³ consume them in wrath,
consume them till they are no more.

Then it will be known to the ends of the earth
that God rules over Jacob. Selah

¹⁴ They return at evening,
snarling like dogs,
and prowl about the city.

¹⁵ They wander about for food
and howl if not satisfied.

¹⁶ But I will sing of your strength,
in the morning I will sing of your love;
for you are my fortress,
my refuge in times of trouble.

¹⁷ O my Strength, I sing praise to you;
you, O God, are my fortress, my loving God.