

STUDENT STUDY GUIDE: WEEK NINE // 1 SAMUEL

KEY UNDERSTANDING OBJECTIVES

1. This book covers the transition in Israel's leadership from judges to kings.
 2. God is most concerned about the heart of a leader (13:14, 16:7)
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ACTIVITY 1

[This book covers the transition in Israel's leadership from judges to kings.]

Observe and Understand

Read 1 Samuel 8:1-9

- What is the background to the elders of Israel coming to ask Samuel for a king?
- What were their reasons for requesting a king?
- In verse 7 we read that God identifies the real issue - what is it?
- In what way was God their king?

Read 1 Samuel 8:10-22

- List the warnings that God gives Israel about what it will be like to have a king.
- How do the people respond to Samuel's warnings?
- What is the difference between a judge and a king?

God has just been rejected by His people as their king.

- What do you notice about His response? (including 1 Samuel 8:22 and 9:16-17)

Apply

What is your view of leadership in your life as a Christian?

What role should leaders play in our lives?

How should we 'balance' the influence of human leaders and the authority of God's Word?

ACTIVITY 2

[God is most concerned about the heart of a leader (13:14, 16:7)]

Observe

Read 1 Samuel 13:14 and 16:7.

In these verses we read how God prioritises the importance of a person's heart in selecting a leader.

Find five examples (including scripture references) of when David demonstrated a 'heart after God'.

Understand

In your own words, write an explanation of what it means to have 'a heart after God'.

Apply

If the heart of a person is the most important priority to God, then how much does it matter if you don't have the 'external appearance', such as skills or experience, of a leader?

I think there are times when we all feel like we are not enough. What encouragement does it bring you to know that God looks at your heart, and not your external abilities/skills/experience etc?

Is there some opportunity you are holding back from stepping into because you feel like you don't have 'it'? What can you do about that today...?