

DAILY

reading booklet

Dear Reading Group Leader,

Thanks for agreeing to help out and run the readings groups every morning!

The aim of this handbook is to help you to promote good discussion within your group and to begin the day with a strong spiritual focus.

Each morning the readings groups will run for approximately 45 minutes. This will consist of two bible readings and then time for personal prayer to finish.

The first reading will be the 1 Samuel daily reading - starting from ch. 16. These are chapters on the early life of David.

The second reading will be a 'daily theme' reading. The daily theme is a theme selected from 1 Peter that runs through the discussion groups for that day.

Finally, we have given you time to finish the readings every day with individual prayer and personal reflection.

There is a 'prayer sheet' provided, which will help guide your team in personal prayer and reflection.

We hope you enjoy discussing God's Word with your team!

With Love in Christ,
The Study Week 2016 Committee.



daily
reading



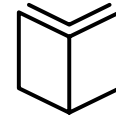
questions



daily
theme



prayer
time



Summary: David is anointed as king; David enters Saul's service.

Lesson: God does not look on the outward appearance, but on the heart.



1. Why was Samuel still mourning over Saul?

Look back at chapter 15. Despite all the down fallings, Saul had built a relationship with Samuel. In chapter 15:30-31 we see Samuel willing to work with Saul.

2. The elders of the town trembled at the approach of Samuel. Why was this the case?

Word would have spread of how Samuel has killed Agag. Look at Matt 2 if needed; shepherds of Bethlehem feared when they saw the great light.

3. How many times is the phrase 'the LORD' mentioned in this chapter? Why?

16 times, discuss the contrast between what man sees as being fit vs God's plans. The LORD is repeated constantly to reinforce that it is God who is making the choice, not man. Do we let God guide our decisions?

4. What is the "evil spirit from the LORD" in v14?

Compare and contrast v13 and 14, The Spirit of the Lord comes upon David and at the same time it leaves Saul. Read Romans 1:28 and 2 Thess. 2:11 - Why does God allow men go back to their base desires?

5. Why did Samuel think that Eliab would be anointed? What does God focus on when looking at man? What is the problem with our eyes? Cp. 1 John 2:15, Matt 6:29 "evil eye" and Matt 18:9

Samuel was looking on the outward appearance of man. Look at the provided cross references about the danger of our eyes. Discuss other verses about eyes if required.



'PASSIONATE' - John the Baptist

Luke 3:1-18

Peter was a passionate disciple who cared deeply about his Lord and his faith. Can we say we have the same deep-seated passion for our faith?

It was clear that John the Baptist had one passion: to spread the news of the coming Messiah.

Is this the same passion that we have in our lives? Does everyone know your passion?

John was a simple man who had next to no possessions and lived in the desert and God chose to work with him. God does not need temples or high places, He wants people who are passionate about him. In Luke 2:8-14 God chooses to dwell with the shepherds of the field. What is our focus? V7 - Why does John call them a "Generation of Vipers"? What wrath was to come? Cp Matt 23:33 - had they changed their ways and passions after Christ's teachings?

We can declare our passions to God through the process of baptism. Is it possible or is there any merit to adopting a life like John the Baptist today? Can it be done?



PRAYER OF PRAISE TO GOD

Not to us, O LORD, not to us, but to your name give glory,
for the sake of your steadfast love and your faithfulness!

Psalm 115:1

O LORD, you are my God; I will exalt you; I will praise your name,
For you have done wonderful things, plans formed of old, faithful and sure.

Isa 25:1

Praise the LORD! Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty
heavens! Praise him for his mighty deeds; praise him according to his
excellent greatness!

Psalm 150v1-2

(Aim: Telling God how much you love and esteem him)

- Set aside a period of time to specifically praise God at the beginning of each prayer.
- You are putting God in the right position at the start.
- The larger God is in our prayer, the smaller we become, remembering he is in heaven and we are on earth.



Things to include in your prayer:

1. Praise God for his Character. (Ex 34:6-7, Gal 5:22-23)

- List five things you love about God's character and how they affect you.

2. Praise God for his Word. (Psa 19:7-11)

- List three of the most powerful points you have heard from the bible recently.

3. Praise God for his Creation. (Job 38, Psa 104)

- List three things you have seen from creation and how they impressed you.

4. Praise God for he is a Father. (2 Thess 2:16, 2 Cor 1:3-4, James 1:17, Matt 7:7-11)

- What should an ideal father be like?
- In what way is God your Father?

5. Praise God for his Name.



Summary: David and Goliath – Israel vs the Philistines, David fights without Saul's Armour.

Lesson: Yahweh has delivered you into my hand. David was also chosen as a champion of God.



1. In v25 where was the men of Israel's focus? Are they more focused on the reward rather than the fact that Goliath is defying Israel? Why is this important?

The men were focussed on the potential reward and the glory, however it was still not enough for them to attempt the fight. Read Rom 2:3-4, Eph 1:7, 18, Eph 3:8 – What are the riches that God provides?

2. How is David shown to be a type of Christ in this chapter?

Christ as the "Little Stone" in the sling, Cp to Rev 7:3. The head of the serpent is cut off by the seed of the woman Gen 3:15. Goliath=king sin. What can be 'Goliaths' in our life in the truth?

3. David rose early in the morning (v20), think back to Gen 21:3, Ex 34:2 and Job 1:5, Mark 1:35, Mark 16:9. What is the significance?

Rising early in the morning is about setting the focus for the day, David shows what his priority is.

4. Why does it mention that there was no sword in the hand of David? Was there a lack of swords? Is it strange that David only brought five stones to the battle? David demonstrated his confidence in God. What is the significance of David being a shepherd?

Swords were rare at the time (cp 1 Sam 13:19, 22), hence why Jonathan giving David his sword was such a big deal. A shepherd always stands up for his sheep, David fought off lions and bears to save his flock. Chris does the same for us.

5. Goliath made the fatal mistake of cursing God and judging David based on his size and appearance. What relevance does this warning have for us today? Are we quick to judge?

Are we quick to judge? What does Christ say about judging in Matt 7:3-5. God is on our side!



'PRECIOUS' - Theme

Rom.3:19-31

In chapter 1 Peter introduces the ideas of a "precious faith" and "precious blood". In fact, he often refers to this idea in his letters (1 Peter 1:7, 19; 2:6; 2 Peter 1:1, 4). Is this how we feel about the word of God? What do we place the most value on in our lives?

In Romans 3 Paul highlights that both Jew and Gentile are under sin and that they needed to realise they need help. The righteousness of God is extended to all who believe by the precious faith and blood of Christ.

What does being precious mean in our context today? Does it mean that some are more 'precious' than others?

God set forth Christ to be a propitiation through faith in his blood to declare God's righteousness. Through his grace, God is willing to call those who believe on him as being precious and extend to them his inheritance.



PRAYER OF THANKFULNESS

I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart; I will recount all of your wonderful deeds.

Psalm 9:1

Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thess 5:18

(Aim: To acknowledge and thank God for all his abundant blessings)

Before beginning your prayer, Consider:

- Timothy said; "But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content." (1 Tim 6:8)
- Christ said; "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." (Matt 8:20)
- How much more has God given to you in comparison to the above.



Pray to God and thank Him for:

1. Your Life and Health

- List three specific things that you are thankful for (e.g. Ability to walk, hear, etc.)
- Think of one of your talents. Thank God for creating you with this.
- How can you better use your talent in his service?

2. Your Family/Friends/Ecclesia/Youth Group

- List three specific things about each that you are thankful for.

3. Your Country and Leaders (1Tim 2:1-2)

- List three specific things that you are thankful for.

4. Your Job and/or Education

- List three specific things that you are thankful for.

5. Your Home/Possessions/Clothing/Wealth

- Recognise everything you have comes from God.
- Do you feel content with what you have? Or are you always wanting more?



Summary: David and Jonathan's souls are knit. Harmful spirit came on Saul.

Lesson: Benefits of God centred friendship.



1. Why is it so remarkable that Jonathan and David's souls became 'knit' together?

Jonathan and David shared many characteristics, despite their differences in social position. After David's victory over Goliath he became the talk of the land gaining favour from everyone except Saul. V4 David accepts Jonathan's gifts and yet refuses Saul's weapons. Souls knit is an unbreakable bond. 'A three-fold cord is not easily broken' - Ecc. 4:12

2. How does this type of friendship apply to us today? Can we have friendship like this? Do we pride ourselves on having a God centred relationship with our friends?

Do we choose to have friends with Godly characteristics? What are we looking for in a friend?

3. In v8 David is being persecuted for his righteous behaviour and yet he has done no wrong, why is this the case? Think about Acts 14:22.

"Continuing in Faith, with much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God" Acts 14:22. Contrast to Heb 5:8, even Christ our great High Priest had to suffer.

4. What does it mean when David "behaved himself wisely in all his ways; and the LORD was with him?". What is the relevance in this today?

How can we 'behave wisely'. Cp Ecc 9:10, Col 3:22-23 and Matt 10:16

David did what was right in the sight of the Lord. David was a man after God's own heart, he lived a life pleasing to God (save the Bathsheba incident) and was prosperous because of this choice.

5. 1 Sam 18:17 Saul says "Let not mine hand be upon him but let the hand of the Philistines be upon him". Due to David's popularity Saul could not personally kill him. Who else experienced a similar situation? Look at John 7.

John 7 - The Pharisees could not take Christ in a public place because of the people. Many who heard his teachings were convinced of what he had to

say and the Pharisees would have lost favour if they tried anything.

'CHOSEN' - Theme

Malachi 3:16-18

In 1 Peter chapter 2:9 we meet one of the key verses of the entire letter; Peter tells his readers that they are special – they are chosen. The full appreciation of this must be outworked in their daily lives.

Malachi is writing in a time where there has been a spiritual decline. The people have become lazy and almost complacent with their position and their attitude towards God.

What is the process of purification for us? Is it the same as in verse 3?

V7 God highlights time and time again that despite your circumstances if you turn to God he will always return to us. God is true to his word and to those he has chosen.

V17 – 4:3 Speak of the incoming Judgment on Israel. What does Malachi say is in store for those who serve God?

V17 "They shall be mine, in that day when I make up my jewels".

John 6:70 "have I not chosen you". Why is it so amazing that we have been chosen? As his chosen people are we upholding the principles that Malachi is talking about? Or are we like the lazy and complacent nation of Israel who is about to be judged? How relevant is this for us today?



PRAYER FOR OTHERS

Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed.

The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.

James 5:16

Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.

Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

Phil 2:3-4

"Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, So that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven."

Matt 5:44

(Aim: To focus on others and minimise the focus on yourself)



1. Pray for three people who are sick.

2. Pray for three people struggling spiritually:

- What can you do to help?
- What do you want God to do for them?

3. List three of your best friends.

- Pray that their faith in God might increase.
- Pray that their love for God might increase.
- Pray that they might continue to improve in the truth even when difficulties come upon them.
- Thank God for them and ask that they might be in the kingdom.

4. List three people who are doing a good work in A) Your local area, B) Australia, C) Overseas.

For all three areas:

- Thank God for them.
- Ask God to continue to be with them.
- Pray that their work may become more successful.
- How can you help them?



Summary: Saul tries to kill David with a javelin. David escapes to Samuel at Ramah.

Lesson: God watches over David, even through trials. The power of true friendship.



1. V10 David manages to escape Saul once again; God was clearly watching over him. Think of some scriptural references which demonstrate God working to protect his people. (Psalm 34:7, Matt 10:23)

God will never leave or forsake his people. Time and time again in scripture he says this. E.g. Deut 4:27-29. This includes us as well!

2. Is there a New Testament echo to v20? Think about the officers who came to arrest Christ (John 7:45-46)

Just as Samuel had converted those who came to David, Christ in John 7 does the same to those who came to take him.

3. Were Michal's actions dishonest in v13 and she lies in v17? How do we feel about her actions?

What were her motives and intentions? Through the hand of God she saved David!

4. What is the New Testament echo to v16? They came to where he lay... Mat28:6

Matt 28:6 and John 20:2, 6-8 – Came to find the body but found no body of Christ.

5. In this chapter there are clear links to Psalm 59, what are they? V12 cp Psalm 59:1, 6.

Read Psalm 59 and compare and contrast.



'COMPASSIONATE' - Theme

Col. 3:8-17

In 1 Peter chapter 3 we learn all about how we ought to behave in our relationships with each other, with Christ as our ultimate example. This can be summed up in his comments in v8: "be of one mind, having compassion one of another".

What is the context of the letter to the Colossians? How does the idea of being compassionate fit in? Are we compassionate to others in our ecclesial life?

Comparisons between 'putting off' (v8,9) and 'putting on' (v10,12)

Read v12 - What is the old testament echo and how are they characteristics that we could apply today?

Why is love (charity) held in the highest regard? Is it better than being compassionate or is there something else?

What is the 'Peace of God' in v15?



PRAYER

OF CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 1:9

Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper,
But he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy.

Proverbs 29:13

I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity;
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and you forgave the
iniquity of my sin.

Psalms 32:5

(Aim: To clearly identify our faults and to be forgiven of them)

Key steps to honest confession:

- Admit your guilt.
- Take your mistakes and failures seriously.
- God wants us to be fully aware of our sins.
- If we admit our sin displeases and hurts God, we acknowledge it is our responsibility to change it.
- Realise; Confession is difficult. It is the most painful yet powerful part of prayer.
- Be specific.



Things to include in your prayer:

1. Confess to God: What is your biggest problem/area of sin in the truth?
2. Why is it such a problem?
3. How long have you had the problem?
4. Do you want to overcome the problem?
5. Ask God to help you overcome the problem.
6. Tell God that you are determined to stop sinning in this area.
7. Replace it with something positive. What will you replace it with?



Summary: David and Jonathan's friendship. David leaves and runs away.

Lesson: Friendship has to be based around Godly principles.



1. Ezel translates to "The stone that shows the way" (v19). How does this relate to Christ?

Christ is the little stone, the one who has paved the way for us to follow.

2. Why does it mention Abner sitting next to Saul at the table? Why would this be the case? What does it say about the current relationship between Jonathan and Saul?

Saul chose to have his right hand man sit next to him at the table instead of his very own son. This suggests that the tension was building between Jonathan and Saul. Do we get some of our friendships to this point? How do we stop it/prevent it?

3. Read v30. What can we assume about Jonathan's mother based on this statement from Saul?

Jonathan made choices that were in line with God's direction, this was the cause of contention between Jonathan and Saul. Perhaps he learnt this way of life from his mother which could explain why Saul saw both her and Jonathan as rebellious.

4. V42 highlights the insight that Jonathan had for God's plans with David. He knew that God had chosen David, they included God in all their planning, David had Mephibosheth eat at his table (seeds forever 2Sam 9:7) and finally when David was to come back he would be doing so to take his rule – (echo to Christ, also in the three days in v19)

David remembered the friendship he has with Jonathan and looked after his family because of it. God was at the centre of both their lives.

5. Due to the nature of Jonathan and David's friendship, Jonathan chose to be associated with Yahweh's chosen rather than to side with his father – Cp Heb 11:25. Do we choose our friends or the pleasures of sin? What is our priority, will we let the people around us slip away?

Personal reflection, this comes down to the individual person. Discuss priorities and how we can get caught up in the things of the world.



'PRAYFUL' - Theme

Philippians 4:1-9

In chapter 4, Peter encourages his readers that "the end of all things is at hand". Whatever trials were approaching, whatever they were going to endure, there was one way to prepare themselves: in constant prayer.

Is this our first instinct when trouble comes upon us?

In Philippians 4:6, Paul uses four different words for prayer. What are they? Is there a difference between them? What does it tell us about the structure of a prayer?

What affect should prayer have on our lives? Think of Matt 6:25-34, Eph 6:18, Rom 8:28.

V6 Presents the need to bring all of your requests to God through prayer. Are we quick to do this? Look at James 4:8 which highlights the need to be prayerful.

How is 'The Peace of God' tied in with being prayerful? Hint Isa 26:3

Look up the following passages and discuss what they highlight about prayer.

Psalms 50:15; Psalm 81:7; Proverbs 3:5-6

Nehemiah 2:1-6; Nehemiah 8:6

1 Chronicles 17:16

Daniel 6:10

Mark 1:35; Mark 11:25



PRAYER FOR SELF

Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise.

James 5:13

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving,

Let your requests be made known to God.

Phil 4:6

This is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him.

1 John 5:14-15



1. Is there something troubling you?

- What is troubling you?
- Why is it troubling you?
- Is there a way to make it trouble you a little less?
- Ask God to help.

2. Your Job or Schooling:

- What is your goal? Does your goal fit to the guidelines of neither poverty nor riches?
- Ask God to be with you in attaining your goal.

3. Pray that you might not be tempted beyond what you can handle, and that situations that are more than you can bear may not come upon you.

4. Your Family:

- What would you like to improve in your family?
- How can you help your family to improve?
- Ask God to help.

5. Boyfriend/Girlfriend, or Husband/Wife:

- Is this something you want? If so – Ask God that you might find a suitable partner.
 - Pray that God may help you handle life if you don't find a partner for some time.
- If you are in a relationship – Pray that your relationship may continue to improve.
 - Pray that you may grow closer to each other and to God.



Summary: Ch. 21 – David meets the priests at Nob, then goes to Gath, acts mad.

Lesson: Allow God to work in your life.



1. Cp v2 and chapter 22:9, 17. David lied to Abimelech the priest. Why did he lie? And what was the result of the lie?

Because of David's lie, the 85 priests of Yahweh were slain.

2. David in chapter 17 was a man who relied on God and refused the weapons of Saul to take on Goliath. What has now changed in v8-9? Why did he ask for a weapon?

David has fallen into the trap of relying on man's own might to protect himself. Contrast this to chapter 17 where he chooses a sling instead. Asking for a weapon shows he had forgotten where his focus should have been. Similar to Saul in 22:6

3. David pretends to be mad in front of Achish - Why was this the case? Had he lost his faith in God? Why has David changed so drastically in the last few chapters?

David may have let his fear get the better of him for a moment. He was scared (v10), he was on the run from people who wanted him dead, he had no friends close so he made a judgment call to act mad in order to get himself out of trouble.

4. Abimelech gives an amazing statement about David "who is more faithful among all thy servants as David?". List some examples of extreme faithfulness in their dedication to God in the old and new testament. E.g. Lk 16:10, Neh 9:8

Abimelech gives a glowing report of the works of David. Discuss examples of Faithful servants e.g. Col 4:9 Onesimus demonstrates great faith in listening to Paul and returns to his old master.

5. Read v23 – Do we believe this today? Do we live our life with the confidence that God is our safeguard?

What is a safeguard? Does God provide the same protection for us? CP. John 10:28-30



'HUMBLE' - Manassah

2 Chron. 33:9-20

In 1 Pet. 5:5-6 we learn specifically how young people in the ecclesia ought to behave, following the example of our Lord in humility. This is not a desirable characteristic in the modern world, but Peter is clear in his teaching: God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.

What is the future reward for those who are humble? Cp 1 Peter 5:6 and Phil 2:5-9

What did it take for Manasseh to be humbled? What is the relevance for us today?

How can we show humility in ecclesial life?

What is the process of humility? What did Manasseh do once he had acknowledged his mistake? V13, 18 and 19.

Do we just wake up humble? What are the steps?

Manasseh was able to corrupt the entire nation of Judah by his actions; can our selfish actions do the same today? The lack of humility was propagated by the focus on idolatry.



PRAYER FOR THE KINGDOM

Pray then like this: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Matt 6:9-10

But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one.
Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for
them a city.

Heb 11:16

Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For
you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is
your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

Col 3:3-4



1. Consider: Do you really want the Kingdom?
2. Give three reasons why God wants the Kingdom.
3. Give three reasons why the world needs the Kingdom.
4. Give three reasons why you want the Kingdom.
5. List three things you really want to do in the Kingdom.
6. What character faults do you want to lose in the Kingdom?
7. What feelings that you don't like will you be grateful to not have any more in the Kingdom?
(E.g. feelings of inadequacy, embarrassment)
8. Picture yourself:
 - Accepted at the Judgment Seat
 - At the first temple service
 - Meeting Christ and sharing a meal with him.
9. Ask God that you may be in the Kingdom.
10. Ask God to send his son back to the earth.
11. Think about: what it means for God's will to be done on earth as it is in heaven.

SW16
reading booklet