

Week 5// Life Under Kings

1 Samuel – 2 Kings

Intro//

Following the downward spiral described in Judges, the people decide that they need a king for the sake of secure, long term leadership. While the reigns of David and his son Solomon include some of the highest points of the story so far, the majority of the kings who follow do more harm than good for the people of God. Although this section of scripture contains glimpses of God's presence and peace among his people, it is also a sobering lesson about the limitations of human leadership.

For the fifth video in full, [please click here](#).

Discussion Questions//

1. Part 5 of God's story starts with Hannah, whose tearful prayer (**1 Samuel 1**) turns into a passionate song of praise (**1 Samuel 2**).
 - a. What can we learn from Hannah about prayer?
 - b. What can we learn from Hannah about praise and worship?
2. The prophet Samuel warns the people that having their own king won't solve their problems and may even cause some new challenges. *Given that this turns out to be true, why do you think God granted their request?*
3. On paper, Saul seems well suited to being king, but David less so. However, it is the lowly shepherd boy who ends up leaving the far greater legacy. *What does this tell us about what God values in a servant/leader?*
4. James describes 1 Kings 10 as the high point of the story of Israel. From scanning this chapter, what stands out to support this claim?
 - a. Can you pinpoint any high points in your faith story? What made that moment/season stand out for you?
5. Following Solomon's own stumbles, the majority of the king's that follow struggle to rule righteously, leading to division and disaster for the people.
 - a. Have you ever felt let down by a public leader you'd previously admired?
 - b. How can all these bad kings help us have a healthy relationship with people in power?

Reading Plan//

1	1 Samuel 8-10	Saul
2	1 Samuel 16.1-18.16	Goliath
3	2 Samuel 5-7	David
4	2 Samuel 11-12	Bathsheba
5	1 Kings 8.1-9.9	Solomon's Temple
6	1 Kings 11-12	Divided Kingdom
7	2 Kings 25	Fall of Jerusalem