

- Recap of last week: Saul's son Jonathon raids the Philistine camp. Saul's decision to command the army not to eat until they conquer everyone backfires. (1 Samuel 14) Saul disobeys God by taking some spoils of war from Amalekites, so God tells Saul that He will lose his kingship and secretly anoints David as a successor, and even though no one is aware God has done that. David is brought to Saul's court because he is an accomplished harp player and that is the only thing that will sooth the evil spirit God sent on Saul (1 Samuel 15 and 16). The young shepherd David without armor on uses a slingshot to knock down the Philistine giant named Goliath who is a man of war with heavy armor, then uses Goliath's own sword to cutoff his head, all because David was incensed with this man for taunting the armies of the living God. (1 Samuel 17).
- Saul's son Jonathan and David form a very tight bond. Saul separates them and they make a covenant and Jonathan seals it with his own clothes and all his armor. (1 Samuel 18:1-4)
- David goes wherever Saul sends him and conducts himself in a wise way. Everyone can see that, even Saul's servants, and Saul appoints David the leader of the army. (1 Samuel 18:5)
- Always remember to respect what is right in the sight of all men. The translations vary widely here. The concept is exactly what David did. (Romans 12:17) This is also what Jesus preached. Matthew 5:14-16
- One day Saul overhears people praising David's military accomplishments over his own in a very direct way. They sing Saul has killed his thousands, but David has killed his tens of thousands. Saul realizes his kingdom is at risk (remember God had told him he would lose it) and starts to watch David very closely. (1 Samuel 18:6-9)
- As David is playing his harp, Saul throws a spear at him. This happens twice and the second time David runs and doesn't come back. (1 Samuel 18:10-11)
- Saul's fear of David builds, and David's popularity among the people increases. (1 Samuel 18:12-16)
- Saul tries to marry off his oldest daughter, Merab, to David, but David refuses, saying that he is not worthy to be son-in-law to the King. So Saul married Merab off to someone else. Saul has another daughter named Michal he offers David. David puts up the same protest even though Michal really does love him. Saul's motive is not pure in all this; he is trying to set David up to be killed by the Philistines. (1 Samuel 18:17-23)
- Saul demands the foreskins of 200 Philistines as a dowry. (Dowries were common in that day, but this dowry request is not). David delivers, probably because he sees this as something he can afford. War with the Philistines ensues, and Saul's plan backfires again because David becomes even more popular, so Saul hates him even more. (1 Samuel 18:25-30)
- Jonathan finds out that his father Saul is planning to kill David so he tells David to hide and Jonathan will talk with his father and then tell him was he finds out. (1 Samuel 19:1-3)
- Jonathan talks to Saul about David and tells him not to kill him or even be mad at him because he says "he hasn't done anything to you." Saul vows not to have David killed. David comes back to court and starts playing the harp again for Saul, just like old times! (1 Samuel 19:4-7)
- Just like old times, God sends an evil spirit on Saul and he throws a spear again at David. (1 Samuel 19:9-10)
- David goes home but his wife Michal tells him he will be killed if he doesn't leave so she lets him out from the window, pretends he is in bed and tells Saul's agents he sick in bed the next day. Saul says ok bring the whole bed to me that I can kill him there. Then he discovers it's not really

David and Michal his daughter and David's wife says that he told her he would kill her if she didn't let him go. (I Samuel 19:15-17)

- David runs to Samuel and tells him everything Saul did. Saul hears that David is there and three times sends agents to take him and each time the messengers end up prophesying. Finally, Saul himself goes and he up taking off all his clothes (very undignified for anyone, especially for a King) and prophesying too. (I Samuel 19:18-24)
- David wants to come back for an important feast. Jonathan says Saul won't kill him but David says that he will. Jonathan promises to talk with his Dad and works out a signal for David. He tells him he will shoot three arrows at a target and when his assistant goes to retrieve the arrows and he shouts at the man that the arrows are beside him, then that will be a signal that it is okay to return. On the other hand, if David hears him shout at the man that the arrows are beyond him, then David needs to keep hiding. Jonathan and David reiterate their very tight bond (I Samuel 20:1-23)
- Jonathan talks to Saul and Saul gets mad and accuses him of choosing David over his own family. He then throws a spear at Jonathan. (I Samuel 20:19-34)
- In English we have a saying "blood is thicker than water" which we use to mean that family is closer than anything. There was an ancient Hittite (one of those ethnic groups around Israel) saying that is actually the exact opposite. It was that "the blood of a covenant is thicker than the water of the womb." That would mean that a vow between two people comes above even any family relationship. That is exactly what is going on here.
- Jonathan goes out, shoots the arrows, tells the boy collecting the arrows that they are beyond him. David and Jonathan have a tearful parting. (I Samuel 20:41-42)
- David goes to a city called Nob and enters the temple and talks with a priest named Ahimelech. He tells the priest he is on a secret mission from the King and he is hungry so he eats the holy bread from the temple since that is all there is. He asks for a sword because he doesn't have one with him and the priest happens to have the sword he used to cut off Goliath's head in I Samuel 17. A guy named Doeg the Edomite is there to witness all this. (I Samuel 21:1-9)
- Jesus references this incident when the Pharisees accuse his disciples working on the Sabbath. (Matthew 12:1-8)
- Notice also that verse 7 of that passage is exactly what Saul told Samuel when he disobeyed God by taking some animals to sacrifice to God from the Amalekites, even though God told him not to. (I Samuel 15:22)
- David then runs to a place called Gath where the King named Achish has men who recognize David. This scares David so he gets away by acting crazy. (I Samuel 21:10-15)
- David runs again, and starts to gather people who aren't happy with their current circumstance. He forms an army of 400 people. He also gets the King of Moab to give refuge to his father Jesse and his mom (he protects his family). (I Samuel 22:1-5)
- Saul finds out from Doeg the Edomite that David got bread and a sword from Ahimelech. He sends for Ahimelech and all priests (there were 85 of them) and then instructs Doeg the Edomite to kill them all. (I Samuel 22:6-17)
- One man named Abiathar gets away and tells David what happened. David says he knew that Doeg the Edomite would tell Saul, feels guilty and regretted that he caused all those deaths so he promises safety to Abiathar. (I Samuel 22:18-23)

- The Philistine army is raiding an Israeli town called Keilah. God tells David to go to their aid. David asks God if they should really intervene because they are even scared of Saul's army much less the Philistines. God promises him he will be with them so they go and win.
- They end up in the city, and Saul thinks he has them cornered there in the closed city. (1 Samuel 23:1-4)
- Saul thinks he has David cornered in the city and leads his army to attack them. David asks God if the people of Keilah will turn on them and let Saul's army in and God says yes so they escape. At this point David's army has grown from 400 to 600, and Saul calls off the attack. (1 Samuel 23:7-13)
- Saul keeps pursuing David and David keeps narrowly escaping. At one point, Jonathan is able to meet David in the forest and repeats that he will become King and Jonathan will serve beside him and even his father Saul knows that. Saul and his army finally leave because the Philistines are invading again and they have to go and fight them. (1 Samuel 23:8-28)

Questions

1. Who separated Jonathan and David?
2. How did Jonathan seal his covenant with David?
3. When Saul sends David out anywhere how does David conduct himself?
4. Who sees the fact that David is conducting himself wisely?
5. What appointment does Saul give David?
6. Why does Saul start to watch David?
7. How does Saul try to kill David in his court while David is playing the harp?
8. How many times does Saul try to kill David in his court while David is playing the harp?
9. Why is Saul so eager to get David to marry one of his daughters?
10. Why does David resist marrying one of Saul's daughters at first?
11. What is the name of Saul's daughter that David end up marrying?
12. What does Saul request as a wedding present?
13. What does Jonathan tell David to do when he first finds out about Saul's plan to kill him?
14. Why does Jonathan tell his father Saul to leave David alone?
15. What happens to the 3 different set of agents Saul sends after David?
16. What happens to Saul when he goes to get David as he is visiting Samuel?
17. What signal do David and Jonathan work out?
18. When Jonathan tries to talk with Saul about David a second time what does Saul do?
19. When David is hungry, what does Ahimelech give him to eat?
20. When David needs a sword, whose sword does Ahimelech give him?
21. How did David get away from King Achish when the King's men recognized him?
22. How many people join David's army while he is on the run?
23. Where does David hide his father and mother?
24. Who tells Saul what happens with David and Ahimelech?
25. What does Saul do when he finds out Ahimelech has assisted David?
26. Who forces Saul's army to temporarily breakoff their pursuit of David?