

What do you do when a prophet tells you to take a bath? What do you say to a fig tree with no figs? What happens when some young people mock a bald guy? What is a Nephilim? Is the witch of Endor a Star Wars character? Join as we explore these stranger things from the Bible and how they find themselves in the story of God.

I Samuel Overview:

Named after the judge who anointed Saul and David, Samuel records events between the birth of Samuel and Saul's death (about 1100-1010 B.C.). Samuel answered important questions for Israelites about the legitimacy of King David's monarchy. Israel had been wrong to ask for a king and in the reign of Saul we see God reject him as king. If God rejected Saul, what would be different about King David's line. In Samuel we see God continue to work even though the people are not always faithful. Samuel points to an everlasting kingdom which was fulfilled in Christ, a descendent of David. "Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever." (2 Samuel 7:16, NIV)

Author and Date:

Unknown around 950B.C. (During the reign of Solomon)

First readers and their location:

Israelites in ancient Israel.

Open-up

Share about a time you tried to solve a problem on your own instead of turning to God or others for help and made a mess of things.

Into the Bible—Ask “What does it Say?”

Read: 2 Kings 1 Samuel 28:3-25

What do you notice about the passage itself? (Structure, repeated words or ideas, unique words, main points, what did this passage say to the original author and audience)

Describe the situation Saul finds himself in. How did he attempt to discover what he should do?

In turning to the witch of Endor Saul breaks God's command in Leviticus 19:31. Contrast 1 Samuel 28:3 with 28:8-10. What do you learn about Saul?

How does Samuel respond to Saul and his actions?

Although God does not speak directly with Saul, what do we learn about God in this passage?



Into my life—Ask “What does this look like in my personal life?”

At his anointing as king, Saul received these words from Samuel, “Has not the Lord anointed you ruler over His inheritance?” (1 Samuel 10:1). From what you know of Saul, how did he treat his anointing?

Saul had a deep fear of disappointing those around him (1 Samuel 15:25). What external pressures do you face when it comes to obeying God’s word (See 1 Samuel 15:22)?

Read Matthew 27:45-46 and Hebrews 13:5. How does Jesus’ us from experiencing the abandonment from God that we, as well as Saul, deserve for our disobedience?



Into the World—Ask “what does this look like in my world?”

Christians are called Christ’s ambassadors in the world (2 Corinthians 5:20). How is this similar to Saul’s anointing? What scares you about this? What excites you? (Pray for each other out of these questions)