

Desiring
God's Own
Heart

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HOW TO GET STARTED...



Unless details appeal to you or unless you are a methodical person, reading directions is sometimes difficult and hardly ever enjoyable! Most often, you just want to get started. Only if all else fails are you ready to tackle the instructions! We understand—we're not into details either. But read "How to Get Started" before you begin...believe us, it will help! It is a vital part of getting started on the right foot! The pages are few and will help you immensely.

FIRST

As you study the books of 1 and 2 Samuel and 1 Chronicles, you will need four things in addition to this book:

1. A Bible you are willing to mark in. Marking is essential because it is an integral part of the learning process and will help you remember and retain what you learned. An ideal Bible for this purpose is *The New Inductive Study Bible (NISB)*. The *NISB*, which is available in the NAS or the NIV, comes in a single-column text format with large, easy-to-read type, and is ideal for marking. The page margins are wide and blank for note-taking.

The *NISB* also has instructions for studying each book of the Bible, but it does not contain any commentary on

the text. The *NISB* isn't compiled from any particular theological stance since its purpose is to teach you how to discern truth for yourself through the inductive method of study. (The various charts and maps that you will find in this study guide are taken from the *NISB*.) Whatever Bible you use, just know you will want to mark in it, which brings us to the second item you will need.

2. A fine-point, four-color ballpoint pen or various colored fine-point pens (such as Micron pens) for writing in your Bible. The Micron pens are best for this purpose. Office supply stores should have these.

3. Colored pencils or an eight-color Pentel pencil.

4. A composition notebook or loose-leaf notebook for working on your assignments and recording your insights.

SECOND


1. As you study 1 and 2 Samuel and 1 Chronicles, you'll find specific instructions for each day's study. The study should take you between 20 and 30 minutes a day. However, if you desire to spend more time than this, you will increase your intimacy with the Word of God and the God of the Word. If you are doing this study within the framework of a class and you find the lessons too heavy, then simply do what you can. To do a little is better than to do nothing. Don't be an all-or-nothing person when it comes to Bible study.

Any time you get into the Word of God, you enter into more intensive warfare with the devil (our enemy). Why? Every piece of the Christian's armor is related to the Word of God. And the enemy doesn't want you prepared for battle. Thus, the warfare! Remember that our one and only offensive weapon is the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God, and it is enough to fell the enemy.

To study or not to study is a matter of choice first, discipline second. It is a matter of the heart...on what or whom are you setting your heart? Get armed for war! And remember, victory is certain.

2. As you read each chapter, train yourself to think through the content of the text by asking the “5 W’s and an H”: who, what, when, where, why, and how. Posing questions like these and searching out the answers helps you see exactly what the Word of God is saying. When you interrogate the text with the 5 W’s and an H, you ask questions like these:


- a. **What** is the chapter about?
- b. **Who** are the main characters?
- c. **When** does this event or teaching take place?
- d. **Where** does this happen?
- e. **Why** is this being done or said?
- f. **How** did this happen?


3. The “when” of events or teachings is very important and should be marked in an easily recognizable way in your Bible. We do this by putting a clock (like the one shown here)  in the margin of our Bibles beside the verse where the time phrase occurs. Or you may want to underline references to time in one specific color. As a reminder, note on your key word bookmark (which is explained next in this section) that you need to mark time references in each chapter.

4. You will be told about certain key words that would be wise to mark throughout this study. This is the purpose of the colored pencils and the colored pen. If you will develop the habit of marking your Bible, you will find it will make a significant difference in the effectiveness of

your study and in how much you retain as a result of your study.

A **key word** is an important word that is used by the author repeatedly in order to convey his message to his reader. Certain key words will show up throughout the book, while other key words will be concentrated in specific chapters or segments of the book. When you mark a key word, you should also mark its synonyms (words that mean the same thing in the context) and its pronouns (*he, his, she, her, it, we, they, us, our, you, their, them*) in the same way. Because some people have requested them, we will give you various ideas and suggestions in your daily assignments for how you can mark different key words.

Marking words for easy identification can be done by colors, symbols, or a combination of colors and symbols. However, colors are easier to distinguish than symbols. If you use symbols, we suggest you keep them very simple. For example, one of the key words in these books is **king**. You could draw a crown like this  **king** over the word. If a symbol is used in marking a key word, it is best for the symbol to convey the meaning of the word.

When we mark the members of the Godhead (which we do not always mark), we color every reference to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in yellow. We then use a purple pen and mark the Father with a triangle, symbolizing the Trinity. Then playing off the triangle and using the purple pen, we mark the Son this way: Jesus, and the Holy Spirit this way:  **Spirit**. If you learn to mark every reference to the Spirit, as you will see in the books you are about to study, you will begin to collect some valuable insights on the Spirit of God. However, we find that when you mark every reference to God and to Jesus your Bible becomes

cluttered. Therefore, we suggest you mark these only in specific incidences.

As you begin this new venture, we would recommend that you also devise a color-coding system for marking key words that you decide to mark throughout your Bible. Then when you glance at the pages of your Bible, you will have instant recognition of the words.

When you start marking key words, it is easy to forget how you are marking them. Therefore, we recommend you use the bottom portion of the perforated card at the back of this book to write the key words on that. Mark the words in the way you plan to mark each in the Bible text and then use the card as a bookmark. It might be good to make one bookmark for words you are marking throughout your Bible and a different one for any specific book of the Bible you are studying. Or record your marking system for the words you plan to mark throughout your Bible on a blank page in your Bible.

5. Because locations are important in a historical or biographical book of the Bible (1 and 2 Samuel and 1 Chronicles are historical books), you will find it helpful to mark locations in a distinguishable way in your study. Try double underlining every reference to a location in green (grass and trees are green!). Maps are included in this study so you can look up the locations in order to put yourself into context geographically. We suggest that you make a note on your key word bookmark to mark locations.

6. Charts called 1 SAMUEL AT A GLANCE, 2 SAMUEL AT A GLANCE, and 1 CHRONICLES AT A GLANCE are located at the end of their respective studies. When you complete your study of each chapter of a book, record the main theme of that chapter on the appropriate chart under the chapter number. The main theme of a chapter is the

topic, event, or subject that the chapter deals with the most. Usually in historical or biographical books, the chapter themes center on events.

If you will develop the habit of filling out the AT A GLANCE charts as you progress through the study, you will have a complete synopsis of the book when you finish. If you have a *New Inductive Study Bible*, you will find the same charts in your Bible. If you record your chapter themes on the charts in your Bible, you'll always have them for ready reference.

7. Begin your study with prayer. Don't start without it. Why? Well, although you are doing your part to handle the Word of God accurately, remember that the Bible is a divinely inspired book. The words you are reading are absolute truth, given to you by God so you can know Him and His ways more intimately. These truths are divinely understood. Listen: "For to us God revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God. For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God" (1 Corinthians 2:10,11).

This is why you need to pray. Simply tell God you want to understand His Word so you can live accordingly. Nothing pleases Him more than obedience—honoring Him as God—as you are about to see.

8. Each day when you finish your lesson, take some time to think about what you read, what you saw with your own eyes. Ask your heavenly Father how you can apply these insights, principles, precepts, and commands to your own life. At times, depending on how God speaks to you through His Word, you might want to record these "Lessons for Life" in the margin of your Bible next to the

text you have studied. Simply put “LFL” in the margin of your Bible, and then, as briefly as possible, record the lesson for life that you want to remember. You can also make the note “LFL” on your key word bookmark as a reminder to look for these when you study. You will find them encouraging...sometimes convicting...in the days following when you come across them again.

THIRD

This study is designed so that you have an assignment for every day of the week. This puts you where you should be—in the Word of God on a daily basis. If you will do your study daily, you will find it more profitable than doing a week’s study in one sitting. Pacing yourself in this way allows time for thinking through what you learn on a daily basis! However, whatever it takes to get it done, do it!

The seventh day of each week has several features that differ from the other six days. These features are designed to aid in one-on-one discipleship, group discussions, and Sunday school classes. However, they are profitable even if you are studying this book by yourself.

The “seventh” day is whatever day in the week you choose to finish your week’s study. On this day, you will find a verse or two for you to memorize and *STORE IN YOUR HEART*. This will help you focus on a major truth or truths covered in your study that week.

To assist those using the material in a Sunday school class or a group Bible study, there are *QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION OR INDIVIDUAL STUDY*. Whatever your situation, seeking to answer these questions will help you reason through some key issues in the study.

If you are using the study in a group setting, make sure the answers given are supported from the Bible text itself.

This practice will help ensure that you are handling the Word of God accurately. As you learn to see what the text says, you will find that the Bible explains itself.

Always examine your insights by carefully observing the text to see what it *says*. Then, before you decide what the passage of Scripture *means*, make sure you interpret it in the light of its context. Context is what goes with the text...the Scriptures preceding and following what is written. Scripture will never contradict Scripture. If it ever seems to contradict the rest of the Word of God, you can be certain that something is being taken out of context. If you come to a passage that is difficult to understand, reserve your interpretations for a time when you can study the passage in greater depth.

The purpose of a *THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK* is to help you apply what you've learned. We've done this for your edification. You can determine how valuable it is.

Remember, books in the New Inductive Study Series are survey courses. If you want to do a more in-depth study of a particular book of the Bible, we suggest you do a Precept upon Precept Bible Study Course on that book. The Precept studies are awesome but require five hours of personal study a week. However, you will never learn more! They are top-of-the-line! You may obtain more information on these courses by contacting Precept Ministries International at 800-763-8280, visiting our website at www.precept.org, or filling out and mailing the response card in the back of this book.

FIRST SAMUEL

WHAT WILL IT TAKE FOR YOU TO GIVE GOD YOUR HEART?



Have you ever desired something so strongly that you felt you would be ill without it? Have you ever wanted a relationship with someone so badly that you thought you would die if you couldn't have it?

Oh, to long with that same intensity for a personal relationship with the living God! To be willing to pay the price to know Him by spending time in His Word, for there you learn His ways and His character! How pleasing this would be to our God, for He longs deeply to have you know Him, to understand His heart, to walk in His ways.

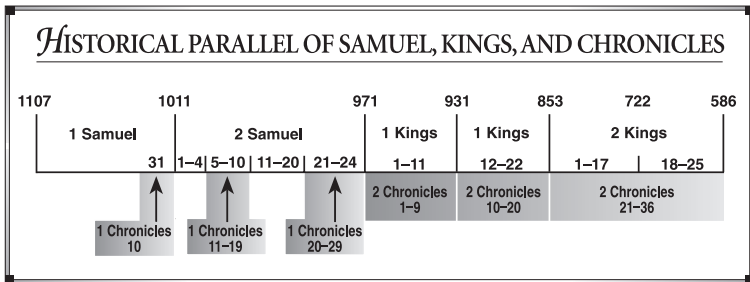
In this week's lesson, you will encounter people who sought God and others who were unwilling to discipline themselves for the purpose of godliness. Don't miss what you can learn by observing each.



DAY ONE

Since Samuel, Kings, and Chronicles are historical books, it is important to understand where they fit in the history of Israel. First Samuel closes the period of the judges

and marks the beginning of the period of the kings of Israel. This transition is evident since 1 Samuel opens with an account of the life of Samuel, the last judge of Israel, and then leads into the days of the kings as recorded in the books of 1 and 2 Samuel, 1 and 2 Kings, and 1 and 2 Chronicles. The diagram below will give you a visual picture of the historical parallel of Samuel, Kings, and Chronicles.



Although our study will focus primarily on the books of 1 and 2 Samuel, we will incorporate parallel passages from 1 Chronicles which will give you the complete picture of the times and events you are studying.

Historical books, while documenting facts, offer revolutionary insights into God, into people, and into how man and God relate in the varied circumstances of life. As you follow the lives of the Israelites during the period of Samuel, we pray that you will desire a deeper relationship with God and that the knowledge of His character and His ways will leave you longing to know more of Him.

Begin your study of 1 Samuel today by reading chapter 1. Concentrate on the *who* and the *what* of the 5 W's and an H (refer to "How to Get Started" on page 5). Then in your notebook, list what this chapter is about—the

events that take place in 1 Samuel 1 and the main characters who are involved in these events.



DAY TWO

If you have not read the “How to Get Started” section in the front of this book, it would be beneficial to do so before you go any further. That section explains the how and why of inductive Bible study. Now would also be a good time to stop and begin a key word bookmark to use throughout your study of 1 and 2 Samuel and 1 Chronicles. (Again, if you have questions, refer to the “How to Get Started” section.)

As you saw yesterday, three main characters emerge in this first chapter: *Hannah*, *Eli*, and *Samuel*. As you read today, note what you learn about these three people by marking references to each with a distinguishable color or symbol. Remember to mark the synonyms and/or pronouns relating to each character in the same distinctive way. Marking references to these people will reveal what each character does, what has happened in his or her past, what is currently happening, and what will happen in the future. Also, don’t miss marking references to Samuel as a child.

Hannah’s name occurs only in the first two chapters, but she is a key person in Samuel’s life. In chapters 1–4, you will mark Eli’s name. However, since Hannah’s and Eli’s names are mentioned only in the early chapters, don’t add them to your bookmark. *Samuel* is a main character throughout, so his name will be the first key word you will want to put on your bookmark.

After you read chapter 1 and mark the three main characters, you will find it helpful to record in your notebook what you observe about each of these people. Therefore, make a list about each person. Leave enough room to add to the list on Eli through chapter 4. Samuel is the central character of this study, so you will want to leave several pages for the list about him. Also, as you write down your observations throughout this study, you will find it helpful to put the Scripture verse where you find the information next to the observation so that you can see easily where you found your information.

When you have completed your assignment, review what you observed in the lives of Hannah, Eli, and Samuel and think how you can apply any of this to your life. Record any “Lessons for Life” (LFL) in the margin of your Bible or in your notebook. (If you are unfamiliar with the term LFL, see the “How to Get Started” section.)

Finally, identify the theme of this chapter. Record the theme on the appropriate line of the 1 SAMUEL AT A GLANCE chart on page 62 or make a larger version of the chart in your notebook and fill it out as you go along. If you have an *NISB*, don’t forget to fill in your information there too.


 DAY THREE

Read 1 Samuel 2:1-10 and mark every reference to the *LORD* (including synonyms, such as *God* and pronouns such as *He* or *Your*¹). Note what you learn about God in these first ten verses and begin a list in your notebook where you can continue to record insights about God.

As you read, notice how Hannah’s prayer relates to her situation. This prayer is packed with lessons for life. Be sure to write in the margin of your Bible or in your notes any “LFL” that you discover.

DAY FOUR

Today you are going to read and mark 1 Samuel 2:11-36. Add to your key word bookmark *sin*²(s) and any synonyms such as *evil things*.³ Later you will mark other synonyms such as *sinned*,⁴ *sinning*, *transgression*,⁵ *transgressed*,⁶ and *iniquity*,⁷ so add these to your bookmark now also.

As you have done previously, note what this chapter teaches you about Samuel. Then note specifically how Eli’s sons, Hophni and Phinehas, sinned. Mark every reference to these two men and record what you learn about them in your notebook. Leviticus 7:22-25 is an excellent cross-reference with 1 Samuel 2:12-17, so you might want to write “Leviticus 7:22-25” next to this passage in 1 Samuel. Cross-referencing helps you remember the location of a passage that sheds light on or correlates with the one you are studying. Cross-referencing is also very helpful when you don’t have your study notes, because your notes are right in your Bible!

DAY FIVE

Read 1 Samuel 2:11-36 and focus on what you learn from this chapter about Eli. Look for the 5 W’s and an H. Note who interacts with Eli, what he tells him, and why. Add all your insights to your list on Samuel.

Identify the theme of chapter 2 and record it on the 1 SAMUEL AT A GLANCE chart on page 62.

DAY SIX

Today read 1 Samuel 3 and mark every reference, including pronouns, to the *Lord*, to *Samuel*, and to *Eli*. Add to your lists what you learn about the character and behavior of both Samuel and Eli. Be sure to note on your list about Eli what God reveals to Samuel about him. Also note what you see about God in this chapter. As you mark your key words, don't miss the word *iniquity*.⁸

Note how and why God is going to judge Eli and his household. Examine the reasons carefully and record any new insights on Eli in your notebook.

Identify and record the theme of chapter 3 on the 1 SAMUEL AT A GLANCE chart on page 62.

DAY SEVEN



Store in your heart: 1 Samuel 2:2.

Read and discuss: 1 Samuel 2:1-17; 2:29; 3:12,13; Leviticus 7:22-25.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION OR INDIVIDUAL STUDY

- ☞ At what point in Israel's history does 1 Samuel begin? (Refer to Day One for help.)
- ☞ Describe the sequence of events that occurs in 1 Samuel 1–2 as it relates to Hannah's request for a son.

- ☞ What did you learn about God from Hannah's prayer in 1 Samuel 2:1-10?
 - a. What does this tell you about Hannah?
 - b. How does knowing God affect your prayer life?
- ☞ What reason did God give for judging Eli and his house (2:29; 3:12,13)?
 - a. What was Eli's responsibility regarding his sons? Was he accountable to God for them?
 - b. What had Eli's sons done to deserve this kind of punishment (2:12-17)?
 - c. How important was it for Eli to follow God's instructions regarding the offerings and sacrifices? Discuss what you saw in Leviticus 7:22-25.
- ☞ What do you learn from this week's lesson that would apply to the role of parents in relation to their children, especially fathers?

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

In these first three chapters of 1 Samuel, you have seen the sharp contrast between Hannah and her son, Samuel, and Eli and his sons, Hophni and Phinehas. In 1 Samuel 2:35, God says that He will raise up a faithful priest who will do according to what is in His heart and in His soul... and that He will build him an enduring house. Eli was not this kind of man...and thus his house was judged forever. God put Eli's sons to death not only because of their sin but because their father failed to rebuke them. In essence, Eli compromised his priesthood.

Ironically, the very woman Eli rebuked, thinking her drunk, was the woman who, through faith and perseverance, would receive a son who would say to God, “Speak, LORD, for Your servant is listening” (1 Samuel 3:9).

When we become children of God, we become part of a kingdom of priests unto God. Will you be a faithful priest doing what is in God’s heart and soul rather than living according to what is in your own?

If you want an “enduring house”—a family who will follow in your footsteps—this is where you begin. Listen to God and do all that He says.