

Small Group Guide: Jesus in the Old Testament – 1 Samuel: Samuel and David



Summary:

In this exploration of 1 Samuel, we uncover striking parallels between Samuel, David, and Jesus Christ. We see how God's plan unfolds through miraculous births, humble beginnings, and divine appointments. The story of Samuel's childhood in the temple and David's journey from shepherd to king beautifully foreshadows Jesus' own life and ministry. But perhaps the most powerful lesson comes from the Ark of the Covenant. When people looked inside without the mercy seat, they perished - a stark reminder that we cannot face God's law without His mercy. This poignant symbolism points us to Christ as our ultimate mercy seat, covering us with grace so we can stand before God. As we reflect on these rich connections, we're challenged to seek God's mercy daily and to recognize Jesus as our Good Shepherd, our Prophet, our Priest, and our coming King.

Key Takeaways:

1. The Old Testament contains numerous parallels and foreshadowing of Jesus Christ.
2. Samuel and David both serve as types of Christ in different ways.
3. The Ark of the Covenant and the mercy seat symbolize our need for Jesus' mercy.
4. Jesus fulfills the roles of prophet, priest, and king.

Discussion Questions:

1. What similarities did you notice between Samuel's early life and Jesus'? Why do you think these parallels are significant?
2. The sermon mentions that Samuel served as judge, prophet, and priest. How does Jesus fulfill each of these roles in our lives today?
3. Reflect on the story of the Ark of the Covenant returning to Beth Shemesh. What does this teach us about the importance of God's mercy?
4. How does the image of Jesus as our "mercy seat" impact your understanding of salvation and your relationship with God?
5. In what ways does David's story (shepherd, rejected king, future ruler) foreshadow Jesus' life and mission?
6. The sermon draws a connection between Goliath's head at Jerusalem and Jesus' crucifixion. How does this perspective enrich your understanding of God's plan throughout history?
7. How does seeing Jesus in the Old Testament strengthen your faith or change your approach to reading Scripture?

Practical Applications:

1. This week, read through 1 Samuel 1-17. As you read, make note of any additional parallels to Jesus you notice.
2. Spend time in prayer thanking Jesus for being your "mercy seat" and reflecting on how His mercy impacts your daily life.
3. Share with a friend or family member one new insight you gained about Jesus from this Old Testament study.
4. Consider how you might need to rely on Jesus as your prophet (revealing God's truth), priest (mediator with God), or king (ruler of your life) in a current situation you're facing.

Closing Prayer

Encourage group members to continue reflecting on these themes throughout the week and to look for Jesus in unexpected places in Scripture.

5-day Bible reading plan and devotional guide:



Day 1: The Miraculous Birth

Reading: 1 Samuel 1:1-20, Luke 1:26-38

Devotional:

Just as Samuel's birth was a miraculous answer to prayer, so too was the birth of Jesus. Hannah's fervent prayers and God's faithful response remind us that God hears our deepest longings. Reflect on times when God has answered your prayers in unexpected ways. How might God be working in your life right now, even if you can't see it? Consider areas where you need to trust God's timing and providence. Pray for the faith to believe in God's miraculous power, even in seemingly impossible situations.

Day 2: Serving in God's Presence

Reading: 1 Samuel 2:18-21, Luke 2:41-52

Devotional:

Both Samuel and Jesus served in the temple from a young age, growing in wisdom and favor with God and men. Their early dedication teaches us the importance of cultivating a heart for service and seeking God's presence. How can you create more space in your life to dwell in God's presence? Consider ways you can serve others this week as an act of worship. Pray for God to reveal areas where He wants you to grow in wisdom and in your relationship with Him and others.

Day 3: The Mercy Seat

Reading: Exodus 25:17-22, Romans 3:21-26

Devotional:

The ark's mercy seat powerfully illustrates our need for God's mercy to approach His holiness. Without Christ as our mercy seat, we cannot stand before God's perfect law. Spend time reflecting on areas in your life where you've tried to measure up on your own merit. How does understanding Jesus as our mercy seat change your approach to God? Thank God for His abundant mercy and grace through Christ. Ask Him to help you extend that same mercy to others in your life.

Day 4: The Good Shepherd

Reading: 1 Samuel 17:34-37, John 10:11-18

Devotional:

David's experience as a shepherd prepared him to face Goliath and later lead Israel. Jesus, our Good Shepherd, laid down His life to defeat our greatest enemy – sin and death. Consider the "giants" you're facing in your life right now. How can you trust Jesus, your Good Shepherd, to guide and protect you through these challenges? Pray for the courage to face your fears, knowing that your Shepherd is always with you.

Day 5: Rejected King, Future Ruler

Reading: 1 Samuel 16:1-13, Matthew 21:1-11, Revelation 19:11-16

Devotional:

David was anointed king but faced rejection before fully assuming his throne. Similarly, Jesus came as King but was rejected, with His full reign still to come. This reminds us that God's plans often unfold differently than we expect. Reflect on times when you've felt rejected or when life hasn't gone as planned. How can you maintain hope in God's ultimate purposes? Pray for patience and faith as you await Christ's return and the full establishment of His kingdom. Ask God to help you live as a citizen of His kingdom today, even as you wait for its complete fulfillment.