

FPFWC Christian Development



Inclusive Love

October 2020

Fall Quarter

October 3, 2020

Lesson #1 –Love that Intercedes

Scripture Focus – 1 Samuel 19:1-7

ICE BREAKER –

1. How important is loyalty, and what does it mean in our relationships?
2. In what way can you be a peacemaker for someone else?

Key Verse: Jonathan spake good of David unto Saul his father, and said unto him, Let not the king sin against his servant, against David; because he hath not sinned against thee, and because his works have been to thee-ward very good.—1 Samuel 19:4

LESSON BACKGROUND

Two of the Old Testament's books of history are 1 and 2 Samuel. They take their name from Samuel, the last judge of Israel. He was instrumental in the transition from the period of the judges to the time of kings. As such, the two books record the transition from the theocracy (when the Lord reigned as sole king of Israel, with human leaders in the roles of judges) to the monarchy of human kings.

This transition began about the year 1050 BC. It began with the Israelites' demand that Samuel give them an earthly king "like all the nations" (1 Samuel 8:5). This demand was not primarily a rejection of Samuel or his sons but of the Lord as their king (8:7). God had called Israel to be His special nation (Exodus 19:5–6), and their desire for a king expressed a wish to be not quite so special. Samuel proclaimed the Lord's warning of the negative consequences of a human king (1 Samuel 8:11–18). But the people persisted, and the Lord granted their request (8:19–22).

The Lord selected Saul as the first king of Israel (1 Samuel 9:17; 10:17–24). Saul started well, but when he failed to carry out faithfully the Lord's commands, the Lord selected a different king (15:16–26). Samuel informed Saul of his being rejected by God, and Samuel anointed David as the next king (16:1–13). That signified that Saul's royal line would end when David took the throne.

When the Philistines challenged Israel, it was young David who slew Goliath, which in turn led to a routing of the Philistines (1 Samuel 17:1–54). After this great victory, David became a member of Saul's royal household in two important ways. First, David and Jonathan, Saul's son and heir to the throne, became fast friends (18:3). Second, David married Michal, daughter of Saul (18:27).

When military victories were celebrated, however, people esteemed David's accomplishments more highly than Saul's (1 Samuel 18:6–8). This made Saul

angry, jealous, and suspicious of David to the point that Saul attempted to kill him (18:10–11; 19:9–10).

LESSON COMMENTARY

19:1–7. If there was any lingering doubt that David was God’s choice as Israel’s next king, and thus enjoyed divine protection, chap. 19 would lay that doubt to rest. Saul’s fear of David grew to a new level of homicidal intent when, “dropping all ruses, Saul now explicitly ordered Jonathan and all his servants to ‘kill David’ ” (Bergen, *1, 2 Samuel*, 206). Saul wanted Jonathan involved in the vicious plot to murder David because Saul knew his son was close to David. However, Jonathan’s attitude toward David contrasted with his father’s. For the first time David learned from Jonathan himself about Saul’s intentions to have David killed. Jonathan reasoned with his father Saul, urging him not to kill him. Listening to Jonathan, Saul vowed in the Lord’s name that David **shall not be put to death** (v. 6). Thus, the Lord protected David through Jonathan’s intervention.

LESSON NUGGET – David’s integrity before God was his strongest weapon during those years of persecution from Saul. You cannot control what people do to you, but you can control what you do with God.

Sources: *Moody Bible Commentary, Standard Lesson Commentary, and The Essential Everyday Bible Commentary*