

## One Year Bible – Week 20

### **Summary: John Reading**

Jesus performs amazing miracles and teaches about himself. Notice the way the Gospel of John portrays Jesus, particularly the emphases that are used. Almost all of this week's readings in John are unique to John and not included in the other gospels.

### **Summary: 1Samuel Reading**

Israel asks for a king to rule over them. Samuel anoints Saul as king but Saul eventually disobeys God and is rejected as king. God chooses another to rule over Israel who will become one of, if not its greatest king, David.

### **Things to Look For and Questions to Ponder as You Read:**

- *OT* – In 1Sa 9-10 we read about Saul being anointed by Samuel to be the King of Israel. Saul is anointed by Samuel (10:1), sees Samuel's prophecies about him come true (10:9), and was overcome with the Holy Spirit and led to prophesy with a procession of prophets (10:10). Yet after all this that Saul observes, he responds to God's call on his life with timidity (10:16, 21-22, 27). Why do you think Saul responds in this way? Have you ever been timid about following God's leading in your life? How does this example of Saul's timidity, despite the direction God gave him, help to shape the way you respond to God's leading in your own life? – *May 10-11*

### **Small Group Questions:**

- 1) *NT* – So often people attempt to condense what God wants of us into small phrases and clever sayings. A crowd approached Jesus with the same by asking him "what must we do to do the works God requires?" (Jn 6:28) Jesus' answer is profound and pointed. (Jn 6:29) How would you explain Jesus' answer in your own words? Some people might think that Jesus' command simply means to acknowledge that Jesus is God. How would you encourage this person to a more profound relationship with God? (also reference Jn 6:40) – *May 10*
- 2) *OT* – Soon after Saul becomes king he loses it in two major occurrences. What reasons do you read (explicit or implied) for Saul losing his privilege (1Sa 13:11-14; 15:13-29)? What observations do you make about Saul's responses to Samuel that reveal Saul's true

character? (15:20-21, 30-31) What is the description of the leader God desires (13:14)? What do you think this means? How might you encourage the leaders God has placed near you to live a life characteristic of this description? The desire God has for his leaders is the same for all people who follow him. What are the obstacles for you to live in such a way? What steps can you take to overcome these obstacles and live more consistently with the character God calls us to? – *May 12, 14*

- 3) *OT* – In his rebuke of Saul, Samuel says these words, "To obey is better than sacrifice." (1Sa 15:22c) Jesus makes a similar statement in Mark 12:33. Summarize in your own words what this means. Have you seen examples of this in your life? Share any that come to mind. – *May 14*
- 4) *NT* – Jesus speaks a number of profound, one-line phrases that are meant to touch people's hearts with the truth of God. Take a moment to read each of the following: Jn 6:51; 7:37b-38; 8:12, 31-32. In another passage Jesus condemns religious people for not believing him. After reading these passages, how might you distinguish what Jesus is calling people toward from the empty religion that condemns? Have you come across people who believe religiously yet do not "know" and "believe" Jesus? What is the difference? How can you help someone who is religious yet not knowing Jesus to come to have the understanding that Jesus encourages in the group of verses listed above? – *May 11, 13, 14, 16*

### **Journal the Psalms this week:**

Often in the Bible we come across the phrase "fear of the LORD (YHWH)." *Fear* in this sense is not meant to say "be afraid" but rather it means reverence and honor. Read Psalms 111:10. The Psalmist talks of the benefit of the fear of God. Psalm 112 also talks about the person who "fears YHWH." How would you describe your own reverence for God? How do you see Ps 111:10 relating to daily life? What can you do to more consistently live in the "fear of YHWH?" Journal your answers. – *May 15*

### **Reading Schedule:**

1Sa = 1 Samuel / Jn = John / Ps = Psalms / Pr = Proverbs



May 10 – 1Sa 8:1-9:27 / Jn 6:22-42 / Ps 106:32-48 / Pr 14:34-35  
May 11 – 1Sa 10:1-11:15 / Jn 6:43-71 / Ps 107:1-43 / Pr 15:1-3  
May 12 – 1Sa 12:1-13:22 / Jn 7:1-29 / Ps 108:1-13 / Pr 15:4  
May 13 – 1Sa 13:23-14:52 / Jn 7:30-53 / Ps 109:1-31 / Pr 15:5-7  
May 14 – 1Sa 15:1-16:23 / Jn 8:1-20 / Ps 110:1-7 / Pr 15:8-10  
May 15 – 1Sa 17:1-18:4 / Jn 8:21-30 / Ps 111:1-10 / Pr 15:11  
May 16 – 1Sa 18:5-19:24 / Jn 8:31-59 / Ps 112:1-10 / Pr 15:12-14