

# Running with the Big Dogs

*Experiencing success in life by following God's lead from 1 & 2 Samuel*

## Two Free Bites

Introduction to 1 Samuel 13-16

One of the tenets of justice that dates back to English Common Law is that a dog only gets one free bite; after the second one the dog is considered a "biter", and must be chained up or put down. God's justice, however, is tempered by His compassion. He often allows several more bites before the offender receives justice, as was the case with Israel's first king, Saul. His reign began well, but as this week's study shows, he began to "bite" those around him. After taking credit for a battle that his son, Jonathan, had actually won, he compounded the damage by assuming the priestly office because he feared losing control of the people. In response to this, God informed him through Samuel that his kingdom would not endure forever, although this was

God's original desire. While Saul continued as king, his trouble was not over. In a standoff against the Philistines Jonathan, once again, rose to the occasion by defeating an enemy garrison. In the aftermath, as Saul pursued the enemy, he made a foolish oath that anyone who ate before he was avenged of his enemies would have to die. Jonathan knew nothing of the oath, and ate some honey that was found dripping from a tree. When this was discovered, Saul foolishly ordered his execution, although the troops forced Saul to relent. This was his second "bite", and God responded with no discipline. The final incident of this section, though, was the last straw, the last bite. God ordered Saul to completely destroy the



**When you run with God and follow His lead, you will have success in life.**

Amalekites because of their abuse of His people, but Saul arrogantly spared the king and saved the best spoils for himself. Samuel conveyed God's response to him, that his rebellion would cost him his kingship, a prediction that would be fulfilled immediately as the young shepherd, David, was anointed king. Saul had gotten his two free bites, but this final bite brought God's justice.

### The 5 Purposes of the Purpose Driven Life

- Worship—You were planned for God's pleasure
- Fellowship—You were formed for God's family
- Discipleship—You were created to become like Christ
- Ministry—You were shaped for serving God
- Evangelism—You were made for a mission

## Study/Discussion Questions for 1 Samuel 13-16

*(For answers to questions attend an ABF or go to [www.celebrationnet.com/resources/leader](http://www.celebrationnet.com/resources/leader) resources)*

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| 1. Read 13:1-14. Who won the victory in Geba (v3), and how did Saul respond (v3-4)? What occurred next (v5-7), how did Saul react (v8-10), and why (v11-12)? What was the result (v13-14)? |  |
| 2. From 13:15-23 what 3 things led to more difficulty for Saul (v15-16, 17, 19-22)? How does this relate to Samuel's prior prophecy (v14)?   |  |
| 3. Using 14:1-23 who saved the day for Israel (v13-14), and how did he do it (v8-12)? Why was he able to do this (v6, 10, 12)? How did Saul benefit from this (20-23)?                     |  |

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## I Samuel 13-16 Study Questions (cont)

4. According to 14:24-30 in what condition were Saul's men, and why (v24)? Who violated Saul's order (v27), what was the result (v27), and what was his reaction (v29-30)? Why was this wise?	
5. In 14:31-52, what 2 wrongs did Saul address (v32-33, 43), and how did Saul react differently to each (v33-35, 44)? What does this show about Saul's values? How did God treat him (v47-52)?	
6. From 15:1-13 what did God command Saul to do (v1-3) and why (v2)? How did Saul obey (v4-5, 6, 7), and disobey (v8-9), and how did God respond (v10-11)? How was Saul feeling (v12-13)?	
7. Based on 15:14-25 what had Saul done wrong (v19, 22), and what was his excuse (v15, 20-21)? Why were his actions wrong (v23), what was the result (v23), and how did he respond (v25)?	
8. Using 15:26-35 how did Samuel carry out the Lord's will (v26, 27-29, 32-33), and how was he kind to Saul (v30-31)? What was his reaction to Saul (v34-35), and how can we imitate him?	
9. Read 16:1-10. How did the Lord instruct Samuel (v1), what did he fear (v2), and what principle was revealed to him (v6-7)? Apply this.	
10. From 16:11-23 describe Israel's 2nd king (v11-12, 18), and how God prepared him (v13, 21). What happened to Saul (v14), how did he respond (v16-17), and what resulted (v21-23)?	
11. As you look at 1 Samuel 13-16 trace Saul's downward progression, and God's response. Based on this, what does God really desire from us?	

### Scripture to Remember

*"To obey is better than sacrifice."*

*1 Samuel 15:22*

### **Celebration Fellowship**

*Reaching—  
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### Life Group Questions

*(Using questions based on today's message, Life Groups meet in homes to build supportive relationships with others at Celebration Fellowship that enable us to grow in Christ.)*

1. Let different ones share what their name means if they know, or what their nickname means, if they have one. Which one of these do we usually match up with?
2. Share what the name of God, "Jehovah-Jireh", means to you practically—in what ways has God been faithful to meet your unique needs?
3. Discuss why obedience to the Word of God and abandonment to the will of God are both required to experience God's provision.
4. How do you see the process of growing in righteousness occurring in your life? What relationship does this have to God's name as "righteousness"?
5. Talk about what true peace would, or does, look like in your life. From personal experience, how does the Lord Himself become your peace?
6. Discuss anything else that impressed you from the worship service if you have time.