

**LESSONS THIS QUARTER**

1) 5 June 2016.....	1Samuel 1-2.....	Answered
2) 12 June.....	1Samuel 3-4.....	Called
3) 19 June.....	1Samuel 5-7.....	Worthy
4) 26 June.....	1Samuel 8-11.....	King?
5) 3 July.....	1Samuel 12-14.....	Feared
6) 10 July.....	1Samuel 15.....	Judged
7) 17 July.....	1Samuel 16.....	Anointed
8) 24 July.....	1Samuel 17.....	Delivered
9) 31 July.....	1Samuel 18-21.....	Faithful
10) 7 August.....	1Samuel 22-24.....	Blinded
11) 14 August.....	1Samuel 25.....	Protected
12) 21 August.....	1Samuel 26-29.....	Respect
<b>13) 28 August.....</b>	<b>1Samuel 30-31.....</b>	<b>Victory</b>

**INTRODUCTION**

- David encountered personal loss and received threats on his life from his own army, so he had to “strengthen himself” to get back in the fight.
- When you have no one on your side to encourage you, and God seems to be against you, how do you strengthen yourself?

Passage	Comments
1Samuel 30:1-6	<p><b>David Strengthened Himself</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• David probably recalled the time he was anointed by Samuel to be King over all Israel, and that day had not arrived yet, so he realized God was not finished with him yet..... <a href="#">1Sam 16:13</a></li> <li>• He also had to convince his army to refocus on God and not on their misfortunes. David might have said, “Let us wait for the LORD and keep His way, for He will cause us to be victorious; and we will see the wicked cut off”..... <a href="#">Psalms 37:34</a></li> </ul>
A Word on Positive Thinking	<p><b>Good Aspects of Positive Thinking</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If anyone has reason to be positive, it is Christians</li> <li>• God of the universe saved us, keeps us, loves us</li> <li>• He only has good intentions for our lives</li> <li>• Positive thinking promotes physical &amp; mental health</li> </ul> <p><b>Not-So-Good Aspects of Positive Thinking</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We can deceive and even harm ourselves by believing in lies we tell ourselves. We are commanded not to deceive ourselves..... <a href="#">1Cor 3:18</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ E.g., “By His stripes we are healed” and you refuse to seek medical attention for high blood pressure, diabetes, or other health issues</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Biblical Aspects of Positive Thinking</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We are commanded to think on good things to improve our perspective and attitude..... <a href="#">Phil 4:8</a></li> </ul>
30:7-20	<p><b>David Recovers What was Stolen</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• vv7-16. When David pulled himself together, he first sought God’s direction how to proceed</li> <li>• <b>Principle to Live by.</b> We have something better than an ephod to enquire of God → His Word</li> <li>• vv17-20. Was David justified slaughtering his enemy for stealing away the women and children, who were not harmed? <b>Consider this.</b> The OT called for the death penalty for kidnappers..... <a href="#">Exodus 21:16</a></li> </ul>
30:21-31	<p><b>Those Who Stay Behind Are Vital to Victory</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No less vital to the war effort are those in logistics, administration, technical support, and funding</li> <li>• <b>Food for Thought.</b> If you are a taxpayer, you paid a soldier to kill enemy combatants for you; and unfortunately, you also paid for abortions in the U.S. → Which ones will God hold us accountable for?</li> </ul>

Passage	Comments
31:1-7	<p><b>Saul Commits Suicide</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are some of the biblical issues on suicide, euthanasia, and physician-assisted suicide?</li> </ul>
A Word on Suicide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recorded suicides and assisted-suicides in the Bible:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Abimelech had someone kill him..... <a href="#">Judges 9:54</a></li> <li>2. Saul speared himself..... <a href="#">1Sam 31:4</a></li> <li>3. Saul's armor-bearer speared himself..... <a href="#">1Sam 31:5</a></li> <li>4. Ahithophel hanged himself..... <a href="#">2Sam 17:23</a></li> <li>5. Judas hanged himself..... <a href="#">Mat 27:5</a>; <a href="#">Acts 1:18</a></li> <li>6. Many try to commit suicide during the tumultuous Tribulation, but are unsuccessful..... <a href="#">Rev 9:6</a></li> <li>7. Was Jesus' death an assisted suicide? He had to die at a specific time, on a specific date, at the hands of a specific people, for a specific reason, and in a specific way!</li> </ol> </li> <li>• Does the elimination of the death penalty and the acceptance of abortions, euthanasia, and assisted suicide, minimize the value of life as defined by God? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes; <input type="checkbox"/> No; <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know; <input type="checkbox"/> Maybe</li> <li>• It's a quandary why those who support abortion, assisted suicide, and euthanasia are very often against capital punishment. They prefer to kill the innocent and spare the guilty</li> <li>• <b>Consider this.</b> Suicide is not God's ideal way to end one's life. We should be watchful of those who are in despair, and be ready to help where ever we can.</li> </ul>
31:8-13	<p><b>Honorable Inhabitants of Jabaesh-Gilead</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This people group is mentioned 5x             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <a href="#">Judges 21:8-14</a>. They refused to help their brothers defeat the perverted Benjamites, so Israel nearly wiped them out, saving 400 virgins</li> <li>2. <a href="#">1Samuel 11:1</a>. Young King Saul rescued them from the Ammonites</li> <li>3. <a href="#">1Sam 31-2Sam 2</a>. In gratitude, they risked their lives to give Saul and his sons a decent burial</li> <li>4 &amp; 5. <a href="#">2Sam 21:12</a> and <a href="#">2Chron 10:11</a>. Their story of burying Saul is recounted</li> </ol> </li> <li>• It seems everyone is worthy of forgiving and saving. King Saul could have refused to help Jabaesh-Gilead when they were attacked by the Ammonites for their despicable behavior 400 years earlier</li> <li>• <b>Principle to Live by.</b> Help those in need (unless other biblical principles dictate otherwise), because you might be helping those who will help you 1 day</li> </ul>

**CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS**

- When in the midst of a tragedy, we can either be like David and pull ourselves together by acknowledging God’s hand on our situation, or we can despair like Saul and seek to quit life. Let’s choose life and finish the race strong.
- And if we see some in despair, let’s be like the Jabesh-Gileadites and help out in some way, even if it is going to a friend’s funeral

**NEXT WEEK: 1Peter 1.** Peter, who once was a vulgar sailor and acted like a blind bull in a china shop, now portrays patience, love for others, and deep insight into God’s activities on earth. The word of God and the Spirit of God transform lives.

