

Salt Block Ministries Bible Study Guide

Ruth – 1 Samuel 6

By Pastor Bubba Stahl

Day One

Read Ruth 1-2. The story of Ruth is set in the time of the judges, one of the darkest periods in Israel's history. Below, write briefly why Elimelech and his family left the land and what happened to them, according to 1:1-5.

As a widow, Naomi had lost her inheritance. She was destitute. We would call her homeless. As a Moabite, how was Ruth related to the Israelites? See Genesis 12:4-5, and 19:30-37 for help. What tribe was Elimelech from?

What major decision did Ruth make and how did she express it in 1:14-17.

There is an important Hebrew word in 1:14. It is *dawbahk* (pronounced daw-**bah**-k). It means to cling, join, hold fast, stick to. Look up these references to find a few of its uses in other passages; Genesis 2:24, Deuteronomy 10:20, 11:22.

Find Deuteronomy 24:19 to discover what "gleaning" meant. How did Ruth end up in the field of Boaz according to 2:3 and how was Boaz related to Elimelech?

How did Boaz treat Ruth and why according to 2:8-16?

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Day Two

Read Ruth 3-4. The story of Ruth and Boaz is not only a beautiful love story, it also demonstrates what God intended the whole nation of Israel to be to the other nations of the world; a witness of the goodness of God and of His Word. And the other nations of the world had the opportunity to be blessed by Israel and Israel's God, fulfilling the promise made to Abraham in Genesis 12:1 – 4.

Boaz is called the "kinsman redeemer." In Hebrew it is the word *gawal* (pronounced ga-**wal**). Find Deuteronomy 25:5-10 and read about the responsibility of the "kinsman redeemer."

The ritual that Naomi had Ruth go through in chapter three, sounds strange to us. It was all part of the custom of asking the nearest kin, the kinsman redeemer, to perpetuate the dead brother's name and inheritance in Israel. Ruth did what Naomi said and Boaz responded.

What did the un-named kinsman redeemer say to Boaz in 4:1-6?

What was the outcome of God's people, seen in the life of Boaz, being faithful to follow God's Word in the book of Ruth?

How would you say this demonstrates God's plan for Israel?

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Day Three

Read 1 Samuel 1-2. The book of Ruth introduces 1 & 2 Samuel, the life of David. Elkanah was a descendant of the tribe of Levi. Whose mother was Levi and what inheritance did they get? See Genesis 29:31-34 and Joshua 21:1-3 for help.

What was Hannah's vow in 1:10-11?

What did it mean that "...and no razor shall touch his head?" See Numbers 6:1-5 and Judges 13:2-5 for help.

What does Hannah's song say about God? See 2:2, 3, 6-10 for help.

There are several other "songs" written and sung by women in the Bible. Can you name them? See Exodus 20:20-21, Judges 5:1, Luke 1:46-55 for help.

What had Eli failed to do and what had he done that brought on the Lord's rebuke through the "man of God" in 2:27-36?

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Day Four

Read 1 Samuel 3. In this chapter, the light begins to shine again in Israel. Samuel will be the first judge/prophet/priest for Israel since Moses. He inaugurated the monarchy with Israel's first two kings, Saul and David.

According to 3:7, why did Samuel not recognize the voice of the LORD calling him?

Why do you think God included Eli in the calling of Samuel?

What did God say to Samuel once he answered His calling in 3:10-14?

How did Eli respond to this word from God through Samuel?

What do you think "...and let none of his words fall to the ground..." means?

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Day Five

Read 1 Samuel 4. This chapter reveals one of the darkest days in the history of Israel. Samuel is absent from this chapter. This event took place when he was still a small boy, but after his calling in chapter three.

What was wrong with what the elders of Israel said in 4:3?

What was in the Ark of the Covenant? See Deuteronomy 10:1-5 and Hebrews 9:3-4 for help.

What did the Philistines know about God according to 4:7-8 and how accurate was it?

How is Eli described in 4:18?

Look back at 2:29. Do you think this may have been why Eli was so “heavy?”

What did the man of God say to Eli in 2:34 and again to Eli through Samuel in 3:11-14?

What does that say to you about God and about Eli?

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Day Six

Read 1 Samuel 5-6. According to 5:1-5, what happened when the Philistines put the Ark in the temple of their god, Dagon?

What happened to the people of Ashdod because of the Ark in 5:6-9?

What did the people of Ekron do in 5:12?

Look back to Joshua 21:13-16. Who was given the city of Beth-shemesh?

It seems that the Levites that lived in Beth-shemesh were so excited to have the Ark back that their curiosity ended in their deaths. A note is made about the number that died. Some translations say seventy and others will say fifty thousand. Historians tell us that the inhabitants of Beth-shemesh numbered about 1,400. Translators use this to understand the Hebrew phrase to say “fifty *out of a* thousand,” which would number about seventy.

Next week, Samuel will step back into the scene and Israel will turn and make a transition.

How would you describe the condition of Israel at the close of chapter six?

1 Samuel 7-18

Day One

Read 1 Samuel 7-8. What were the three things that Samuel directed Israel to do to express their repentance according to 7:3?

What did Samuel do as a result of Israel's willingness to return to the LORD, according to 7:5?

What did they (Samuel and the people) do together to express their repentance according to 7:6, 8-9?

What did the Philistines do as a result of Israel's repentance, according to 7:7?

What did God do in 7:10?

Lesson: When God's people repent, the enemies of God react and God fights for His people against His enemies!

What was the stone called in 7:12 and why?

Do you have any "Ebenezers" in your life? Where are they located?

What did Samuel do in 8:1 and why was this not good?

What did the people do as a result of this action on Samuel's part?

1 Samuel 7-18

Day Two

Read 1 Samuel 9-10. Samuel gave the people a stern warning in chapter eight of what their request could lead to. Look back for a moment to 8:7-9. What did God say to Samuel about their request?

What phrase is used in 8:10-18 describing a king? What will he do?

How is Saul described in 9:1-2?

What tribe was he from and who was the mother of that tribe? See Genesis 35:16-20 for help.

What had God said to Samuel in 9:15-16 about Saul?

What sign did Samuel give Saul to confirm to him of what he had told him and done to him that day, according to 10:1-8?

According to 10:17, where did Samuel call the people for the event of identifying the king that they had demanded? What other event had taken place there (see 7:5-6 for help) and how were these two events related?

Where was Saul according to 10:22? Why do you think Saul was hiding?

1 Samuel 7-18

Day Three

Read 1 Samuel 11-12. Jabesh-gilead was a town on the east side of the Jordan River in the territory given to Gad. Do you remember the two and a half tribes that received territory on the east side of the Jordan? Name them below along with their mother's names. See Deuteronomy 3:12-13, Genesis 29:31-30:24 and 41:50-52 for help.

How did Saul muster an army for his first battle, according to 11:5-7?

Why do you think Samuel called all the people to Gilgal to renew the kingdom? What else happened at Gilgal? See Joshua 4:15-24 for help.

Who were the men that were almost put to death in 11:12-13? See 10:25-27 for help.

What "ifs" does Samuel encourage the people to promise in 12:14?

What "ifs" does he warn them of in 12:15?

1 Samuel 7-18

Day Four

Read 1 Samuel 13-14. The first verse of chapter thirteen has caused some trouble for translators. Most translations have a footnote explaining that some Hebrew numbers have been lost. Others take it literally to mean that Saul really only ruled for a very short time because of his disobedience. Acts 13:21 (Paul's first sermon in Acts) states that he ruled for 40 years.

According to 13:11-12, what was Saul's excuse for not waiting until Samuel could arrive and offer the sacrifices that only a priest could offer?

What was the consequence of this action according to 13:13-14?

If you were to compare Saul with his son Jonathan, what would be their number one difference, based upon the events in 14:1-23?

What was the rash vow that Saul made in 14:24?

How would you describe Saul's leadership style?

1 Samuel 7-18

Day Five

Read 1 Samuel 15-16. According to 15:2, why did God tell Saul to lead the army to destroy the Amalekites?

According to 15:6, why did Saul allow the Kenites to escape Amalek before he destroyed it?

Notice the comparison between 15:3 and 15:9 with the word “spare.”

What was Saul’s excuse to Samuel in 15:20-21 for not obeying the LORD?

What was the consequence of his actions according to 15:26-28?

How did Saul respond?

How did God respond?

Chapter sixteen introduces David as Saul’s successor. What was the occasion, according to 16:14-17, for David to enter into Saul’s presence and what would he do?

1 Samuel 7-18

Day Six

Read 1 Samuel 17-18. What are some of the differences between David and Saul from these two chapters?

What was David’s answer to Saul in 17:34-37 when Saul told him that he was no match for Goliath?

What weapons did David say that Goliath had come against him with, according to 17:45, and what weapons did David say he had according to the same verse?

Why do you think that Jonathan made a covenant with David and what did he give to David as part of that covenant according to 18:1-4?

Chapter eighteen reveals David's greatness with the repetition of the word, "...*successful...*" (18:5, 14, 30), which is the Hebrew word *sakal*. It means to behave wisely. According to 18:7 and 18:11, they started singing songs about David and Saul started throwing spears at David. How would you describe "behaving wisely" under those extreme conditions?

1 Samuel 19-31

Day One

Read 1 Samuel 19-20. Notice Saul's progression of hostility towards David. What do you think was fueling Saul's hostility?

Look back to 1 Samuel 15:24-28. Now look again at 19:22-24. The Lord humbled Saul even though he was unwilling to humble himself with the word that God spoke to him back in 15:24-28. God not only stripped him from being king, He also stripped him of his clothes!

Go back to the following verses and describe Saul's condition and how it deteriorated. 1 Samuel 10:20-22:

13:8-12:

14:24:

15:24-28:

17:10-11:

18:6-12:

18:28-29:

19:8-10:

20:30-33:

1 Samuel 19-31

Day Two

Read 1 Samuel 21-22. One of the strangest events in the life of David is recorded in 21:10-15. Why do you think David fled from Saul and went to Achish, one of the kings of the Philistines?

Remember to pray first when faced with a difficult Bible question.

According to 22:1-2, what kind of persons gathered around David during this time in his life?

What was the relationship between David and his parents with the Moabites? See Ruth 1:1-4, 4:13-17 for help.

How would you describe Saul's state of mind and behavior in 22:11-19?

Who were the Edomites and how were they related to Saul and to David? Hint: What tribe was David from and who was his (the tribe's name) mother? What tribe was Saul from and who was his (the tribe's name) mother? See 9:1-2, Genesis 35:29, 36:9, and 35:23-26 for help.

1 Samuel 19-31

Day Three

Read 1 Samuel 23-24. According to 23:1-14, how did David make his decisions to go and help Keilah and to escape from Saul?

Did Saul ever "inquire of the LORD" for anything?

Hint: NO!

According to 24:1-7, what did David do to Saul?

How did this make David feel afterwards?

How did Saul respond to David sparing his life according to 24:16-21?

Why do you think that David was so loyal to Saul?

What were some of the other qualities of David so far in the story that would reflect the statement Samuel made to Saul in 13:14, “...*the LORD has sought out a man after His own heart...*”

1 Samuel 19-31

Day Four

Read 1 Samuel 25-27. Why did David send ten of his men to Nabal, according to 25:5-8?

What was Nabal's reaction (25:9-11)?

What was David's response?

What did Abigail do, according to 25:18-19, 23-31?

How did David respond to Abigail and why do you think he did?

What do you think David recognized in Abigail's actions?

David spares Saul's life a second time in chapter 26 and flees to Achish, King of Gath a second time in chapter 27. Why do you think David fled to the Philistines a second time?

1 Samuel 19-31

Day Five

Read 1 Samuel 28-29. There are many questions that surround 1 Samuel 28. According to 28:4-7, what was the occasion for Saul to seek out a medium?

This is the only place in Saul's story that it says he "...inquired of the LORD..."

One interpretation of this chapter is that Saul was haunted by what God had said to him through Samuel because of his disobedience back in 15:16-29. Even though Samuel is dead, Saul can still hear this word ringing in his ears. It had fueled his jealousy and hatred for David. The only new information that Saul received was that he and his sons would die the next day, something he feared all along.

Lesson: Fears can become self-fulfilling prophecies. Resist the temptation of fear with the Word of God and obedience.

According to 29:2-5, what was the objection of generals of the Philistine army concerning David?

Do you think some of those generals may have been young soldiers when they saw David slew Goliath and behead him that day in the Elah valley? (1 Samuel 17)

David had already proven that he would not raise his hand against Saul and his Israeli brothers. He is bluffing Achish; and it worked.

1 Samuel 19-31

Day Six

Read 1 Samuel 30-31. Who were the Amalekites? See Genesis 36:12, Exodus 17:8-10, Deuteronomy 25:17-19, 1 Samuel 15.

What did the people speak of doing to David and what did he do in response, according to 30:6-8?

Lesson: Encouragement and direction are the result of seeking the Lord with all your heart, mind, and strength.

How did Saul die according to 31:4-5?

Below, write a few lessons you learned from Saul's tragic life.

Write a few lessons from David's life so far.

2 Samuel 1-12

Day One

Read 2 Samuel 1-2. What are your thoughts on how David responded to the Amalekite who brought him the news of Saul's death in 1:2-16?

Chapter two sets in motion something that will haunt David for the rest of his life. As you work through 2 Samuel the events of chapter two will make more and more sense.

Below, summarize the events of chapter two.

What did David do according to 2:1-4 and what was the outcome?

2 Samuel 1-12

Day Two

Read 2 Samuel 3-4. What led to the change in Abner according to 3:6-11?

What did Abner say in 3:9-10 that revealed that change?

Do you think Abner deceived David in 3:17-21, or do you think that he was genuine in what he said?

Why do you think that Joab was not pleased in 3:23-25? What did Joab do in 3:26-27?

What can you see about David's heart and his desire from 3:28-39?

Why do you think David killed the two captains of Ish-bosheth's raiding parties for killing Ish-bosheth in 4:1-12?

2 Samuel 1-12

Day Three

Read 2 Samuel 5-6. According to 5:1-5, how old was David when he became king of Israel? How long did he rule? How many years did he rule from Hebron and how many years did he rule from Jerusalem?

How did David take Jerusalem according to 5:6-8?

In 5:18-19 and 22-23 you will notice a habit of David before each battle. What was that habit or strategy before each battle?

In 5:25 there is another phrase that reveals David's success. What is that phrase?

How would you describe the setback David experienced in chapter six?

In 1 Chronicles 15 you will find the same story as in 2 Samuel 6. What does 1 Chronicles 15:11-15 say that helps you to how David resolved the setback he experienced in 2 Samuel 6:9?

2 Samuel 1-12

Day Four

Read 2 Samuel 7-8. What did David say to Nathan in 7:2 and what was Nathan's response in 7:3?

What two terms (words) did God call David in 7:8?

Why do you think God called David a "prince?"

How many promises did God make to David in 7:9-16? (hint: the "I will" statements are promises)

David's response (his prayer) is found in 7:18-29. What does David ask God for in his prayer? How would you describe the elements of his prayer? What can you learn from this prayer about praying?

Chapter eight describes David's victories over the nations that surround Israel. In one chapter, David is described as doing what Joshua and all of the judges put together could not do. How do you think David would handle Syria and Iran today?

2 Samuel 1-12

Day Five

Read 2 Samuel 9-10. Who was Ziba, according to 9:2?

Who was Mephibosheth, according to 9:6?

Mephibosheth lived in a place called "Lo-Debar," 9:4. "Lo-Debar" means "no word." (Lo = no; Debar = word). What kind of place do you think "No Word" was?

Why do you think David helped Mephibosheth? See 1 Samuel 18:1-4 and 20:12-17, 42 for help.

By whose order did Ziba become Mephibosheth's servant according to 9:9-11 and what did Mephibosheth receive?

Who gave Hanun, the son of the Ammonite king, the bad counsel that David was going to betray him, according to 10:3?

What do you think their counsel was based upon and what does this teach you?

2 Samuel 1-12

Day Six

Read 2 Samuel 11-12. David was loyal to Saul and to his family. He valued faithfulness. Remember when David made peace with Abner and Saul's army in 2 Samuel 3 and Joab betrayed him? Look ahead to 2 Samuel 23 and the list of David's bodyguards, his mighty men. Who is the last one mentioned in 23:39?

How did Uriah demonstrate loyalty to David in 11:6-13?

How did David respond to Uriah's loyalty and faithfulness to David?

How many wives did David have according to 2 Samuel 3:2-5? What does 5:13 say?

Why do you think David was so weak? See 11:1 for help.

What does this teach you about resisting temptation?

Why do you think the story that Nathan told David in 12:1-6 finally brought David to his spiritual senses?

2 Samuel 13-24

Day One

Read 2 Samuel 13-14. Most of this week's reading will record how David dealt with the consequences of his sins from chapter eleven and twelve. Reread 2 Samuel 12:7-15. This week you will read how this word unfolded in David's life.

Look back to 2 Samuel 3:2-5. When was Amnon born and what was his mother's name?

When was Absalom born and what was his mother's name and background?

How was Amnon's sin with Tamar similar to David's sin with Bathsheba and how was it different?

How was Absalom's murder of Amnon similar to David's murder of Uriah and was there any differences?

Joab tried to do in chapter fourteen what Nathan had done in chapter twelve. What was motivating Joab to do what he did in 14:1-20 and did it work?

2 Samuel 13-24

Day Two

Read 2 Samuel 15-16. The pain of ***"Now therefore, the sword shall never depart from your house, because you have despised Me...Behold, I will raise up evil against you out of your own house..."*** 12:10-11, continues to unfold in David's life.

How was what Absalom did to rally support for himself in 15:1-6 different than what David did when Saul was king?

Do you think David knew what Absalom was doing during those four years?

According to 15:24-37, who did David instruct to stay in Jerusalem and be his "eyes and ears?"

Ahithophel had been David's counselor (1 Chronicles 27:33). He betrayed David. What was David's prayer concerning Ahithophel in 15:31?

Side note: During our last visit to Jerusalem it was pointed out that one of the hills southeast of the city is called the hill of the foolish counsel of Ahithophel. On top of it today sits the United Nations building. We can still pray David's prayer for the place that the UN chose to build their building.

Name the people in chapter sixteen that betrayed David.

2 Samuel 13-24

Day Three

Read 2 Samuel 17-18. The story of David, Amnon, Tamar, and Absalom is tragic. What was Ahithophel's advice to Absalom in 17:1-4?

What was Hushai's advice in 17:5-13?

Why do you think Absalom went with Hushai's advice and not Ahithophel's?

What was David's order for Joab, Abishai, and Ittai in 18:5?

Do you think that Joab was right in killing Absalom?

Why do you think that Ahimaaz did not tell David about Absalom's death?

Do you think David saw his own sin in Absalom's actions? Read again 18:33.

2 Samuel 13-24

Day Four

Read 2 Samuel 19-20. What was the counsel of Joab to David in 19:5-7?

What did David tell Zadok and Abithar that they were to say to Amasa, according to 19:13? Look back to 17:25 to see again who Amasa was?

Why do you think David made Amasa commander of his army over Joab? Do you remember another time he did this? See 2 Samuel 3 for a hint.

Briefly go back through 2 Samuel 15-20 and write below the names and/or groups that betrayed David and the names and/or groups that stayed loyal to David.

Which group did you list Joab?

2 Samuel 13-24

Day Five

Read 2 Samuel 21-22. Who were the Gibeonites? Go back to Joshua 9 for help.

We are not told in the Bible when Saul attacked the Gibeonites except in the 21:2 reference.

According to 21:1, why was there a famine in the land, how did David learn the reason of it, and how long had it lasted?

Chapter twenty-two is repeated in Psalm 18. It summarizes David's life. What phrases does David use in 22:2-3 to describe the LORD?

Notice how David describes the actions of the LORD in the rest of the psalm. Write some of those actions below with the phrase that he used to describe the LORD in 22:2-3.

For example; My Rock: He sent from on high...He drew me out of many waters, 22:17.

2 Samuel 13-24

Day Six

Read 2 Samuel 23-24. How would you summarize the last words of David as they are recorded in 23:1-7?

A few things to notice in the list of David's mighty men: Joab is not listed. The son of Athithophel, Eliam, is listed (23:34). One of the longest descriptions is in 23:20-23. Who is named there and what does it say about him?

What did Joab say to David in 24:3 about his idea to number Israel?

What three choices did God give David in 24:11-14 and which one did David choose and why?

Where did the death angel stop the pestilence according to 24:16?

What did Gad tell David to do in 24:18-19?

This became the site of the Temple that Solomon would one day build.