

10	JOURNEY: 1 Samuel		
Key Idea	Key Passage	Key Themes	Key People
Reliance on God vs. Self-reliance	“...appoint a king to lead us, such as the other nations have.” 1 Samuel 8:5	Conformity Transition to monarchy Rejection of God’s rule The tragedy of self-reliance	Samuel Saul David Goliath Jonathan

1. Opening Exercise

Charles and Frederick graduated together. Today Charles is the CEO of a prosperous company. He worked hard to get to this position of responsibility. He set goals annually and pursued them with vigor. His assertiveness paid off. Those who know him would describe him as a “Type A personality.”

Today Frederick lives in a modest neighborhood and works at the local factory. Most people would describe him as “laid back.” His life motto is “Go with the flow.” He believes the key to life is flexibility – learning to adapt to the circumstances that life brings you.

Which of these two men is more likely to be a person of deep Christian faith, and why?

2. Historical Context of 1 Samuel

a. Eli and Samuel (1:1 – 7:17)

- Samuel’s birth and calling
- Last judge (7:15), and early prophet (3:20)
- The office of a prophet in Israel’s history

b. Samuel and Saul (8:1 – 15:35) –Transition from theocracy to monarchy

- Uniquenesses of this monarchy
 - 10:25 – “regulations of the kingship”
 - 12:14-15 – “If you serve and obey (the Lord)...,”
- Saul anointed as King
 - 9:1-2 – Saul, a Benjamite, impressive, tall
 - 10:9-11 – God changed Saul’s heart
 - 10:20-26 - Saul installed as king
- Saul’s tragic downfall (15:1-11, 26)

- c. Saul and David (16:1-31:13)
 - Samuel anoints David as king (16)
 - David and Goliath (17)
 - Saul's pursuit of David (18-30)
 - Saul's death (31)

3. Life application

- a. Dependency on God

- We seem to be more comfortable depending on our own resources than upon God.
- Prayer is an expression of our dependency on God

- b. **Discussion:**

- What does it mean to truly rely on God rather than the world's methodologies?