

HOW TO USE

THE 1 & 2 SERMON STUDY GUIDES



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THE 1 AND 2 SAMUEL

STUDY GUIDES

These guides are designed to help you as you lead your group in discussion around the sermon passages each week. You may choose to use them as they are, adapt them to better fit your group, or write some of your own questions.

They are designed to be used the week prior to the sermon. This will allow for observations to be made and questions to be raised about the text that can be answered either in the discussion or in sermon that week. In this way, the sermon will help us to further our study of the text.

Here is how to get the most out of the study guides:

1. Preparation

Whoever is leading the study that week should read the chapter in Samuel, and the corresponding pages in *Goldingay's 1 and 2 Samuel for Everyone*.

Spend time praying that God would be at work in your CG that week.

2. Icebreaker

Try to begin each week with an icebreaker question to help people to get to know each other. This can be simply catching up on how their week has been, or asking a more creative question.

People will often feel more comfortable speaking in the study if they have already spoken aloud in the group. This activity gives everyone a chance to speak.

3. Study Guide

The study guide is based on an **inductive** model of Bible study. This type of study involves a close reading of the text, gaining an understanding of what it is saying in context and finally moving to how it applies to us today.

Each week will include three types of questions:

A. **Observation**

Observing the text and asking good questions.

The study guide will encourage group members to notice things like:

- The answer to the questions: who, what, when, where and how?
- contrasts and comparisons
- similes and metaphors (images used in the text)
- cause and effect relationships
- details regarding: time, geography, place, people, action in the text

- grammar
- larger themes in the passage
- key words and themes

Ask people to look for questions that the text raises for them. These may be answered in the study or in the sermon.

Sometimes a great question is raised that leads to rich group discussion.

B. **Interpretation**

The goal here is to answer questions raised by the text, and to get at the central message of the text itself. What did it mean for the original audience?

C. **Application**

Asking how we apply this to our lives today. What is my next step? How does this apply to us individually? How might this apply to our Connection Groups or to FBC as a whole?

3. Suggestion for Prayer

In this final part of the Study Guide there will be some suggestions each week for topics to cover in prayer. You can use these, or choose your own.

Some things to keep in mind:

Praying for your neighbours: As our groups are neighbourhood based, you are encouraged to pray regularly for your neighbourhood. Pray for opportunities to build relationships with those who live nearby and that God would be at work in your community!

Praying for each other: While your CG is a great place to learn about and practice upholding each other in prayer, we also want to be intentional about praying out of the study each week. This can include asking for God's help in taking the next step he is calling us to, and wisdom in living out what he is teaching us each week.