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**KING SAUL**

**Known for:** Anointed leadership, then jealousy

**Scriptures to study:** 1 Samuel 9:2, 1 Samuel 13:1, 1 Samuel 15:11, 1 Samuel 28:6, 1 Samuel 16:1, 1 Samuel 16:14, 23, 1 Samuel 15:35

Saul is the first monarch of the United Kingdom of Israel. His reign marked the transition from Israel being a tribal scattered society to an organized state. Saul was anointed king by Samuel, and reigned from Kibeath. Saul reigned for 42 years. Saul died by suicide when he “fell on his sword” during a battle at Mount Gilboa, where three of his sons were also killed.

**Key thoughts:**

* Saul was the first king of Israel. His story is told in 1 Samuel 9-31.
* Saul led Israel to victory over the Philistines.
* Paul’s mentoring was encouraging at times and also tough/no-nonsense.



* What led to you becoming in a leader in your family or organization? Are you self-made, or did you succeed another leader?
* Does someone have to be qualified for leadership in order to be a leader? What makes a man a leader in the eyes of our culture?
* Once you became a leader, what you believe became your greatest responsibility?



* Read 1 Samuel 10:17-24. What is interesting about the account of Saul becoming King of Israel?
* Read 1 Samuel 13:5-15. What did Saul do that displeased God and Samuel? What was the consequence of his actions?
* Read 1 Samuel 14:20-23. Saul is known as a successful military leader against his greatest enemy, the Philistines. Do these verses confirm his military prowess? Who was responsible for Israel’s military victories?
* Read 1 Samuel 15:1-23. How did Saul disobey God’s command? Why was this significant? What was Saul’s initial reaction when confronted by Samuel?
* Read 1 Samuel 18:5-8. How did Saul become jealous?



* What can you do this week to fulfill your responsibility as a leader in your family and organization?
* Is there jealousy in your life? How can you overcome jealous thoughts and actions?