

28. What did the Philistines do to the bodies of Saul and his sons?
(Read 1 Samuel 31:8-10)
29. What did the people of Jabesh Gilead do?
(Read 1 Samuel 31:11-13)
30. Why do you think the people of Jabesh Gilead wanted to honor the bodies of Saul and his sons? (Read 1 Samuel 11:1-11)
31. What five words are a fitting epitaph for Saul?
(Read 1 Samuel 10:24)
32. What word characterized Saul's life?
33. In your opinion, why did Saul commit suicide?
34. What lesson can we learn from Saul's life?
35. What do you think will be your epitaph?

In Conclusion. There are at least six recorded suicides in the Bible. We know of two in today's lesson – Saul and his armor-bearer. Ahithophel, David's counselor, is another (2 Samuel 17) and Zimri in 1 Kings 16. Samson also committed suicide in Judges 16. The most famous suicide is that of Judas Iscariot recorded in Matthew 27. Judas' suicide has been the basis for many to believe that suicide is the unpardonable sin because the scriptures tell us that Judas went to hell. In Hebrews 11:32, we find that Samuel, Samson and the prophets are all listed in God's hall of faith. We also find in 1 Samuel 10 that Saul is listed among the prophets, and in 1 Samuel 28:19 that Samuel told Saul he would be with him the next day. Therefore, Luke 12:10 tells us that every sin will be forgiven except blaspheming the Holy Spirit. The unpardonable sin is to ultimately and finally refuse the wooing of the Holy Spirit to accept Jesus as your Savior – when a person refuses to listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit for such a long time that the Spirit no longer deals with that person to be saved. Their doom is sealed because of their unbelief. Genesis 6:3 tells us that God's Spirit will not always strive (attempt to win) with man. Do you think Saul was saved? Why?

Second Baptist Church
Sunday School Lessons
Week 9 out of 18

THE TENDER WARRIOR, THE LIFE OF DAVID

1 Samuel 31:1-13

SUAL'S SUICIDE

We have now come to the fateful hour that Samuel had foretold Saul when Saul visited the witch at En-dor. We find the Philistines fighting Israel once again. To the grace of God, we give credit that David is not in this battle for God had intervened to keep him out of it. David had returned to Ziklag to find his city burned and looted and the women and children taken captive. While David and his men are hunting the Amalekites, Israel is fleeing the Philistine army. The battle goes against Israel from the very first. It is the beginning of the end for Saul. It was such a sad ending for a man who was anointed King of Israel by God. A man who had everything going for him; yet, ultimately he would take his own life.

1. Have you ever heard that suicide is the “unpardonable sin”?
 2. What is “unpardonable sin”? (Read Luke 12:10)
- I. OUTWARD CIRCUMSTANCES OF SAUL.** When Israel first insisted on having a king, God chose Saul, and to the average Jew, Saul was the perfect choice. He epitomized the very image they had envisioned for a king. But circumstances being as they were, Saul had a “rough row to hoe”.
3. Although it was not God's perfect will to give Israel a king, why did they still want one? (Read 1 Samuel 8:19-20)
 4. Why did Saul's physical appearance make him a desirable king? (Read 1 Samuel 9:2)
 5. Did Saul really want to be king? (Read 1 Samuel 9:21)

6. Describe Saul's popularity with the people of Israel? (Read 1 Samuel 10:24)
7. What kind of men did Saul surround himself with in the beginning of his reign? (Read 1 Samuel 10:26)
8. What does this verse tell you about Saul's personal walk with the Lord in the beginning of his reign as King of Israel? (Read 1 Samuel 11:6)
9. Did Saul begin his reign the right way?
10. What does this reveal about Saul's latter days? (Read 1 Samuel 28:15)
11. How could a man who once loved God have moved so far away from Him?

II. THE INWARD JOURNEY OF SAUL. No one just suddenly finds himself in a back-slidden condition. It took time and several steps away from God to get to the place of being totally out of God's will. Saul was no exception.

12. How did Saul disregard the instructions of God's prophet? (Read 1 Samuel 13:8-14)
13. Why was it wrong for Saul to offer sacrifices?
14. According to verses 13 and 14, what was the result of Saul's decision to disobey God?
15. What did God command Saul to do? (Read 1 Samuel 15:3)
16. Did Saul obey the Lord? (Read 1 Samuel 15:7-9)

17. What was his excuse for not obeying God? (Read 1 Samuel 15:21)
18. What price did Saul pay for disobedience? (Read 1 Samuel 15:23)
19. What is the meaning of this passage? (Read 1 Samuel 15:22)
20. What horrible sin did Saul commit next? (Read 1 Samuel 22:18-19)
21. Whose help did Saul finally seek – the Lord's or the Devil's? (Read 1 Samuel 28:7)

III. THE FINAL DESTRUCTION OF SAUL. We finally come to the end of the tragic life of Saul. He was the man who could have been David's mentor and a great role model for David; yet, he was the man who almost became David's murderer.

22. Where was the battle fought? (Read 1 Samuel 31:1)
23. Who did Saul watch being killed? (Read 1 Samuel 31:2)
24. What happened to Saul during the battle? (Read 1 Samuel 31:3)
25. Why did Saul want his armor-bearer to kill him? When the armor-bearer refused, what did Saul do? (Read 1 Samuel 31:4)
26. What did his armor-bearer then do? (Read 1 Samuel 31:5)

FYI: The armor-bearer, according to Jewish writers, was Doeg. This was the man who killed all the priests and their families in Nob for Saul. Following the example of his master, Doeg also ended his own life with the very weapon used to massacre the Lord's servants at Nob.

27. When the men of Israel on the other side of the valley and on the other side of the Jordan River saw that Saul, his sons and a great part of Israel's army were dead, what did they do? What happened to their cities? (Read 1 Samuel 31:6-7)

