



1 SAMUEL 31:1-13

GETTING STARTED...

What do you remember about the last funeral you attended? Very often funerals are moments where we look back on a person's life, the accomplishments that they achieved and the focus of their life. They are helpful moments for all of us as we consider our own lives and what we are doing with them, either learning from the mistakes of others or imitating their actions. As we approach the death of Saul we are likewise called to this kind of reflection. Saul's life and choices led him and his entire family into destruction. Yet even in this warning for our lives, we see the plan of God's victory over the curse of sin and death. While every funeral is a reminder of the pain of sin, it contains the hope of eternal life found in Jesus Christ our Messiah!

READ THE TEXT: 1 SAMUEL 31:1-13

31 Now the Philistines were fighting against Israel, and the men of Israel fled before the Philistines and fell slain on Mount Gilboa. **2** And the Philistines overtook Saul and his sons, and the Philistines struck down Jonathan and Abinadab and Malchi-shua, the sons of Saul. **3** The battle pressed hard against Saul, and the archers found him, and he was badly wounded by the archers. **4** Then Saul said to his armor-bearer, "Draw your sword, and thrust me through with it, lest these uncircumcised come and thrust me through, and mistreat me." But his armor-bearer would not, for he feared greatly. Therefore Saul took his own sword and fell upon it. **5** And when his armor-bearer saw that Saul was dead, he also fell upon his sword and died with him. **6** Thus Saul died, and his three sons, and his armor-bearer, and all his men, on the same day together. **7** And when the men of Israel who were on the other side of the valley and those beyond the Jordan saw that the men of Israel had fled and that Saul and his sons were dead, they abandoned their cities and fled. And the Philistines came and lived in them.

8 The next day, when the Philistines came to strip the slain, they found Saul and his three sons fallen on Mount Gilboa. **9** So they cut off his head and stripped off his armor and sent messengers throughout the land of the Philistines, to carry the

good news to the house of their idols and to the people. ¹⁰They put his armor in the temple of Ashtaroath, and they fastened his body to the wall of Beth-shan. ¹¹But when the inhabitants of Jabesh-gilead heard what the Philistines had done to Saul, ¹²all the valiant men arose and went all night and took the body of Saul and the bodies of his sons from the wall of Beth-shan, and they came to Jabesh and burned them there. ¹³And they took their bones and buried them under the tamarisk tree in Jabesh and fasted seven days.

UNDERSTANDING THE WORD

1. Remind one another of the timeline of events starting back in chapter 28.
 - a. *Leader guide: 29, 30:1-25, 28, 31, 30:26-31*
2. What is Saul afraid of in vs 4? How does this come true in the rest of the passage regardless of his actions?

REFLECTING ON THE SERMON

3. What was the main point of the sermon?
4. What has God been applying to your heart from the sermon?

APPLYING THE POINT

5. Look back over this series on the life of David, what is your biggest take away? What did you learn studying the life of David before he was king?
6. How should we respond when our enemies fail? How does David respond in 2 Sam 1:17-27?
7. When we face tragedy, how can we place our trust in the ultimate plan of God?

PRAYING & SHARING

1. How can you share what you have learned with... another believer? An unbeliever?
2. Share and pray for one another in your life group. How can you specifically pray for and encourage one another in response to this text?



How to Use this Guide

This guide is intended to help facilitate Promontory Small Groups as they meet to understand the Bible passage, discuss the sermon, and how to put it into practice in our lives. What is contained in this guide is not an exhaustive text analysis nor a full list of questions that can or should be asked during Small Group. This is simply a guide to help **start conversations that are centered on the Word of God.**

The Small Group Guide is separated into three main sections that are arranged with an intentional order: *Understanding the Word*, *Reflecting on the Sermon*, and *Applying the Point*. We want to first understand the Word of God, then check that understanding by what has been preached, and then discuss how to put it into practice in our own lives. The order is intended to imitate the process of how the Word of God makes changes in our lives. Head, heart, hands, and all of it wrapped in prayer.

Our goal is not that you answer every question in this guide, but that you are able to discuss the Word of God in a way **that helps everyone follow Jesus together!**

*“Great are the works of the LORD,
studied by all who delight in them.” - Psalm 111:2*