



# INTRODUCING 1 SAMUEL

## Icebreaker

What did you do this summer? (What was your favorite thing that happened/you did over the summer? Or, what was a challenge you faced these last few weeks?)

## Context

This week's lesson is really an introduction to 1 Samuel. Introductions are always tricky because they are really broad overviews and there is not a "passage" that you can look at and study. The questions included this week are intended to either help you understand the setting/context of the book of 1 Samuel, or they are meant to draw your attention to themes or topics that will be addressed in the weeks ahead.

## Discuss

1. Read Judges 2:10 and Judges 21:25. **What was the spiritual condition of Israel during the time of the judges? According to Judges 2:10, why did Israel decline spiritually?**
2. Read Psalm 78:1-7. **How can you help ensure others (the next generation) know Christ and obey the Bible's commands?**
3. **Is it important for God's people to remember history? Why or why not?** (Five times in Deuteronomy- 5:15; 15:15; 16:12; 24:18 & 24:22 God tells Israel to remember they were slaves in Egypt. Why?)
4. **What is the difference between a contract and a covenant? Why is it important for us to know that God deals with his people through covenants and does not approach us with a "contract" mentality?**



5. **What is a common relationship in our culture that many people treat like a contract but it should be treated like a covenant? (Read Matthew 19:3-9) Has family life, and our culture in general, gotten better or worse when we started treating marriage like a contract? What are character traits a person must exhibit to honor a covenant? (faithfulness, honesty, etc.)**
  
6. **Who is the best leader with whom you have ever interacted/served in your life? What made them a good leader? Who is a leader you admire and why?**
  
7. Read Proverbs 29:2. **What happens under bad leadership?**
  
8. **Are leaders born or made?**
  
9. Read Exodus 18:13-23. **Why is it important to not only lead well, but to raise up new leaders? Parents, what are you doing to lead your children? What can you do to prepare your children to be leaders?**
  
10. Students/young adults, read 1 Timothy 4:12. **Can a person who is younger be a leader? What are some ways to lead while still respecting those who are older than you?**

## **Next Steps**

Read 1 Samuel 1 this week. Consider how hard it was for Hannah to remain faithful to God when the culture around her and even those in her home (Peninnah) were acting unfaithfully. Is God calling you to do something that others may not understand or even oppose you doing?

Think about who God has called you to lead (self, family, work, church, etc.). Pray for God to give you wisdom on how you can be a leader that honors Christ and encourages others.

