



# 1 Samuel



## Reading the Bible Together

July 2014

### What is 'In Sync' Bible Reading?

'In Sync' encourages us to read the same Bible book through a month, and then reflect together on what we have read and learnt from God's Word. There are many advantages to reading together like this, including opportunities to:

- Develop the regular habit of Bible reading
- Become more familiar with the Bible
- Encourage one another by sharing the different things we have learnt through our Bible reading
- Read the Bible with family members and friends
- Handle a whole Bible book, when often we focus on much smaller sections of the Bible in our times of study together.

*'I meditate on your precepts and consider your ways. I delight in your decrees; I will not neglect your word.'* (Psalm 119:16)

### Questions to consider

Reading the Bible does not have to be an intellectual study. Anyone can read the Bible and by God's grace understand it. The main thing is that we pray for God's help as we read. Here are some questions to help you think through what you are reading:

1. What have I learnt about God and about Jesus?
2. What does this teach me about humanity and myself?
3. What has most encouraged me from this book?

4. How does this teach me to love the Lord my God with all my heart, soul and mind? (Matt 22:37-40)
5. How does this teach me to love my neighbour as myself? (Matt 22:37-40)
6. Is there anything else I should learn here to be 'equipped for every good work' (2 Tim 3:17)

### 1 Samuel : What can we expect?

Chronologically, the book of 1 Samuel follows on from Judges-Ruth. The book starts with the birth of Samuel, Israel's last judge, and ends with the death of Saul, Israel's first king. It covers a period of 115 years starting around 1105BC and records the anointing, training through service, and fugitive years of Saul's successor, David.

One of the recurring themes in the book is the "Lord's anointed" and so we see the seeds of messianic expectation focused on Israel's king. We will witness the decline and downfall of Saul, who was physically impressive but spiritually weak. We will learn at the time of David's anointing that whilst man looks on the outward appearance, the Lord looks on the heart, and His choice can be unexpected.

1 Samuel can be divided into 3 sections:

- Samuel - A prophet from God's grace (Chapters 1-7)
- Saul - A king in God's place (Chapters 8-14)
- David - A man after God's heart (Chapters 15-31)

An accessible commentary is 1 Samuel: Looking on the heart by Dale Ralph Davis published by Christian Focus.

### How to read?

With 31 chapters, you can read through 1 Samuel by reading 1 chapter a day or 7 chapters a week.

## In-Sync Reading in August : Jeremiah