

*RBCPC*  
*2011 Study Series*



*Week #5*  
*Study Guide*

Ruth, 1 & 2 Samuel

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[www.rbcpc.org/mark-up-your-bible/](http://www.rbcpc.org/mark-up-your-bible/)

## **Overview**

The book of Ruth serves as a link between the time of the judges and the time of the kings in the history of the Israelites. Ruth displays a level of faithfulness acceptable to God. In 1 & 2 Samuel, this faithfulness continues in the story of Hannah and her dedication of Samuel to God. Samuel is the last effective judge of the Israelites and follows God's direction in appointing a king to rule the land. It ends with the rule of David, his faithfulness, his abuse of power, and the evidence of God's sovereign rule.

## **Scripture Study – Key Passages**

Open your Bible and read the following passages:

### ***Ruth 1:16-17***

1. What is Ruth's religious heritage?
2. Why do you think she follows Naomi rather than clinging to her own familiar culture?
3. What risk does this involve for her? What security?
4. Why does God choose Ruth to demonstrate faithfulness?
5. What does this say to you about God choosing the "least likely" to do his work?

### ***1 Samuel 8:19-22***

1. Why did God agree to the people's demand for a king?
2. What caused the people to want a king? What did they think they were missing?
3. From God's perspective, what were the people really missing?
4. What does this say to you about the freedom of choice God gives you?

### ***1 Samuel 16:6-13***

1. What characteristics was Samuel initially looking for in a king?
2. What does God say about judging the quality of a person based on his/her appearance?
3. Why was it important for Samuel to listen to and heed God's instructions?
4. Describe David's appearance. Why might he not be readily accepted as "king" material?

### ***2 Samuel 7:1-16***

1. What does David want to build for God?
2. In his conversation with Nathan, where does God prefer to live?
3. What is the difference between David's definition of a house, and that of God's?
4. What is the "temple" that God is referring to in verse 13?
5. How does this passage further reveal the nature of God? What is he trying to tell us?

## **Key Concepts**

1. God provides for those who are faithful.
2. God looks at the heart of the person.
3. A successful king recognizes and reflects God's values.
4. God establishes a covenant with David and remains faithful to it.

Discuss these concepts as revealed in the stories of Ruth, Hannah, Samuel, Saul, Jonathan and David – what do each of these individuals have in common?

## **Reflection**

In 1 & 2 Samuel we learn a lot about the value of carefully selecting political leaders. Reflect on the principles you have learned about God's expectations of leaders. What difference might this study make for you when you exercise your own choice in leaders? For example, what would you look for in a leader when you go to the polls in November to vote?

## **Prayer**

Samuel hears God's voice when he was a small child. He continues to stay in conversation with God throughout his life. In your time of personal prayer, allow yourself to ask, like Samuel and David did:

1. To hear God's voice – **1 Samuel 3:9**
2. For safety – **1 Samuel 7:0**
3. For direction – **2 Samuel 2:1**
4. For a blessing – **2 Samuel 7:18-20**
5. For forgiveness – **2 Samuel 24:10**

## **Homework**

Read **1 Samuel 17:38-45**, in preparation for the sermon on Feb. 12/13, "*David & Goliath.*" Mark words, or phrases, that stand out to you.

## **Notes & Reflections:**

