



The Books of Samuel

Saul

Interpreting the Text:

1. How do the events described in this part of 1 Samuel demonstrate the different priorities of Saul and Samuel? How do these translate into their theological positions?
2. What should be the role of a prophet over the leaders and rulers of a people? What are some of the ways Samuel enacts his authority?
3. How does the story of Jonathan compare with other stories about children in the bible (e.g. Abraham and Isaac, Jephthah and his daughter)?

Applying the Text:

1. Should obedience to a religious authority, as modeled by Samuel, always take precedence over pragmatic considerations, as modeled by Saul? How have you navigated this in your own life?
2. Saul and Samuel experienced quite a bit of tension during Saul's kingship. What are the benefits of being a unified front with fellow leaders? What are the benefits of healthy checks and balances through disagreement? What can we learn from Samuel and Saul about healthy leadership?