

The King & The Kingdom
1 Samuel 28

1. One commentary said this story is “one of the most unusual in the Bible.” Have you heard this story taught? What are some of the aspects that make this story unusual or difficult? Why is it important we don’t avoid texts simply because they are difficult?

Avoid the path that starts strong but does not finish well.

2. In 1 Sam 28:3 & 9 we learn that Saul had removed the mediums. He clearly knows this is wrong, but he consults a medium at the end of his life. How can he do something he knows is wrong?

3. Why is it unhealthy to communicate to people they can finish the race poorly? Do we do this? Does the Bible do this?

4. What are some keys for finishing strong? What are some keys for helping others (kids) finish strong?

Avoid the path that tolerates “small sins.”

5. In 1 Sam 15:23 we learned that Saul’s rebellion was “as the sin of divination.” In 1 Samuel 28 we actually see him turn to divination. Why are “small sins” as the sin of divination?

6. What are examples of “small sins” we tolerate in our lives or in our children?

7. It was mentioned that tolerating “small sins” is like playing with a lion because they will eventually overtake us. Have you seen this or experienced this? How/why does this happen?

Avoid the path that is driven by unhealthy fear.

8. How do we see Saul’s fear in 1 Sam 28:5 & 20? What are other ways we see Saul’s fear in this book?

9. Saul is afraid of everyone except the One he should fear. What are examples of ways we see Saul does not fear God? How/why could someone not fear God? What are ways we don’t fear God?

10. What are examples of common fears we have? What do our fears reveal about us and what we value? How should/do we address our fears?

Avoid the path that merely tries to remove evil.

11. Saul removes this evil from the land but in the end he seeks it out. Why is it not enough to merely remove evil from our lives? Why won’t this work?

12. We said it is essential to replace the evil with a love and a desire for what is good, beautiful, true, etc. What are practical ways we can do this?

13. How do we see Jesus avoid the four paths mentioned in bold above? Why should this motivate us to follow and worship Him?