

Mt. Lebanon Church/ Big Isaac Community Church

Sunday School Lesson

6.28.2026

Please look up and read all verses in their entirety. I have only written partial verses.

Make your own notes, write down other scriptures that you run across while studying, write down questions that you may have or comments as well. Allow the Holy Spirit to reveal to you what he would have you to see through the study of God's word.

God Grants Israel a King

1 Samuel 8: 1 - 18

As believers, like the children of Israel, we often time make decisions without seeking Gods guidance. Therefore, a lack of faith, along with our failure to seek him, leads us astray from his will, and prompts us in our motivation to focus on our own worldly, lustful cravings. For this reason, we sometimes will follow after sinful pathways, where we hinder our relationship with Christ, by knowingly making request for things that are opposed to the promises and commandments of his word. This willing disobedience misleads us away from the goals and objectives that he has in store for us in our life. So, rather than allowing our limited understanding to be the final say so in our life, we must allow the Holy Spirit to make known unto us the petitions of our hearts that we need to present unto the Lord, for he alone can perfect our earnest appeal unto God.

Philippians 4: 6,....be careful for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your request be made known unto God....

So, first of all, prayer and supplication are a given opportunity to reevaluate our life with all of its fear and its worry, by humbly relying upon God, with an active trust, which shifts our focus away from self, while prioritizing his faithfulness in our life. This means that when we are letting our request be made known unto God, we are surrendering unto him, by acknowledging that we cannot accomplish anything on our own, but that we are yielding unto a higher power, and for this we are thankful. Now, if there is discouragement in our life due to the challenges that we are going through this will rob us of our joy in the Lord. The only solution is to turn these problems over to the only one who can do something about them. Therefore, we are not promised by God that he will grant every single thing that we request, or even the way that we request it to be done, but we are promised that he will give unto us peace through every situations and circumstance, which is for our good and for his glory.

1 Samuel 8: 1 – 3,....it came to pass....Samuel....made his sons judges over Israel....and his sons walked not in his ways, but turned aside after lucre, and took bribes, and perverted judgement....

Personal faith and righteousness cannot be inherited or passed down; it is mankind's own choice whether to walk in obedience to God. Prioritizing wealth and fame over our spiritual and moral responsibilities to God will cause us to turn from and abandon his ways by seeking worldly solutions. Therefore, even though our spiritual upbringing might provide a strong basis for salvation, a relationship with God requires a personal commitment. Mans tendency is to put trust in flawed earthly concepts, so for this reason we are reminded through his word to keep our faith rooted and grounded in his divine presence.

Psalms 1: 1 – 2,....blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly....but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in his law doth he meditate day and night....

Even as believers, it is very easy to stray away from Gods righteous pathway. Listening to ungodly philosophies can, and will reshape our thoughts, and cause us to align our lifestyle with habits and actions that do not honour God. This gives us an attitude where we no longer see our ways as sinful, for we are excusing our actions through deceptive words of the truth and righteousness of God. We are deliberately ignoring a wrong that we are aware of.

1 Samuel 8: 4 – 6,....all the elders....gathered themselves together, and came to Samuel....and said....thy sons walk not in thy ways, now make us a king to judge us....but the thing displeased Samuel....and Samuel prayed unto the Lord....

As believers, we must set the example when it comes to the consequences of rejecting Gods divine authority while conforming unto the world around us, which happens as we put man's wisdom and knowledge ahead of spiritual understanding, in order to find solutions to the everyday challenges in our life. In doing so, often time, God will allow us to have exactly what we are asking for as a form of discipline, so that as we pursue our own foolish desires we might learn through his divine judgment. For this reason, people panic and turn to worldliness instead of praying to God for leadership and guidance.

1 Samuel 8: 7 – 10,....the Lord said unto Samuel, hearken unto....the people....they have not rejected thee....they have rejected me....they have forsaken me, and served other Gods....hearken unto their voice....and show them the manner of the king that shall reign over them....

For us as believers the feeling of being rejected and forsaken is an emotionally painful experience, but for God it is an invitation to teach unto us his inner transformation. He uses this to remove all of those superficial, worldly attachments, so that he might better prepare us for a greater spiritual awakening. This helps us to realize that our true foundation rests upon the promises and commandments of Christ, rather than on the fluctuating opinions of the world. This is a necessary process that will bring upon us a sudden sense of abandonment, for it clears out the old to make room for new growth. This tension between our worldly desires and the divine sovereignty of God comes upon us, because of instead of trusting in his protection and guidance, we want a visible, tangible way of escape in our life, one that we can see and control. So, just like the children of Israel, God gives unto us those things that we want but not without first giving unto us a spiritual warning that there will be discipline, which will allow us to experience the consequences of our foolish desires, So, therefore, when we do things our own way instead of Gods way, we are inviting the worldly oppression that comes with it into our lives. Remember this, God will use our worldly desires to establish his plan of salvation.

1 Samue; 8: 11 – 18,....he said, this will be the manner of the king that shall reign over you....he will take....and ye shall call out....and the Lord will not hear you in that day....

So, six times, which is the number of man, God says the king will take. God warns his people of the consequences of their own desires and demands and reminds all of mankind that even though he is a loving and giving God, the world will always take from us, and there we be a high cost of personal sacrifice in doing so. So, what does the world take from us as believers. The world constantly demands our time, our energy, and our peace of mind, and leaves us with a feeling of emptiness and anxiety, with the need to justify ourselves to others. Therefore, through the instruction and encouragement of his word, we detach ourselves from the world. Now, we are not completely set apart from the world, because we cannot give up completely the physical world in which we live, but we can refuse to let the world, with its opinions and possessions, dictate our inner peace of mind. So, we must listen to the indwelling Holy Spirit, who reminds us, as believers, that the ultimate source of our being is divine, and all earthly things are temporary.

John 17: 14 – 17,....I have given them thy word, and the world hath hated them....I pray not that thee shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from evil....they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world....sanctify them through thy truth, thy word is truth....

As believers, we live under a divine set of spiritual morals and values, rather than under the corrupt system of the world. Therefore, separation is all about spiritual distinctiveness and not about isolating ourselves physically from the world. Through our obedience to his word, we must expect opposition, but by living according to the leadership and guidance of the holy Spirit, he will keep us holy through his truth, and his word is truth.

Let us Pray

If anyone has any questions, comments or would just like to discuss any of the scriptures, feel free to call, text or email me. Keep praying for each other and all the God lays upon your heart. Hope to see everyone soon. God Bless.

Tim Hughes

304.376.3342 – Text or talk.

Tim.hughes1962@gmail.com

<https://hollowowlfarm.com/>

