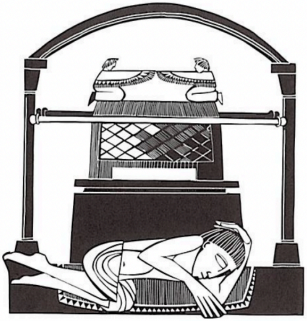


Fall Bible Study 2025

1 and 2 Samuel



This is a book about big personalities—Eli, Samuel, Saul, Jonathan, David. But it’s also about the ordinary people who were disappointed by the corruption of their prophets and asked for a king, believing (falsely) that this would give them security. It’s a book about sons perpetuating the mistakes of their fathers, and the ripple effects of violence and deception. It’s a book with stories of leaders who start out well-intentioned and take some wrong turns. It is a book of tiresome tyrants and the wars they begin. And it’s a book that reminds us that we need prophets and truth-tellers to keep reminding us that the way things are is not the way that they have to be. God’s dreams are always for shalom, reconciliation, and restoration.

Aaron Higashi writes, “1 and 2 Samuel are ambivalent texts. The stories told in these books are stories where God is difficult to find, where God’s will is not clearly revealed, and where people don’t know what to do, politically or theologically.” We likely find ourselves in similar situations. God’s will is not clearly revealed, our leaders are not acting for the common good, but we don’t always know how to respond. Perhaps a Bible Study on a book that tells us exactly what to do would be more useful at a time such as this. Unfortunately, no such book exists, and so we’ll be wrestling together with this one. And in wrestling together, we will find stories of people just like us, who try and fail and try again to listen to God’s voice in difficult times.

There are hard stories in this book, stories that deal with infertility, sexual assault, murder and violence. We encourage you to read the scriptures for each week ahead of time, consider talking about them with your children as seems appropriate, and be aware that on November 9 we will be telling the story of Bathsheba and during second hour there will be a Safe Church training.



	Theme & text	Preacher	Extras	Second Hour
10/12	1 Samuel 1-3, 1 Samuel 8 <i>Hannah's song/ The call of Samuel</i>	Anna Yoder Schlabach	Worship at Camp Friedenswald at 10am	No second hour
10/19	1 Samuel 3:19-14:48 <i>Samuel's rise and fall, Saul's rise</i>	Scott Coulter	Doug Kaufman covenanting	Congregational meeting?
10/26	1 Samuel 16-19 <i>David's Introduction - replacement for Saul</i>	Sean Smuts		Learning about our relationship with Faith (Mariah Martin)
11/2	1 Samuel 28 <i>The Witch of Endor</i>	Paul Keim		Advocacy Repair Team
11/9	2 Samuel 11:1-5, 26-27, 12:1-9 <i>David and Bathsheba</i>	Moriah Hurst		Safe Church Training for the congregation
11/16	2 Samuel 15-20 <i>Consequences of family dysfunction</i>	Patricia Ebersole Zwier		Green Team/ Green building report
11/23	2 Samuel 22-24 <i>What are the takeaways?</i>	Jeannette Hughes	Communion	Learning about Goshen Montessori Preschool