

The Songs of a Warrior



BOOK CLUB

DISCUSSION GUIDE

ON CHAPTERS 1–6

1. Saul and Jonathan both have mixed feelings about Saul becoming king. What is good about Israel having a king? What is not good? Do you think it would make a difference to your answer if someone other than Saul had been chosen instead?
2. Read 1 Samuel 11 v 1-7. What made Saul take action? What made the people obey him? Re-read chapters 5 and 6 of *The Songs of a Warrior*. Do you think the author has done a good job of describing how Saul felt?

ON CHAPTERS 7–11

3. How would you describe the relationship between Jonathan and Saul in these chapters? How does it start off, how does it develop, and what makes it change?
4. Read 1 Samuel 13 v 5-13. (This is the story told in chapters 7 and 8 of *The Songs of a Warrior*.) Why did Samuel say that Saul had acted foolishly? What do you think a “man after [God’s] own heart” would be like? What about today—how can we be people after God’s own heart?

5. On page 77 Saul wonders, “Where was God’s great love for Israel, the people he’d chosen for himself and settled in this land?” What do you think is the answer to this question? How does God show his love for his people in this part of the story?

ON CHAPTERS 12–16

6. Read 1 Samuel 17 v 28, 33 and 42-43, and 18 v 1. What opinions of David do different people have? What is your opinion of David?
7. What would you say are some differences between David and Saul?
8. On page 124 Jonathan wonders whether he feels happy, disappointed, or something else. What has made him happy, and what has made him disappointed? Do you think you would feel the same way if you were in his position?

ON CHAPTERS 17–20

9. Read 1 Samuel 19 v 8-17. What hints, if any, does the Bible give about the characters’ motives, desires or fears in this passage? Re-read *The Songs of a Warrior* chapters 17 and 18. What motives, desires and fears has the author given to each character? Can you think of other possible interpretations?
10. On page 159 Samuel says that the Spirit of the Lord is on Saul. What is happening as a result? Have you

spotted anything else that God's Spirit has done so far in the story? What do you think would have happened if God hadn't sent his Spirit to do these things? (If you're stuck, have a look at 1 Samuel 11 v 6; 16 v 13; 19 v 20.)

ON CHAPTERS 21–25

11. On page 171 David is very thirsty, but he says that the Lord is better than water. What do you think he means by that? What precious thing might you choose to say that the Lord is better than?
12. David didn't want to leave Israel, but in the end he did. What were his reasons for and against going? Do you think David made the right decision? What decision would you have made and why?
13. On page 192 Joab says that God has got David into a bit of a mess. Why does he say that? Do you think he's right? If you ever got to feeling this way, how could you remind yourself that God's plans are always good?

ON CHAPTERS 26–30

14. On page 221 we read that Michal "didn't care about anything." Do you think this is true? What words would you use to describe Michal in these last few chapters? If you could have given her some advice, what would it be?

15. In 2 Samuel 5 v 2 David is described as a shepherd over Israel. David also described God as his shepherd. Read Psalm 23. David wrote this psalm. For each verse, can you think of a part of David's story that he might have been thinking of? Can you think of an experience in your own life that could illustrate these verses?
16. Did you like the ending of the story or did it surprise you? Why?

ON THE BOOK AS A WHOLE

17. Can you think of some ways in which David was like Jesus, and some ways in which he was different?
18. What would you say it means to be a good king?
19. For hundreds of years after David died, people looked forward to the coming of the king who'd been promised. They called him the Messiah. What kind of person do you think they were expecting?
20. Christians today should treat Jesus the way Jonathan treated David: we should recognise that Jesus is our true king, and we should put him first instead of our own hopes or ambitions. What do you think it might look like for you to have Jesus as your King? (You could think about the coming week, or the coming year, or even the rest of your life!)

15. In 2 Samuel 5 v 2 David is described as a shepherd over Israel. David also described God as his shepherd. Read Psalm 23. David wrote this psalm. For each verse, can you think of a part of David's story that he might have been thinking of? Can you think of an experience in your own life that could illustrate these verses?
16. Did you like the ending of the story or did it surprise you? Why?

ON THE BOOK AS A WHOLE

17. Can you think of some ways in which David was like Jesus, and some ways in which he was different?
18. What would you say it means to be a good king?
19. For hundreds of years after David died, people looked forward to the coming of the king who'd been promised. They called him the Messiah. What kind of person do you think they were expecting?
20. Christians today should treat Jesus the way Jonathan treated David: we should recognise that Jesus is our true king, and we should put him first instead of our own hopes or ambitions. What do you think it might look like for you to have Jesus as your King? (You could think about the coming week, or the coming year, or even the rest of your life!)