

Saul and David: Envy, Conflict, and Broken Shalom

God anointed Saul as the first King of Israel. Yet, his leadership of Israel was inconsistent. In 1 Samuel, he waffled back and forth between loving and hating David, the leader of his armies, and unbeknownst to him, the one God chose to be Israel's next king. In the ups and downs in Saul's life, we witness firsthand the broken *shalom* that results when the deadly sin of envy grips our hearts. We also see God's sovereignty and how he continues to work in the lives of his people even in difficult circumstances.

AWARENESS Before listening reflect on what you already know or understand about topics we'll cover in the episode.

- How would you define the sin of envy?
- How do you think envy impacts relationships?



LISTEN TO THE EPISODE: [Saul and David: Envy, Conflict, and Broken Shalom](#)

READ [1 Samuel 18-24](#)

REFLECTION After listening, consider the following questions:

- Hosts Scott Hoezee and Darrell Delaney defined envy as *a lack of contentment with what you have or where you are*. How did Saul's envy affect him and his relationships with God and other people?
- In segment 2, Scott said Saul became "stripped bare spiritually." What did he mean by that? What might it look like to be *stripped bare* spiritually today?
- As he closed segment 2, Scott highlighted an important truth from these stories about Saul's fraught reign as king of Israel, "Our lives don't have to be neat and moral and straight for God to be there, forgiving us, renewing us, restoring us." What does this mean to you?
- How does appreciating the honesty of God's word encourage us in our faith?

RELATED PASSAGES for further study

[2 Samuel 9](#), [James 4:1-12](#), [Proverbs 3:33-35](#)

CONCLUSION

These chapters of 1 Samuel show us both human brokenness and God's sovereignty. As Scott and Darrell pointed out to us, these accounts give us hope that even when we make some messes, God is still there to forgive us and is still molding us into the shape of Jesus, our Lord. Close your time of reflection by thanking God for these biblical accounts, which provide a foundation for your faith in him. Ask the Holy Spirit to show you God's sovereignty in the areas of your life that feel difficult, and restore the *shalom* God desires for you in your relationships and community.

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