

Mission trip slide
The Crown slide w/email

What is the greatest need in your life right now?

I Samuel 28:1-2

- David in Ziklag
 - Philistine mercenary for Achish

I Samuel 28:3

By this time Samuel had died, all Israel had mourned for him and buried him in Ramah, his city, and Saul had **removed the mediums and spiritists** from the land.

☑ **Not written in chronological order**

- 27:1—28:2 ☑ Ch. 29 ☑ 28:3-25
- Why? ☑ Compare David & Saul in crisis

I Samuel 28:4-5

The Philistines gathered and camped at Shunem. So Saul gathered all Israel, and they camped at Gilboa. ⁵When Saul **saw the Philistine camp**, he was **afraid** and his heart pounded.

{all together; one slide}

Military Situation of Ch. 28

- Judah in the hill country
- Philistines stop their raids --
 - Focus on a key trade route
 - Open terrain
 - Chariot advantage

I Samuel 26:6

He inquired of the Lord, but **the Lord did not answer** him in dreams or by the Urim or by the prophets.

(+)	(-)
God's word	his sins + the burden
God's presence	Philistines
Samuel	Military situation
Godly community	

Running on empty image

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I Samuel 26:7

Saul then said to **his servants**, "Find me a woman who is a **medium**, so I can go and **consult** her." His servants replied, "There is a **woman at En-dor** who is a medium."

(+)	(-)
God's word	his sins + the burden
God's presence	Philistines
Samuel	Military situation
Godly community	

What does Saul think he needs most—

- **Removal/Relief of the (-)'s**
- **More/better information**
- **Military preparation**

The greatest need in all our lives right now is to have a **personal, dynamic, vital relationship with God** through His Son Jesus Christ.

Psalms 16:2

I said to the Lord, "You are my Lord; I have **nothing good** besides You."

Psalms 73:26

My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart, **my portion** forever.

Luke 2:43-50

After those days were over, as they were returning, **the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem**, but his parents did not know it ... ⁴⁵ When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. ⁴⁶ ... they found him in the temple sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions ... ⁴⁸ When his parents saw him, they were astonished, and his mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you."

⁴⁹ "Why were you searching for Me?" he asked them. "Didn't you know that it was **necessary for me to be in my Father's house**?" ⁵⁰ But they did not understand what he said to them.

Luke 14:26 (NLT)

"If you want to be **My disciple**, you must, by comparison, hate everyone else—your father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even your own life. Otherwise, you cannot be My disciple.

John 15:5

"Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in Me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from Me you can do **nothing**.

{Put the puzzle piece and the 3 steps on the same slide ... split screen look; ½ and 1/2 }

Missing puzzle piece

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1 of 3 Steps:

- **Begin**
- **Regain/Restore**
- **Strengthen**

A crisis reveals ... What?

Desperation directs ... Where?

{come up one at a time}

Why the witch?

- Show us how far **Saul has fallen**
- Show us how far we could/will fall **without God**
- Show us that in the **"absence" of God** something **else** always emerges.

I Samuel 28:8-12

Saul disguised himself by putting on different clothes and set out with two of his men. They came to the woman at night, and Saul said, "Consult a spirit for me. Bring up for me the one I tell you." ⁹But the woman said to him, "You surely know what Saul has done, how he has cut off the mediums and spiritists from the land. Why are you setting a trap for me to get me killed?" ¹⁰Then Saul swore to her by the Lord: "As surely as the Lord lives, no punishment will come to you from this." ¹¹"Who is it that you want me to bring up for you?" the woman asked. "**Bring up Samuel** for me," he answered. ¹²When the woman saw Samuel, she screamed, and then she asked Saul, "Why did you deceive me? You are Saul!"

I Samuel 28:13-15

But the king said to her, "Don't be afraid. What do you see?" "I see a spirit form coming up out of the earth," the woman answered. ¹⁴Then Saul asked her, "What does he look like?" "An old man is coming up," she replied. "He's wearing a robe." Then Saul knew that it was **Samuel**, and he knelt low with his face to the ground and paid homage. ¹⁵"Why have you **disturbed me** by bringing me up?" Samuel asked Saul. "I'm in serious trouble," replied Saul. "The Philistines are fighting against me and God has turned away from me. He doesn't answer me anymore, either through the prophets or in dreams. So I've called on you to tell me what I should do."

The mystery of God's permissions ...

{one slide}

The practice of magic is not futile but it is **disobedient, rebellious & pagan.**

☒ Practical vs. Relational

I Samuel 28:16-19

Samuel answered, “Since **the Lord has turned away** from you and has become your enemy, why are you asking me? ¹⁷ The Lord has done **exactly what he said** through me: The Lord has torn the kingship out of your hand and given it to your neighbor David. ¹⁸ You **did not obey** the Lord and **did not carry out** His burning anger against Amalek; therefore the Lord has done this to you today. ¹⁹ The Lord will also hand Israel over to the Philistines along with you. Tomorrow you and your sons will be with me, and the Lord will hand Israel’s army over to the Philistines.”

I Samuel 28:20

Immediately, Saul fell flat on the ground. He was terrified by Samuel’s words and was also weak because he had not eaten anything all day and all night.

{one slide all together}

God’s message is relentlessly **consistent.**

☒ **Nothing else needs to be said (//I Samuel 15)**

Time and the situation have not changed God’s mind.

{one slide}

David in Crisis:

I Samuel 30:6,8

David was in an **extremely difficult position** ... But David **found strength** in the Lord his God ... 8 and David **asked** the Lord ...

Repentance & dependence will change God’s **response** to us.

Strengthen ☒ **Gospel**

Regain ☒ **Gospel**

Begin ☒ **Gospel**

2 Corinthians 5:21

He made the One who did not know sin **to be sin for us**, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.

Galatians 3:13

But Christ has rescued us from the **curse** pronounced by the law. When He was hung on the **cross**, He took **upon Himself the curse** for our wrongdoing. For it is written in the Scriptures, “Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree.”

Blandina image

<https://factsanddetails.com/archives/003/201901/5c36664838f63.jpg>

Strengthen

Regain

Begin