



## **Saul's Last Stand: O Sinnerman, Where you gonna run to? (1 Sam 31)**

*Notes: Week Eighteen*

### **Saul Takes His Life - [1 Samuel 31:1-13](#)<sup>1</sup>**

Topics: [Abandon](#), [Armor](#), [Courage](#), [Death](#), [Despair](#), [Devotion](#), [Disobedience](#), [Enemies](#), [Fasting](#), [Giving Up](#), [Honor](#), [Idolatry](#), [Initiative](#), [Loyalty](#), [Mourning](#), [Murder](#), [Obedience](#), [Risk](#), [Running](#), [War](#), [Zeal](#)

#### **Open It**

1. When you or someone close to you has been grieving, what activities or ceremonies have been most meaningful?
2. \*What's the most difficult thing about knowing someone who is terminally ill?
3. Why is the capture or killing of a king or general so significant in warfare?

#### **Explore It**

4. How was Israel faring against the Philistines at Mount Gilboa? ([31:1](#))
5. \*What happened to Saul and his sons in the fierce battle with the Philistines? ([31:2-3](#))
6. \*Why did Saul ask his armor-bearer to finish him off with his sword? ([31:4](#))
7. \*What did Saul do when his armor-bearer refused to kill him? ([31:4](#))
8. How did the armor-bearer respond to Saul's death? ([31:5](#))
9. What toll did this one battle take on Israel's leadership? ([31:5-6](#))
10. What became of the Israelites in the towns Saul's army had been defending? ([31:7](#))
11. What did the Philistines do when they discovered the bodies of Saul and his sons? ([31:8-10](#))
12. What did the valiant men of Jabesh Gilead do in response to the Philistines' treatment of their leaders' bodies? ([31:11-13](#))
13. What rituals were performed on the bodies of Saul and his sons? ([31:13](#))

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1. *Adult Questions for LESSONMaker*, (Austin, TX: Wordsearch, 1992), WORDsearch CROSS e-book, Under: "Saul Takes His Life - 1 Samuel 31:1-13".

## **Get It**

14. \*In your opinion, what circumstances make Saul's desire to die quickly either understandable or cowardly?
15. Why do you think Saul's armor-bearer was unwilling to kill him?
16. Why was the honorable burial performed by the men of Jabesh Gilead important for Israel's morale?
17. Why is it important to honor the dead?
18. \*What duties do we have toward those who are near death or terminally ill?
19. In what ways can having to deal with death or a terminal illness be a blessing in disguise?
20. In what circumstances might a speedy death be the best thing one can hope for?
21. In what way was the defeat and death of Saul not a surprise?

## **Apply It**

22. What act of remembrance can help you with your grief for someone you have lost recently or someone of whom you've been reminded?
23. \*What small action on your part could make life more worth living for someone whose prospects are bleak?