



“The Making of a Man”

1 Samuel 31 – 2 Samuel 1

SERMON NOTES

Record your insights and observations from this week’s sermon:



KNOWING GOD

- a) Read 1 Samuel 31.

- b) Why did King Saul take his own life?

- c) What effects did Saul’s suicide have upon his nation?

- d) If you were to sum up King Saul’s life, what words or phrases would you use?

- e) Read 1 Chronicles 10:13-14. What additional light do these verses shed on Saul’s life and character?

- f) According to Hebrews 5:12-13, one of the purposes of God’s Word is to reveal the truth about ourselves. What do you learn about yourself through Saul’s story?



GROWING TOGETHER

a) Contrary to what you may have heard, suicide is not an unpardonable sin. However, what are some of the consequences of suicide for those left behind?

b) Read 2 Samuel 1:17-27. What strikes you about David's lament for Saul and Jonathan?

c) Why does David pay homage to the man who had made his life so miserable?

d) What can we learn from David in 2 Samuel 1 that would benefit our life together as a church?



SERVING OTHERS

a) This week's reading has a lot to teach us about grief. King Saul grieved the loss of his three sons, as well as the loss of his former glory, and gave up all hope. David grieved over the deaths of Saul and Jonathan, yet held on to hope. In 1 Thessalonians 4:13, Paul says that we should not "grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope." What accounts for the difference between grief that is hopeless and grief that is hopeful?

b) How can UPC offer more support for those who have experienced the death of a loved one? How can you contribute to that improvement?

c) 1 Samuel 31 reminds us of the importance of reaching out to people who need a relationship with Christ. Are you satisfied with your level of involvement in the lives of those who need the gospel? If not, what would it look like for you to be more involved in helping someone else find new life in Christ?
