

SEQUIM COMMUNITY CHURCH
WOMEN OF THE BIBLE

Michal

Living with an emotionally unstable parent who is the King of Israel means life will be unpredictable and chaotic, to say the least. In spite of her upbringing Michal emerged as a notable player in Israel's early monarchy. Saul, the before-mentioned father, allowed David and Michal to marry, but only because he wanted to keep David close enough so he could kill him. Shortly after the wedding, Saul sent a group of messengers to dispatch his new son-in-law. Fortunately Michal anticipated her father's move and helped David escape by lowering him from a window. Then, using the old fake-body-in-the-bed trick, she convinced the would-be assassins that her husband was sick. While David was in hiding, Saul married Michal off to Palti, the son of Laish. Michal lived with Palti for years, until David was named king of Judah following Saul's death.

Small Group Opener:

Where have you felt like a pawn in the "chessboard of life"? _____

MAIN BIBLE STUDY:

Read I Samuel 19:11-17 and answer the following questions.

1. In I Samuel 19:11-16 you'll find Michal proving her love for David by helping him avoid _____ her father's henchman. Jot down a word or two from each verse describing the action she took and the attitude that might have motivated her behavior (*example below*).

	Action	Positive Attitude
I Samuel 19:11	<i>warned David</i>	<i>genuine concern</i>
I Samuel 19:12	_____	_____
I Samuel 19:13	_____	_____

- This is the heroic side of Michal's character. What is there about Michal that you wish you could emulate - her courage, her cleverness, her creativity? _____

2. Michal was bitter about being ignored by David for fourteen years, but she did help him run away in the first place. Re-read I Samuel 19:17 and consider the dilemma Michal faced when her father found out about David's escape. Whom does Saul blame, and why?

- Whom does Michal blame, and why? _____

- Do you think David would really have killed her? Why or why not? _____

- What might it have cost Michal to blame the true, culprit, her father? _____

- What does Deuteronomy 5:16 command a son or daughter to do? _____
- What does Genesis 2:24 command a man and wife to do? _____
- To whom was Michal's first allegiance - her husband or her father? _____
- Psalm 59:1-5 gives David's version of the same scene. According to verse 5, whom does David blame? _____
 - An on whom does David call for help? _____
 - How might the Lord have used Michal's bravery for His good purpose? _____

3. Things took a turn for the worse for Michal. Read I Samuel 25:44. Do you think Saul was punishing Michael or David? _____ Why? _____
- According to Deuteronomy 22:22, what did Mosaic Law have to say about the situation with Michal and Palti? _____
 - How might Saul, who knew Mosaic Law, have convinced himself he had a right to do this? (Apparently Michal had no choice in the matter). _____

4. At last, David and Michal met again. Read 2 Samuel 3:12-14. What does David demand of Abner, Saul's son? _____

- In verse 14, David reminds Saul's son Ishbosheth of what important fact? _____

5. Read the climatic "end of the story" between David and Michal in 2 Samuel 6:14-23. How does v. 23 sum up the rest of Michal's life? _____

Going Further – Additional Study

Let's look at the "back story" of what we have just been reading about Michal and David.

- A. It seemed liked everybody loved David. For proof, read I Samuel 18:1-7. According to these verses, who were among his fans? _____

- B. Now read Proverbs 14:30. Given David's popularity, do you think Michal had a peaceful heart, or do you think she might have struggled with envy or jealousy? _____

- C. If Michal was the jealous type, she had a good teacher - her father. Read I Samuel 18:8-12. What emotions are described in these verses? _____
- D. King Saul's jealousy had deep roots, since he was once God's chosen and anointed. What do we learn about the state of Saul's relationship with God in I Samuel 16:14?

- How does Proverbs 27:4 apply to Saul? _____
 - What does I Corinthians 13:4 say is the best antidote for jealousy? _____
- E. The great King Saul was Michal's father, but very little is mentioned about her mother. She is mentioned once in I Samuel 14:49-50. What was her name? _____
- F. Saul probably made more of a mark on Michal's life if only because of his strong personality. Read 2 Samuel 6:16-23. List any "like father, like daughter" tendencies Michal demonstrates in that scene. _____
- G. Now read I Samuel 18:25-27. How did Saul's plan backfire? _____

- Read I Samuel 18:28-29. In these verses, who was on David's side? _____
 - Who was not on David's side? _____
- H. Michal was had to live apart from the man she loved and was forced to live with a man that she did not choose. In difficult situations, like Michal's, what does the great Apostle Paul encourage in 2 Corinthians 4:16-17? _____
