

Water of Life Community Church
SAMUEL: A LIFE OF PRAYER
WEEK 5
1 SAMUEL 8-11

ICE BREAKER

PRAYER

WORSHIP

INTRODUCTION

Today's study begins with Israel's request for a king, a request rooted in their desire to be like their neighboring (pagan) nations. This request revealed their lack of trust in God's leadership, a theme that continued throughout Saul's life. Saul's life is a sad story of unrealized potential, but it's an important reminder of God's desire that we trust Him and His plans for our lives, and that we live fully devoted to Him.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. READ 1 SAMUEL 8:1-9.

- a. What reasons did Israel's elders give in their request for a king (vv. 4-5, see also 19-20)? What was their real reason, according to verse 7? What was wrong with their desire to have a king?
- b. How did Samuel respond to the elders? What is the key difference between Samuel's response to the elders and the elders's response to their situation?
- c. Read Luke 23:1-5. How is Israel's demand for a king similar to the way many Israelites responded to Jesus when He was on earth? Why did people struggle to trust that Jesus was the Messiah?

2. READ 1 SAMUEL 8:19-22.

- a. Why were the Israelites willing to ignore the warning about a king? Why does God seem to "give in" to their request? What does this teach us about Him?
- b. When are you inclined to do something just to be "like everyone else"? What does that desire communicate to God?

3. READ 1 SAMUEL 9:1-2; 9:14-17; 9:25-27; AND 10:1.

a. What was God's purpose for the future king (v. 16)? What does this say about God's character? How does this affect our trust in God?

b. When has God mercifully used your disobedience to bring about good in your life?

4. READ 1 SAMUEL 10:2-16 AND 10:17-27.

a. In publicly anointing Saul, how does Samuel implicitly judge Israel and reward their protest (vv. 17-19)?

b. What do we learn about the level of trust Saul had in God for the task to which God assigned him?

c. How was God's power and purpose demonstrated in these passages? What does this demonstration tell you about trusting God?

5. READ 1 SAMUEL 11:10-15.

a. What relationship is there between humility and victory?

b. God moves details to bring blessings. What are some signs we might be struggling to trust Him to do this in our own lives?

c. Pastor explained, "If you are going to win the war...not the battle but the war...you must start with yourself—your heart, your insecurities and fears—you must face them and believe God to break them and to heal you." How does this speak to you personally today?

PRAYER/MINISTRY TIME

Why is trust such a hard thing for us to learn? What other things battle for our trust?

How is God currently at work in your life to lead or change you? What steps do you need to take to acknowledge your trust in Him in that process?

GOING DEEPER/WEEKLY CHALLENGE

REFLECT

- Samuel left a legacy. Reflect and think about this question: What type of legacy do I want to leave behind for my loved ones?

RESPOND

- Commit to pray throughout the week and ask the Lord to help you stay steadfast and not compromise to the temptations of the world.

Also ... Subscribe to our e-devotionals by texting "eDevotional" to 67076; or go to wolgroups.com and click on the eDevotional button for daily testimonies relating to this week's theme.

MEMORY VERSE

Psalm 47:7-8, New Century Version (NCV)

God is King of all the earth,
so sing a song of praise to him.
God is King over the nations.
God sits on his holy throne.

NOTES