



WEEK 3: SERVANTS & MASTERS

ICE BREAKER

WORSHIP

PRAYER

SERMON REWIND

Fear becomes especially dangerous when it moves beyond emotion and begins shaping our decisions. King Saul's story reveals how fear can quietly replace obedience as the authority guiding our lives. Saul began his leadership with humility and promise, yet over time his concern for public approval began to outweigh his trust in God's direction. God gives Saul clear instructions regarding the Amalekites, which Saul partially obeys but ultimately compromises. When confronted by the prophet Samuel, Saul finally reveals the real motivation behind his disobedience: *"I was afraid of the people, so I did what they demanded."* His confession exposes a powerful spiritual reality. Fear of rejection and pursuing the acceptance and approval others can become a rival authority to the voice of God.

KEY VERSES

Look up these additional verses:

1 Samuel 15:17–24 (NIV)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1 Under Pressure

The fear of people often shows up as a pressure to be liked, accepted, or approved.

- a. Where do you feel the most pressure to meet other people's expectations?
- b. When you do feel pressure, how do you usually respond? Do you fall into pressure or not? Why?

2 Danger of Compromise

Saul didn't fully disobey—he partially obeyed, but fear of the people influenced his disobedience.

- a. When have you made a decision mainly because of how others might react? Was it at the cost of someone else? Or even yourself?
- b. What made you want that approval from others?

3 Slowing Down to Hear God

Saul admitted, *"I was afraid of the people, so I did what they demanded."*

- a. Whose voice tends to be the loudest in your decision-making—God's, others', or your own? Why?
- b. What helps you recognize when God's voice is being replaced?

4 Setting Ourselves Up for Success

Living for approval can slowly pull us away from who God is calling us to be.

- a. How has the fear of proving yourself to people affected your relationship with God or others?
- b. What do you think it costs us overtime when we let people's opinions lead us?

God invites us to live from His approval instead of chasing others.

- a. If you're honest, what has been driving your decisions lately—fear of people or trust in God?
- b. What would it look like this week to choose God's voice over people's expectations in one area?

DIVE DEEPER

Reflection Questions: Fear of rejection and pursuing the acceptance of others can become a rival authority to the voice of God.

- Where has this fear led you to believe lies in your own life? Where has it led you to believe lies about other people?
- How has it affected the way you live towards yourself, others, and even God?

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

Lead Me in Truth—Each day this week, write down:

- Identify a moment where worry showed up.
- Ask: "What is fear telling me right now?"
- Then ask God: "God, what's the truth?"

Ask the Holy Spirit to help you to know and have confidence in His voice more than any voice that tells lies.

PRAYER/MINISTRY TIME

CLOSING SCRIPTURE

Psalms 1:1-3, *"How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, nor stand in the path of sinners, nor sit in the seat of scoffers! But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law he meditates day and night. He will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in its season and its leaf does not wither; and in whatever he does, he prospers."*

Let the group rest in that promise as you close together in prayer.

NOTES

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