

## Taking It Home:

In this study, we can see how having Godly wisdom and character can sustain us during times of great challenge. God wants to place the character of Jesus in each of us. How are you doing in the character and wisdom department? Can you look back and see how He has developed your character and granted wisdom in your life? Do you ask Him for wisdom on a daily basis?

The people of Israel trusted their own ideas better than the wisdom of God. Saul exalted himself in times of victory and fell victim of his own pride. Do you see the danger of trusting our own understanding or emotions? How do you guard against drifting away from God and falling for the trap of trying to control your circumstances without Him?

Do you have a friend like Ruth or Jonathan? What steps can you take to develop such friendships? How do you think such friendships can protect you?

David could have rationalized taking action against Saul. Do you identify with his reasoning for refraining from taking such action? Can you imagine humbling yourself before someone who wants to destroy you?



## Small Group Lesson - 1 Samuel November 17, 2013

### Quick Review

What in Sunday's message spoke to you, troubled you, helped you, or encouraged you?

### My Story:

Read 1 Samuel 1:9-11. This passage describes Hannah's sincere prayer of faith. Can you share about a time of great distress in which you fervently prayed faithfully to God, believing Him for an answer and then receiving it?

In verse 5 of this chapter, we see that God is the one who orchestrated her circumstance. If the previous question brought to mind such an event in your life when you cried out to the Lord and He answered you, can you now look back and see any circumstance orchestrated by Him that led you to your time of distress? (Note; we are hesitant to see God as the mastermind of our circumstances but indeed sometimes it is His plan at work in our lives.)

## Digging Deeper:

The book of 1 Samuel takes us to a time of transition in the leadership of Israel. The people no longer want to be led by religious leaders and ask for a king. This book gives us a look at different characters who play a role in God's plan, sometimes displaying obedience and other times living in disobedience. Hannah models heart felt prayer and submission to God's will and dedicates her son, Samuel, to God's service. Saul is anointed by God to be king but falls out of God's favor. David conducts himself as God's man of tremendous integrity. Jonathan models brotherly love. The people of Israel become impatient and fail to believe and trust in God. Through all of this, God's plan continues to unfold for His people regardless of their actions.

Read 1 Peter 2:20. This verse speaks of patient endurance and how God is pleased when we practice this. Pastor Bob spoke of Israel's impatience in asking for a king, particularly a king like the other nations had. God had planned to give His people a king but they did not rely upon His timing. How did God respond to their request? (see vs.8:7) Why was their request offensive to God?

Read 8:10-18. God spoke through Samuel to warn the people of what would happen if He granted their request. Read verses 19&20. Discuss why you think the people ignored the warning spoken by Samuel.

Saul starts well. In 11:6 the Spirit of God is upon him. In verse 13 he credits the Lord for deliverance of Israel. Saul continues to have battlefield victories and then makes a foolish mistake, (see 14:24.) Saul begins to exalt himself. In chapter 15 Saul becomes disobedient by not fully completing what God has told him to do. In 15:28 Samuel declares that Saul shall cease to be king over Israel and that God has a successor in mind. In 20:30,31 Saul is out of control with anger and seeks to circumvent God's plan for David. In chapter 28 Saul consults a medium and in chapter 31 he commits suicide. These verses show the decline of Saul's character which led to his destruction. At what point in Saul's reign as king do you see his undoing? What spiritual lesson can be observed by this?

In chapters 24 and 26 David is given the opportunity to put an end to Saul who has been pursuing him and wanting to kill him. In both instances David spares Saul's life. Read chapter 24:1-12. Discuss the following:

What were David's options according to what the Lord had told him? (v.4)

Who would be king if David killed Saul?

What was David's reason for not killing Saul? (v.6)

In verse 8 "David bowed his face to the ground and prostrated himself". Who was David honoring?

How did David display his faith in God's plan?

Read 1 Samuel 20:42. Describe the relationship between Jonathan and David. What one word would sum up this friendship? Read 1Cor.13:8,13.