

SERMON GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Check out your notes from this week's sermon. What stood out?
Were you challenged? Anything you found difficult or disagreed with?

INTRO QUESTION

When have you put your hope in someone or something only to be let down?

DIGGING INTO THE TEXT - 1 Samuel 31

- In light of Saul's tragic end and Hannah's reminder that "it is not by strength that one prevails," where do you see the danger of relying on your own strength instead of humbling yourself before God's Word? -
- Jonathan's death can be looked on either as a tragedy or as his entry into God's better future. How does this help put apparent tragedies in the lives of Christians into a different perspective?
- Note the connections between Adam's failure in Genesis 3:6 and Saul's rejection in 1 Samuel 15:26. Read Romans 5:12 and 1 Corinthians 15:26. What does Saul's death teach us about the ultimate consequence of our disobedience?
- Brad mentioned the "Philistine gospel" in 1 Samuel 31:7–9. Read Colossians 2:15. Can you name some modern examples where it looks like God's people are defeated, yet His purposes are still being accomplished?
- If you knew you were going to die soon, what would you do differently?
- As we finish 1 Samuel, highlight some of the lessons you've learned that you will commit to memory and not soon forget.

TAKEAWAYS

GOD'S WORD NEVER FAILS

Isaiah 55:10-11; Luke 1:37; 2 Timothy 3:16

God's Word never fails. What is your favorite promise or command in scripture?

Are you ever tempted to doubt the power or reliability of God's Word?

If "the whole Bible was given to make whole Christians," how should the totality of Scripture—not just our favorite parts—shape the way we train, grow, and live as disciples of Jesus?

BEHOLD YOUR KING

2 Chronicles 36:15-23; Judges 21:25; Hebrews 10:5-7

Where are you tempted to place your hope in human leaders, systems, or power?

For discussion and accountability, fill in the blank: Because Jesus is the true and victorious King, I will stop placing my hope in _____ and I will trust and obey Him as the One who reigns over my life.

As you see the repeated failures of Israel's kings, what do you learn about yourself? What do you learn about Jesus Christ?