

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

What's the worst place you've ever gone for advice? ChatGPT? Google?
A clueless friend? A fortune cookie?

DIGGING INTO THE TEXT - 1 Samuel 28:3:-25

Read Deuteronomy 18:9-14 and 1 Samuel 28:3-7

Why do you think desperation makes us more willing to compromise our convictions? Are you tempted to break the rules when life feels out of control?

Read 2 Corinthians 7:10 and 1 Samuel 28:15-18

How does Paul's description of godly grief help us see the difference between Saul's response and true repentance?

Read Matthew 7:21-23 and 1 Samuel 28:10

What does it reveal about Saul that he swore "by the LORD" while doing something God forbids?

Do you ever use religious language to justify disobedience?

Read Galatians 6:7-8 and 1 Samuel 28:20

Saul collapses when his doom is confirmed. What does this show us about the difference between fearing consequences and fearing God? Does Saul take God's grace for granted?

Since God's judgment is reaped in this life as well as in eternity, what does this teach us about the danger of delaying repentance?

TAKEAWAYS

THE WORD OF GOD IS ALIVE AND ACTIVE

Isaiah 8:19-20; Hebrews 1:2; 4:12; Mark 9:7

God's Word cuts to the heart. What does God's silence in the situation with Saul reveal about the danger of ignoring or disobeying His Word?

God forbids His people from turning to mediums or spiritists. Where do you see similar practices today (yoga, "christian" false teachers, reiki, new age spirituality, horoscopes, etc.), and why do they fall into the same trap as Saul? If God has spoken fully and finally in His Son, why do we still chase after other voices?

What does it reveal about our hearts toward Christ when we do this?

THE LIGHT OF THE GOSPEL SHINES IN THE DARKNESS

John 1:5; 13:30; Mark 15:33-34; Colossians 1:13-14; Romans 7:25

Both Saul and Judas walked into the night. What does this reveal about rejecting God's Word and betraying His Son?

What does Jesus' cry on the cross tell about the real cost and seriousness of our sin?

What attitudes, choices, and hopes mark a life trapped in darkness? Which ones mark a life truly walking in Christ's light?

How does Paul's cry in Romans 7:25 model the gratitude and hope of someone delivered by Christ?