

# Small Group Discussion Questions

Series: Plot Twist

Speaker: Jay Haugh

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Memory Verse: 1 Peter 5:5b-6 NIV

“God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.” Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.

## Read 1 Samuel 15

- Saul and the people took the best things for themselves and destroyed that which was despicable and weak. This was not the direction the Lord gave. Do you ever find yourself thinking that you can improve/modify the instruction God has already given? What heart issue leads you to think/act in this way?
- Saul shares that the reason he did not fully obey God was because he was concerned about his image and reputation in the eyes of the people. How can we guard against prioritizing human approval over obedience to God? How can the pursuit of personal interests hinder our ability to obey and trust God fully?
- Consider the role of accountability in our obedience to God's commands. How can being part of a supportive community or having accountability help us stay on track in our commitment to follow God wholeheartedly? If Saul would have had such a person to remind him about the Lord's commands, do you think this narrative would have played out differently?
- Saul was so pleased with himself and how the military operation against the Amalekites went that he created a monument to himself to commemorate the event. By doing this, who is Saul declaring responsible for the victory? Who really is responsible for the victory? When Saul is confronted with his shortcomings, who does he blame? Who really is to blame? We see Saul taking credit for the good things and passing blame to the people for the things that went wrong. Do you ever see yourself with rose-colored glasses like Saul? What or how do you maintain a



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proper perspective of yourself that keeps in mind your sinfulness but also your intrinsic value as someone made in the Image of God?

- Restate in your own words what Samuel is telling Saul in verses 22-23. Thinking in modern-day equivalents, what kinds of sacrifices would the Israelites have made? Name an area of your life where this truth needs to be applied. What do you need to do in order to see a change in this area?

### Read 1 Samuel 16

- God tells Samuel not to judge a person's spirituality based on outward appearances. When you meet a person for the first time, do you use their appearance to discern something about their character? What are some questions we can ask that will help us gain a better understanding of what is in a person's heart?
- Do you ever attempt to keep up appearances when your heart is not right? How can we avoid allowing a person's appearance or charm to influence our judgment or choices? How can we cultivate a deeper appreciation for the inner qualities and character that God looks at?
- God chose David because his heart was aligned with God's. What are some ways that we can continually work toward greater alignment with God? What is one area that you will commit to working on this coming week?
- David serves Saul to help him through times when Saul is being tormented by an evil spirit. Do you ever have times when you feel like you are being attacked by an evil spirit? In these times, how do you restore peace to your spirit?



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