

Small Group Discussion Questions

Series: Plot Twist

Speaker: Jay Haugh

Message: Israel's Rebellion & First King

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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 8

- Samuel, a man who brought the nation to repentance and back to worshipping the Lord, is not able to lead his own children in the faith. Despite your faithfulness, have you ever struggled with wayward children? How do you invest in your kids' spiritual growth? Does investing in your children stop when they become adults?
- Israel wanted a king so that they would be like the other nations around them. When have you desired to conform or change to be more like those around you? What internal motivators drive you to want to be more like the world? Have you ever felt external pressure to conform in a way that was opposed to Christianity?
- In what ways do we sometimes reject God as king in our own lives? How can we ensure that we prioritize God's authority and guidance in our decision making? Can you think of any situations where you might seek worldly leaders or authorities instead of relying on God?
- Samuel warns the Israelites about the consequences of having a king, such as taxation and forced labor. How does this word of caution relate to our own desires for something other than God, such as worldly success and comfort? What are some potential dangers of pursuing things that are not aligned with God's heart?
- God tells Samuel, "They have not rejected you, but they have rejected me from being king over them." What does this reveal about the true heart issue behind the Israelites' desire for a king? What does wanting to be like everyone else



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communicate to God?

- How did Samuel deal with his disappointment with the people (1 Samuel 8:6)? How do you handle it when things do not go your way? Name some relationships in which you have accountability to grow in areas where you are weak. If none, is there anyone in this group with whom you'd like to have a higher degree of accountability?

Read 1 Samuel 9

- Having lost donkeys must have been seen as a setback by Saul and his family. Instead, it was a setup by God. How have you seen God at work in your life through circumstances you perceived to be setbacks?
- God is also seen to be at work in the people He has placed around Saul and the timing of the events. How have you seen God at work in the people He has placed around you? Are you ever frustrated with God's timing? What do you think is the root of that frustration? Do you trust in God's plans and that they will always be worked out in the time He wants?
- Knowing what Israel wanted in 1 Samuel 8, how does Saul fulfill their desires? How is what Saul appears to offer—a handsome, wealthy king—parallel to what our culture expects for good leadership? Have you ever judged a person based upon how they look? Why is a person's physical appearance not a complete representation of who a person is?



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