

Small Group Discussion Questions

Series: Plot Twist

Speaker: Jay Haugh

Message: Divine Deliverance from an Imperfect Ruler

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ENGAGE THE SCRIPTURES

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 10

- Samuel gave Saul three signs that would confirm God’s presence and guidance in his life. What can we learn from this about seeking and discerning God’s will in our own lives? How can we recognize and respond to the signs and guidance God gives us?
- Saul was given a new heart by God and he was filled with the Spirit of God. How can we experience ongoing transformation in our lives through the empowering of the Holy Spirit? What does it look like to live a life led by God’s Spirit? Who is someone you know who lives their life this way?
- When it comes time to announce Saul as King to the people, he hides himself because he does not feel worthy of the position. Can you relate to feeling unqualified or uncertain of your calling? Have you ever tried to hide yourself from God or man because you did not feel qualified? How did this situation resolve?
- Saul faced opposition and skepticism from some people who doubted his abilities to lead as king. When people criticize or doubt you, how do you handle these emotions or interactions in a way that honors God? How can we support and encourage our leaders? How should we balance our role as critical thinkers with a posture of respect and honor toward leaders?



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Read 1 Samuel 11

- The people of Jabesh-Gilead were facing a significant threat and needed help. How can we identify and respond with compassion and support to the needs of others? What is our responsibility to other believers? Is our responsibility to help different for those who are outside the community of faith?
- Saul uses fear to motivate the people in response to the Ammonites' threat. Is fear ever an appropriate tactic to get people to follow directions? As you consider how you lead your family, what challenges and convictions do you sense? What are positive ways to motivate your family to help one another and be obedient to the Lord?
- While it was brought about through fear, unity in Israel was crucial for their victory over the Ammonites. How can unity and solidarity within a group of people contribute to their success? What are some practical ways to foster unity in our families, Small Group, and church? Within Small Groups, we desire unity around our values (Commitment, Hospitality, Engaging the Scriptures, Spiritual Friendships, Contribute, & Movement). How familiar are you with the Small Group values? Do we have unity around these values within our Small Group?
- Israel's victory brought joy and celebration among the people. When you experience positive movement in your life, does joy come naturally to you? How often do you stop and celebrate before moving forward? Why are joy and celebration important in the Christian life?
- Saul is an imperfect leader who God used to provide deliverance to His people. How have you seen God work through you, as an imperfect person, to impact others around you? Share about how it takes faith to step out of your comfort zone to do something you feel unqualified to do. Encourage one another with these stories and encourage one another to take the next step of obedience to the Lord.



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