



## A Worship Discussion Guide for Individuals, Groups & Families for the week of June 29, 2025

Read the Bible passage aloud in your group meeting. This is a worship discussion guide, and our reflections and applications are grounded in Scripture. You do not need to work through the whole guide. Decide which points would be most helpful for your meeting, and use them as a starting point for your time together.

### Warm Up

- What do you want? Why?

### I Samuel 12:1-25      *The LORD is Witness*

*Israel demanded a king despite the warning of God's servant, Samuel. God granted their request and gave them Saul, a man who seemed like a good king. But would he represent the heart of God? Would the people follow him? These next few chapters begin to answer these questions as we get our first glimpse of King Saul.*

<sup>1</sup>And Samuel said to all Israel, "Behold, I have obeyed your voice in all that you have said to me and have made a king over you. <sup>2</sup>And now, behold, the king walks before you, and I am old and gray; and behold, my sons are with you. I have walked before you from my youth until this day. <sup>3</sup>Here I am; testify against me before the LORD and before his anointed. Whose ox have I taken? Or whose donkey have I taken? Or whom have I defrauded? Whom have I oppressed? Or from whose hand have I taken a bribe to blind my eyes with it? Testify against me and I will restore it to you." <sup>4</sup>They said, "You have not defrauded us or oppressed us or taken anything from any man's hand." <sup>5</sup>And he said to them, "The LORD is witness against you, and his anointed is witness this day, that you have not found anything in my hand." And they said, "He is witness."

- Samuel brings up a number of questions before the people of Israel. What is his point?
- How do the people respond?

<sup>6</sup>And Samuel said to the people, "The LORD is witness, who appointed Moses and Aaron and brought your fathers up out of the land of Egypt. <sup>7</sup>Now therefore stand still that I may plead with you before the LORD concerning all the righteous deeds of the LORD that he performed for you and for your fathers.

<sup>8</sup>When Jacob went into Egypt, and the Egyptians oppressed them, then your fathers cried out to the LORD and the LORD sent Moses and Aaron, who brought your

fathers out of Egypt and made them dwell in this place. <sup>9</sup>But they forgot the LORD their God. And he sold them into the hand of Sisera, commander of the army of Hazor, and into the hand of the Philistines, and into the hand of the king of Moab. And they fought against them. <sup>10</sup>And they cried out to the LORD and said, 'We have sinned, because we have forsaken the LORD and have served the Baals and the Ashtaroth. But now deliver us out of the hand of our enemies, that we may serve you.' <sup>11</sup>And the LORD sent Jerubbaal and Barak and Jephthah and Samuel and delivered you out of the hand of your enemies on every side, and you lived in safety. <sup>12</sup>And when you saw that Nahash the king of the Ammonites came against you, you said to me, 'No, but a king shall reign over us,' when the LORD your God was your king.

- Samuel recounts the "righteous deeds" (7) of the LORD. What are some of those deeds? What is Samuel communicating about Israel's God?

<sup>13</sup>And now behold the king whom you have chosen, for whom you have asked; behold, the LORD has set a king over you. <sup>14</sup>If you will fear the LORD and serve him and obey his voice and not rebel against the commandment of the LORD, and if both you and the king who reigns over you will follow the LORD your God, it will be well. <sup>15</sup>But if you will not obey the voice of the LORD, but rebel against the commandment of the LORD, then the hand of the LORD will be against you and your king.

<sup>16</sup>Now therefore stand still and see this great thing that the LORD will do before your eyes. <sup>17</sup>Is it not wheat harvest today? I will call upon the LORD, that he may send thunder and rain. And you shall know and see that your wickedness is great, which you have done in the sight of the LORD, in asking for yourselves a king." <sup>18</sup>So Samuel called upon the LORD, and the LORD sent thunder and rain that day, and all the people greatly feared the LORD and Samuel.

- Samuel describes the crisis that Israel faces with the institution of a king. How would you summarize this crossroads?
- Israel's wheat harvest began a few months after the rainy season ended and thunderstorms were extremely rare. Why does Samuel ask the LORD to send a storm? What impact does the storm have on the people? (17-18)
- Israel's forgetfulness leads to their unfaithfulness. They forget God and how He has always been faithful to His promises. They forget that He is good and all that He has done for them. In the same way, we grow forgetful of our Savior. Share about a time recently you forgot the Gospel, and took matters into your own hands. What did the Spirit use to bring you to your senses, remembering how much Jesus loves you?

- Think about a specific way you have been tempted to substitute an "empty thing" for God. What did that thing promise that you find so attractive? Why is it hard for us to return to the Lord who has already made us His own through Christ?
- Pray together in response to God's Word. Confess, repent, and turn to the LORD who has done great things for us.

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Questions? Contact Pastor Kevin Greene, [kevin@wepc.org](mailto:kevin@wepc.org)




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<sup>19</sup>And all the people said to Samuel, "Pray for your servants to the LORD your God, that we may not die, for we have added to all our sins this evil, to ask for ourselves a king." <sup>20</sup>And Samuel said to the people, "Do not be afraid; you have done all this evil. Yet do not turn aside from following the LORD, but serve the LORD with all your heart. <sup>21</sup>And do not turn aside after empty things that cannot profit or deliver, for they are empty. <sup>22</sup>For the LORD will not forsake his people, for his great name's sake, because it has pleased the LORD to make you a people for himself. <sup>23</sup>Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD by ceasing to pray for you, and I will instruct you in the good and the right way. <sup>24</sup>Only fear the LORD and serve him faithfully with all your heart. For consider what great things he has done for you. <sup>25</sup>But if you still do wickedly, you shall be swept away, both you and your king."

- What do the people realize? What do they ask Samuel to do for them? (19)
- Samuel understands that, confronted with the evil they have done, Israel will experience the temptation to turn from trusting Him to "empty things". How does Samuel call Israel to weather this kind of spiritual trial? (20-25)