

PERSONAL REFLECTION

The SHADOW KING

1 Samuel 15
Better Not Call Saul

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Gateway Community Church
November 19, 2023

Personal Reflection Question

READ 1 Samuel 9:10-13. Saul was on his journey looking for his father's donkeys, and begins to look for the local prophet, and stops at a well, where young women have gathered. Similar scenes have played out with Isaac & Rebekah (Gen 24), Jacob & Rachel (Gen 29), and Moses & Zipporah (Exo 2), which all ended up in marriage arrangements. What is different about this scene in Samuel? What do you think the author is trying to emphasize?

READ also John 4:7-26. We see in the book of Samuel imperfect people all in pursuit of leading God's people. What strikes you about Christ's encounter and His words at this well?

Prayer Requests

Weekly Bible Reading Plan

Used from the **READ SCRIPTURE** app. Available for both Android and Apple devices.

November 19: Colossians 1-2 | Psalm 13
November 20: Colossians 3-4 | Psalm 14
November 21: 1 Thessalonians 1-2 | Psalm 15
November 22: 1 Thessalonians 3-4 | Psalm 16
November 23: 1 Thessalonians 5 | Psalm 17
November 24: 2 Thessalonians 1-3 | Psalm 18
November 25: 1 Timothy 1-2 | Psalm 19

Grab your copy of **The Shadow King** series introduction booklet from the lobby, or find it online at the livestream page of gatewaycrc.org!



1 Samuel 15:1-11

CALL TO _____

- Am I _____ to God's _____ in my life?

FAILED _____

- Do we _____ and _____ where we want to be _____ to God based on what makes us look _____?

CAUGHT IN _____

- Do I take _____ for my _____?

GOD'S _____ **RESPONSE**

2 Samuel 7:12-16

- This is _____!

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GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. Who would you say is your most interesting relative?
2. As this is the last Life Groups study for the Fall of 2023, what stands out to you about your last nine weeks of gathering with your Life Group?

QUICK REVIEW

1. Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?
2. Pastor Marcel quoted A.W. Tozer saying, "What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us." Spend some time sharing with the group what comes to mind when you think about God.?

SCRIPTURE REVIEW

READ 1 Samuel 9:1-17, 10:1, 15:1-11

1. What does this passage say about the character of God?
2. What does this passage say about fallen humanity and the world we are in?
3. Where does this passage specifically expose sin or unbelief in my own life? How does it specifically call me to change my thinking, redirect my affections, replace behaviors, and trust in my Savior?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. **READ 1 Samuel 9:1-5.** Our first impression of Saul is positive. While we might know that he doesn't live up to this impression, why are we given this positive picture?
2. **READ 1 Samuel 9:15-16.** 1 Samuel 9 tells of Saul's journey from his father to the town of Zuph. It is revealed that God was working through the missing donkeys to bring Saul to Samuel. Can you think of a sequence of events in your life that led you somewhere you didn't expect?
 - **READ Isaiah 55:8-9.** Saul thought all along that this journey was all about the donkeys. But God had other plans, just as "*His thoughts are not [our] thoughts.*" How can we become more aware of His thoughts and plans?
3. **READ 1 Samuel 9:16-17 & 10:1.** Notice that Samuel isn't instructed to anoint Saul as a King, but as a "*ruler,*" "*prince,*" or "*leader.*" God's purpose for Saul was different than the nation's request for a King. Why might this distinction matter?
 - At the end of 1 Samuel 8, Samuel said "*the Lord will not answer you in that day*" yet here the Lord mentions "*My people*" three times. What is the connection of this repeated phrase to leadership of this nation? What do you see happening?
4. **READ 1 Samuel 10:20-24.** Saul has been anointed and God is working through the casting of lots to show the Nation who He has chosen to be their leader. Yet, their selected leader, who knows who he is, is hiding. Why?

TAKING IT HOME

- READ 1 Samuel 15:7-11.** Saul didn't follow completely the Lord's instructions and acted selfishly as he preserved Agag along with a collection of the best livestock. We live similarly, in that we pick and choose which instructions from God we want to follow, or how far we want to follow. Where do we fall short? What does a life look like that fully follows the Lord? How do we do that?