

## BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, May 16, 2010

Passage: 1 Samuel 8

Memory Passage: 1 Samuel 8:18

**TODAY:** *From your study this past week, what is one thing that impressed you that can be of help in your life?*

### DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Deuteronomy 17:14-20.** Reading through the passage in Deuteronomy, what is Moses' prediction concerning a king? Is this passage positive or negative? How does it present what an Israelite king is to be like?

(b) **Read 1 Samuel 8.** After reading through chapter 8, summarize what is happening in this passage. Are there any key phrases that are repeated throughout the passage? What is motivating the desire for a king (1 Samuel 8:1-3, 5, 20, 12:12)?

*For Discussion:* (Leaders read the passage for the day and summarize what you learned from the previous questions)

(c) Commentators assert that the description of a king in 1 Samuel 8 is not anything out of the ordinary but is a blunt statement of what kings are like. Compare how the Deuteronomy passage describes the king's actions. What is different and how is it different?

(d) **Read Leviticus 19:1-2 and 1 Peter 1:15-16.** What is God calling Israel and us to be like? Something that is "Holy" is set apart from the common things of the world for a special purpose. Think about what you do as a vocation. How have you seen the world practice it? How does this compare with how a Christian should (think of Galatians 5:22-23; Philippians 2:3-4)? Go around the room and share some of your answers to these two questions.

(e) *Family:* Read Deuteronomy 17:14-20. What were some of the restrictions that God placed on the kings of Israel? Why would these rules be important? Have you ever played a game where a person was constantly making up new rules throughout the game? How fair did you feel that was? Why would it have been important for a king to know and follow the laws of the land?

### DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Deuteronomy 16:18-20 and Exodus 18:19-23.** What is the purpose of a judge according to this passage? How do bribes affect their ability to do their job properly? What does the Bible say about bribery in other places (Ex. 23:8; Lev. 19:15)?

(b) **Read 1 Samuel 8:1-3.** This is a sad bit of news that we have about Samuel. Who should this remind us of in the story of 1 Samuel (1 Samuel 2:12-17)? Take some time and reflect on your own child raising if you have kids. Are you raising up your children in the way of the Lord? How are you being purposeful in this? This story should sober us as parents.

*For Discussion:*

(c) What affects would having a corrupt system of judges do to a country? Do you know of any countries that are affected by this problem? Which ones? What would it be like to be a Christian in a country seeing and experiencing such things?

(d) What is a Christian's responsibility to see that justice is impartial? How does establishing or showing justice demonstrate the Gospel (Romans 3:26, 5:9, 16)? What is something you or your Sunday school group or home group could do to participate establishing or encouraging justice in Cabot or the world?

(e) *Family:* 1 Samuel 8:1-3. What did Samuel's sons turn away from Samuel's ways for? How did they do this? What happens to other people when someone cheats in a game? How are people who aren't willing to cheat supposed to win? Why would cheating and bribing be so bad for judges to do? Was there anyone who could stand up against them?

### DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read 1 Samuel 8:4-9.** What reason do the Israelites give to Samuel for why they need a king (v. 5)? How is this a cover up for other reasons? How does Samuel respond to their request?

(b) What is the first thing God says about their desire for a king? Is this surprising to you? Why/Why not? What does God say about the track record of the Israelites? How is this incident similar to what happened in 1 Samuel 4 with the Israelites and the Ark?

*For Discussion:*

(c) Samuel, in response to the elders' request, prays first. How would you have handled such a situation? Where does prayer rank when it comes to your reaction to criticism? Practice making prayer your first response to any criticism or difficult situations. Share about your experience with this.

(d) In this passage, we see God acquiescing to the elders' wishes. How is this "yes" actually a judgment upon the elders and not a blessing? How might the fact that sometimes God allows ungodly requests to be granted as a form of discipline, affect how you pray? Read James 4:13-17 as a helpful reminder of what our attitude should be like.

(e) *Family:* Read 1 Samuel 8:4-9. Who were the elders rejecting when they asked for a king? How do you think your parents would feel if you asked them to get you a new mom or dad? Do you think that person would love you or take care of you as much as your real dad or mom? Thank God for not only your parents, but also that he is your King and heavenly Father who loves you more than anyone else.

#### **DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**

#### **READ THE PASSAGE**

(a) **Read 1 Samuel 8:10-18.** What verb is used repeatedly in this passage to describe the actions of the king? What type of offices will be established according to Samuel? Can you think of modern day examples of these in our own government?

(b) In verse 17, Samuel sums up what a king will really mean. What is that summation? How is this different/same to our current situation of government? What warnings should we take from Samuel about our own view of any government or politician?

#### ***For Discussion:***

(c) The truth is not always an easy thing to say, but Samuel "told *all* the words of the Lord". How does what Samuel did compare to us when we go and share the gospel? Have you ever had a similar experience in sharing the gospel? Share your story.

(d) Why is it easy to begin to hope in a political figure or system of government versus God, our true king? How do we do this very same thing with our church leaders both local and global? How do we combat these tendencies to try to find a different savior from the difficulties we face (2 Corinthians 4:16-18)?

(e) *Family:* Read 1 Samuel 8:10-22. What was going to happen to Israel when they got their king? Would you have traded/given all of this for a king? What danger is their in wanting to be so much like the world? Pray that the Lord would give you a distaste for what the world has to offer.

#### **DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**

#### **READ THE PASSAGE**

(a) **Read 1 Samuel 8:19-22.** What additional reason is added in verse 20 to the list of reasons for wanting a king? How is what the Israelites want, run contrary to God's very purpose and role in their lives: Exodus 14:14, 19:6, Deuteronomy 3:22, 33:5?

(b) **Read John 3:19-21.** Jesus' words of judgment to Nicodemus in this midnight meeting are a good comparison to what is going on in the minds of the Israelites. How has what Jesus has said, happened here with the Israelites? What is it God has said Israel has done again and again (1 Samuel 8:8)?

#### ***For Discussion:***

(c) What should the Israelites have done in response to the corruption of Samuel's sons? How do the words of God through Samuel and the words of Christ help us to see the motivation behind the Israelites desire for a king?

(d) What does it mean to "come to the light"? Why is it difficult to place yourself in that situation? What blessings does it give (John 3:18)? How is this part of the normal Christian life?

#### **DAY 6 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**

#### **READ THE PASSAGE**

*Think back through what you have learned each day this week.* What kind of attitude do you have about your vocation? Is it to see God glorified or is it as a means for gain or comfort? How do you perceive your favorite Christian leader or pastor? What would happen in your mind/in your faith if that person sinned publicly? Pray that God would set your hope and mind in Him above all other things for He is our true King and our only true source of joy and satisfaction.

**DATE:** May 16, 2010

**PASSAGE:** 1 Samuel 8

### ***A Misplaced Hope***

*"that we may be like all the nations"*