

## BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, May 23, 2010

Passage: 1 Samuel 9-10

Memory Passage: 1 Samuel 10:7

**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 1 Samuel 9:1-4.** How is Saul described in this passage? What advantages does Saul have? What is the task that Saul has? What would have been most people's impression of Saul? How many places did Saul search for these donkeys?
- (b) **Read Judges 19:16, 22-30; 20:17, 35-37, 46-48.** What type of people were the Benjaminites according to this passage? What had they allowed done? What was their reputation like?

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

- (c) This section is about the selection of the first king of Israel. Knowing what Israel wanted in 1 Samuel 8, how does Saul fulfill their desires? How is what Saul appears to offer, as a handsome, wealthy king, parallel what our culture often looks to for good leadership? Can you think of a story when this has failed?
- (d) What do we learn about Saul's abilities at shepherding in his search for these donkeys? How has God used the analogy and practice of shepherding to describe and demonstrate leadership ability (Gen. 48:15; 2 Sam. 5:2; Ezek. 34:8; John 10:11-12)? What kind of leader is God wanting to place over his people (1 Peter 5:1-5)? Who do you often follow in leadership, the one who looks good or the one who exhibits the traits of a shepherd?
- (e) *Family:* Read 1 Samuel 9:1-14. What kind of man is Saul? Would you want him to be your leader? Why or why not? Why would Saul not know who Samuel is? Why is it so important for our leaders to have a relationship with God?

### DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read 1 Samuel 9:5-14.** Who do we know that is from the land of Zuph already (1 Samuel 1:1)? Who is it that suggests that they go ask the man of God for help? What do we know about the popularity of Samuel during this time (1 Sam. 3:19-20; 7:5, 15-17)?
- (b) What time of day is it probably when the young women come to draw the water (Gen. 24:11)? Is what Saul does in approaching these young women inappropriate or acceptable (Gen. 24:15-28; John 4:7-9)? What is Samuel about to do? Was it ok to make sacrifices on a high place and not wherever the Ark of the covenant was (1 Kings 3:2-4)?

*For Discussion:*

- (c) What do we learn about Saul's spiritual life from this passage? Compare Samuel's response in chapter 8 to the difficulties he faced and Saul's response. What is the one big difference? How does Saul think getting help from a man of God works?
- (d) **Read Micah 3:9-12.** What do Micah and the Lord think of his appointed leaders accepting money for their services? **Read Acts 8:18-24.** What is it that God desires from us in order to find His help? What are some things besides money that we try to offer God so that we can get what we want?

### DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read 1 Samuel 9:15-25.** There is a bit of a flashback in verse 16 and 17 to the previous day. How has God prepared Samuel for Saul's coming? What two words are repeated three times in these two verses? Is this anointing of Saul the actual establishment of him as king?
- (b) What is Saul's response to Samuel's encouraging and prophetic words? People disagree on whether or not Saul is genuinely humble in his remarks or merely responding with the proper social response. What do you think? How does Samuel go on to treat Saul for the rest of the day? What does he do to show Saul honor?

*For Discussion:*

- (c) Even though the elder's of Israel were seen as rejecting God in chapter 8, how does God's response to Samuel in this section show that He is gracious even in spite of their sin? Why is this important for us to remember? How do we often respond to people when they have sinned or failed us in some way?
- (d) Samuel could have been bitter toward Saul because he was the one who was going to take his place as political leader of Israel. What is Samuel's priority in this passage though, above his own feelings? How do you respond when similar things happen at work or in your family?

(e) *Family*: 1 Samuel 9:15-25. What is going on in this passage? How does this passage show that God is in control? How does Samuel demonstrate how we are to treat our leaders? How does treating such people show God's graciousness?

**DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**

**READ THE PASSAGE**

(a) **Read 1 Samuel 9:26-10:16.** Why does Samuel have the servant of Saul go on without them? What are the signs that Saul will see on his journey home? What is significant about the fact that the three men are going to give him food that was for a sacrifice (Num 18:8)?

(b) The first two signs could be seen as a means to show that God was going to provide both personal and social assurance for Saul in his kingship. What does the third sign seem to confirm to Saul? Samuel tells Saul to meet him at Gilgal and wait for him. What kind of relationship does this begin to establish between the Lord's prophet and Israel's king?

***For Discussion:***

(c) What would you say the purpose of Samuel's speech to Saul is? How do these signs act as a confirmation to Saul concerning Samuel's anointing him? How is what Samuel is doing a sort of preparation for the actual selection of Saul as King which is to come?

(d) Samuel here is prophetically affirming God's call on Saul's life. Paul does a similar thing in his letters to Timothy. Have you ever had someone affirm you in your vocation? What was that like? How would you respond if you had someone like Samuel come and affirm you in your calling? Do you know of anyone that you could encourage and confirm in their vocation?

(e) *Family*: 1 Samuel 9:26-10:16. Why would God give Saul all these signs? Have you ever been afraid to do something? How is God trying to encourage Saul in what he is about to do? How does God encourage you in what you do?

**DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**

**READ THE PASSAGE**

(a) **Read 1 Samuel 10:17-27.** The beginning of Samuel's speech here echoes two other well known speeches given in Exodus 20:2 and Deuteronomy 5:6. What were those two speeches about? How important were they? How does this affect Samuel's status as a leader of Israel since he is linked to these speeches?

(b) How is it discovered who would be king? How have lots been used in the past (Joshua 7:16ff)? How are lots used in the New Testament (Acts 1:26)? Where was Saul found when he came up missing? What is the positive ending to this passage?

***For Discussion:***

(c) What are some of the things that Samuel is reminding the Israelites about in his speech to them? God gives the Israelites just what they want when it comes to appearances, but how does Saul's character flaws present themselves this early? What would you say he was afraid of?

(d) How does this sort of lack of confidence in God lead to other types of sin later for Saul (1 Samuel 18:7-11)? How does a lack of confidence in God lead us into different sins? What are some examples? How has God already shown his faithfulness in relation to those examples?

(e) *Family*: 1 Samuel 10:17-27. Why does Saul hide in the baggage? Have you ever wanted to run from responsibility? Have you ever felt like you were inadequate? How has God prepared Saul for the Kingship? How has God prepared his people to walk with him (Ephesians 6:13-20)?

**DAY 6 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**

**READ THE PASSAGE**

*Think back through what you have learned each day this week.* What has stuck out to you this week with the story of Saul? How are you like Saul? What are some ways that God has affirmed His faithfulness to you over the years? How do you respond when God puts you in an uncomfortable position?

**DATE:** May 23, 2010

**PASSAGE:** 1 Samuel 9-10

*The Making of a King*  
*“for God is with you”*