

Community group questions
First Samuel 9-15

Opening question: Share an example of when not following instructions completely created some problems (growing up, working on some project, a past job experience, etc).

Scripture study

- Read First Samuel 9:1-6, 14-17. What does this tell us about Saul and how he met up with Samuel? How do we see God's hand in all of this? Share a time when God's timing was obvious to you (even in hindsight).
- Read 10:6-9, 24-26. What is said of Saul here and God's work in him? How does this show God's faithfulness and grace to His people? If this is all you knew of Israel's first king why might things look hopeful for the people?
- Read 13:6-14. How is Saul's act foolish? What do we learn of Saul from this incident? What lesson for our own lives? In chapter 14, Saul's son, Jonathan, goes ahead of Saul and sets in a motion a major victory over the Philistines. Now read 14:23-30. What do we learn about Saul here? What is the lesson for us?
- Read 15:7-11. What do we see of Saul's heart, Samuel's heart, and the heart of God? What does it mean for God to be grieved (or regret) making Saul king? What impact does that have on you?
- Read 15:12-23. At first pass, how might this look like genuine confession? How does it come up short? Read 15:24-30 for more examples to how Saul demonstrates an unrepentant heart. How could Saul's life have turned out differently? What is the right response when confronted? What is it that God is after? What is required for us to go beyond a "sort of (partial) obedience"?