

Westwood Baptist Church



Grounded. Growing. Going.

Worship Guide for April 30, 2023

Sermon Notes

Let's Meet Saul, and See the Hand and Heart of God

1 Samuel 9 – 10

Last week in our study of 1 Samuel 8, we were reminded of the foundational truth of God's sovereign rule over the universe and his providential care and guidance. *"The LORD is king forever and ever. (Ps 10:16)* God is the Sovereign ruler, and he has determined that his Messiah will eternally rule as King of kings and Lord of lords (Ps 2; Jn 18:36; Dan. 7:14; Rev 21).

Here on earth, this side of eternity, God's design was that all human governments and authorities serve under him, in submission to him, governing as deputies - vice-regents. God gave Adam dominion and his responsibility was to fulfill this role. He gave Israel clear instructions for how their earthly kings should rule in submission to God (Deut 17). While Adam's rebellion subverted this good monarchical model, God's plan still stands. His kingdom is at hand (Matt 3:2), and will one day prevail powerfully, publicly, and eternally (Dan. 7:27).

Israel is a microcosm of this in-between struggle. Even in the face of their rejection of God and their demand for a king like the nations, God's promises and purposes for Israel will stand. Even as we are introduced to Saul, and see rise and fall unfold, God's will and ways will prevail. We are reminded of this as we examine 1 Samuel 9 and 10.

Today we see that the search for Israel's first king does not begin with fanfare but with the Lord accomplishing his purposes through low-key seemingly mundane incidents. We see Saul leave home looking for his father's lost donkeys and later return as Israel's king. This introduction to Saul begins with his impressive physical appearance, but as the story unfolds, Saul's conduct cracks open the door to allow us to begin to see some subtle flaws in his character which will prove to be consequential and in the end, catastrophic. But through it all, the hand of God is moving - putting in place all that is needed, and his mercy is being poured out as he raises up the prince who will deliver his people.

The pick, the problem, a private anointing -
all in the providence of God. (1 Sam 9:1 – 10:1)

The signs, the Spirit, the secret of the kingdom –
and a preview of problems to come. (1 Sam 10:2 – 16)

The roll call, the revealing, the reluctance –
and a reminder that the Kingdom will prevail. (1 Sam 10:17-27)

Life Group Preparation Guide

"Let the *Word* of Christ *dwell* in you(all) *richly*
teaching and *admonishing* one another in all *wisdom*..."
- Colossians 3:16a

Focus #1: GOD

1. What does this passage reveal about the character or nature of God?
2. What does this passage reveal about God's eternal plans and purposes?
3. What does this passage reveal about how God interacts with his creation?

Focus #2: ME

4. How does this passage reveal sin in my own mind, heart, or life?
5. In what ways does this passage help us to see how we need to be aligned with God's will?
6. What is one tangible and measurable way that the Spirit is leading me to respond to his Word?

Focus #3: OTHERS

7. What is one truth that I can share meaningfully with someone, and with whom?
8. How can I specifically encourage someone or everyone in my Life Group from this passage?

Three contributions (reflections, questions, observations, etc.) I plan to include in our next Life Group discussion:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Westwood Staff

Gerald Hodges: Lead Pastor
Jonathan Taylor: Associate Pastor
Jason Engle: Pastor of Students
& Discipleship
Deborah Rudd: Children's Ministry
Coordinator
Yvonne Hager: Executive Assistant

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MAY

5 Membership Class @ 6:00 p.m.
6 Student Yard Sale - 6:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
10 Evangelism Class-Session 5 @ 6:30 p.m.
21 Graduate Recognition Sunday
25 Blood Drive - 10:30 a.m.- 3:00 p.m.
29 Memorial Day - Church Office Closed