

Small Group Discussion Questions

Series: Plot Twist

Speaker: Jay Haugh

Message: Saul & The Idols of Self

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ENGAGE THE SCRIPTURES

Memory Verse: 1 Peter 5:5b-6 NIV

“God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.” Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.

Read 1 Samuel 13

- Saul’s fear of the enemy caused him to act impulsively and offer sacrifices without waiting for Samuel. What are some common fears that often tempt us to compromise our values or act against what we know is right? How can we overcome those fears and stand firm in the Lord and do what He has commanded?
- When Samuel confronts Saul about his actions, Saul blames Samuel for not being more timely. “If you would have come earlier, I would not have done this.” Have you ever rationalized your sin or blamed others for your wrong doing? As you reflect on your behavior, what do you believe is the heart issue behind it? Do you find that it is something you do consistently with certain sins? Do you regularly blame the same people?
- With the massing Philistine army, Saul felt acting sooner rather than later was to his benefit. However, Saul was letting his emotions dictate truth and not his faith. God is able to overcome what we perceive to be insurmountable odds. When do circumstances feel too big for you to overcome? Do you ever feel rushed to act before a situation escalates? How do we let faith lead and not our emotions?
- Saul was caught in a tough spot: feeling compelled to act as the king of the nation but instructed to wait. Do you struggle to know if you should wait for the Lord’s timing or act quickly? How can we find the balance between trusting God’s power and timing and actively participating in the work He has called us to do?



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Read 1 Samuel 14

- Share about a time in your life when you made a decision that required faith in God. How did that experience shape you and impact your relationship with God? Did this experience change your perspective on stepping out in faith in the future? What are some areas in your life where you need to take courageous steps forward, trusting in God's guidance?
- Jonathan and his armor-bearer are unified and have a special bond. Discuss the importance of unity and companionship in a person's spiritual journey. Do you currently have this kind of relationship with anyone? How can we as a Small Group encourage and support one another to step out in faith and obedience to God?
- Jonathan says "nothing can hinder the Lord from saving, whether by many or by few." Many in Israel probably believed this to be true, but few acted in such a way to affirm it as true. Where do you feel the most tension in what you know to be true compared to the way you live? Is there always alignment?
- When Saul inquires of the Lord whether he should enter into battle with the Philistines, the Lord is silent. Do you ever feel you receive the same response when you pray? What does it look like for you to "hear from the Lord"? Is it appropriate to expect an answer from Him in every situation? What did silence from the Lord mean in this instance? Is confession always vital before we hear from God?



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