

Small Group Discussion Questions

Series: Plot Twist

Speaker: Andrew Boone

Message: A New Era: Samuel's

Date: 06/25/2023

Transition from Judge to Prophet



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 12

- Samuel puts himself on trial and asks the people if he has ever taken advantage of them or acted dishonestly. Why is someone's character so important? How can godly character be demonstrated in our relationships and interactions with others? What does our character say about the God we follow?
- Samuel gives the gathered people a brief history of the nation and their relationship with God. The general pattern has been that the people are forgetful, unfaithful, and rebellious, but God is faithful. He provides deliverance when there is repentance and obedience. Where do you believe your help comes from?
- Even though the people of Israel now have a king over them, their relationship with God has not changed. What does Israel want from a king? Are they willing to go to the Lord in repentance to receive God's help? Why is repentance crucial to the Christian faith? How often do you come before the Lord seeking repentance compared to how often you seek something you want?
- In verse 14, Samuel tells the people to fear the Lord. In verse 18, we see that the people fear the Lord and Samuel. But in verse 20, Samuel says do not fear. What is the difference between having a "fear of the Lord" compared to a dread or unhealthy terror? What does it look like to have a healthy "fear of the Lord"?



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- Samuel prays for a thunderstorm as a sign of judgment on the people. Do you think God still judges people and nations through natural disasters? Can you name an experience when you have been overcome with a fear of the Lord because of His creation? What was it? How did you respond?
- In verses 14-15, Samuel lays out some conditions for flourishing in the new kingship. What are the expectations for the people? Talk about each component and what it looks like to embody each one. If these things do not happen, what does it look like to have the hand of the Lord against you?
- Samuel gives the people a warning not to seek after idols or useless things. What besides God do you seek after, thinking it will bring life? What are some common distractions or temptations that lead us away from following God wholeheartedly? How can we be prepared to face them and be victorious?
- Reflect on the statement in verse 22, “For the Lord will not abandon His people on account of His great name...” Have you ever been concerned that God would abandon you because of a decision(s) you made? How does this promise give you hope and security as you walk with Him? How does God’s willingness to forgive impact the way you respond when you recognize your shortcomings?
- Even after being rejected by the people, Samuel remains faithful to Israel. He continues to serve God in his old age as a prophet. He advises the people to do three things—one of which, is to consider the great things God has done. As you reflect on your life, where have you seen God working? What great things has He done for you? How have you thanked God or celebrated His goodness in your life?



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