**WEEK 2 | 1 SAMUEL 6-10 | KINGDOM OF GOD**

HOMEWORK: Read 1 Samuel chapters 6 – 10

See Exodus 25:10-22, 26:33-34, 37:1-9, and Numbers 4:1-20 for details about the ark of the covenant and how it was supposed to be handled.

* What did the Philistines, and even the Israelites of Beth-shemesh, do that caused such calamity in 1 Sam. 5 & 6?

Read Exodus 33:20, Isaiah 6:5, 1 Timothy 6:15-16, Hebrews 10:31, and Proverbs 1:7.

* What does it mean to fear God? Clearly, not having proper respect for the ark, nor God Himself, led to God sending theses calamities.
* Does this change your view of God? Why or why not?

Repentance means to turn around, turn away from, or change direction. It’s more than being sorry, it’s turning away from sin and turning to God. In 1 Sam. 7, Samuel is calling the Israelites back to God. He directs them to turn away from other gods (Baals and Ashtaroth), direct their hearts to the Lord, and “serve him only.”

* Do they actually do this?

Read 2 Corinthians 7:10. What is the difference between “Godly sorrow/grief” and “worldly sorrow/grief”? (Hint: worldly sorrow is being sorry for being caught, or sorry because things have turned bad)

* Which type of sorrow did the Israelites display?
* Have you ever been guilty of showing worldly sorrow for your sin? Is there anything in your life right now that God is calling you to truly repent of? Don’t wait, do it!

1 Samuel 8 is a turning point in the Old Testament, from judges raised up by God to a king demanded by the people. The key seems to be the Israelites’ desire to be “like all the nations” (v. 5, 20). They were rejecting God (1 Sam. 10:19) wanting instead to follow the ways of the world.

* How are you tempted to follow the world instead of God? What can you do to fight this temptation?

God gave the Israelites a solemn warning about what would happen under the rule of an earthly king (1 Sam. 8:10-18), all of which eventually happened under Israel’s kings.

* Why do you think they still demanded an earthly king?

Jesus had a lot to say about the Kingdom of God. Go to biblegateway.com or biblehub.com and search the phrases “kingdom of God” and “kingdom of heaven” (use quotation marks) to see just how often Jesus talks about it, and what He says.

* What does this say about the importance of God’s kingdom?

The story of Saul encountering Samuel while he was searching for his father’s lost donkeys (1 Sam. 9) is one of many in Scripture that illustrates how God often uses everyday situations to guide our lives.

* How can you make sure you’re watching for God at work even in the seemingly ordinary stuff of life?

While we often associate the Holy Spirit primarily with the New Testament, He is active in the Old Testament as well: remember, God exists eternally in the Trinity. We see the Spirit as early as Genesis 1:2, and God frequently fills Israel’s leaders with the Spirit (for example Numbers 11, throughout the book of Judges, Ezekiel 2:2, many more). Both Saul (1 Sam. 10:6, 10:10) and later David (1 Sam. 16:13) had the Spirit “rush upon” them.

In the NT, the Holy Spirit is given many names/attributes: Helper, Guide, Comforter, Counselor, Advocate, Intercessor, Teacher, among others (John 14:16-17, 15:26, 16:7, 16:13, Romans 8:16, 8:26).

* How have you experienced the Holy Spirit working in your life?
* Which of these names do you relate to the most?

How does Saul’s reaction to being called by God (1 Sam. 10:21-22) compare to Samuel’s (1 Sam. 3)? It’s easy to be hard on Saul but his reaction isn’t uncommon, think of Jonah, Gideon (Judges 6), etc.

* Have you ever tried to run or hide from God? How’d that work out?
* Read Ephesians 2:8-10 and Philippians 1:6. How can you take courage from these verses?

**\*Come prepared this week to discuss the kingdom of God.**