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

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

What comes to mind when you think of a king?

Read 1 Samuel 8:4-9

* Why did the Israelites demand a king?
* Are we still tempted to put “kings” in God’s place today? Consider the current political climate (without getting into political debate!): Are Christians acting much differently than everyone else?
* What other things are we tempted to put on the throne of our hearts, in God’s rightful place?

Jesus had a lot to say about the kingdom of God. From your personal Bible study this week, how many times did you find Jesus using the phrase “kingdom of God” (*varies based on translation used, but over 50!*) and “kingdom of heaven” (*around 30*)?

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

Read Mark 1:14-15, Matthew 3:1-2, 4:17, 10:7

Dallas Willard said, “Eternal life is the life we have now, because our life is caught up in God’s life…Jesus is about bringing the life of the kingdom of God into my life now and making me a citizen of that kingdom.”\*

* Is your view consistent with this? In other words, are you living in the kingdom of God here & now? Or do you view it as a ‘someday’ thing, only after you die, or Jesus comes back?

Read Matthew 6:33

* How did the Israelites fall short of this?
* What are some ways you live this out practically?
* What distracts you from living this out (perhaps other “kings” in your life)?

What from this week’s Personal Bible Study or tonight’s teaching stood out to you? What new truth did you learn? How will you apply that this week?

**\*Reference / Resource:**

“Living in Christ’s Presence” Dallas Willard