

Sept 14/25 - Messy Stories, Faithful God – 1 Sam 9 & 10

Leader's Guide

1. Think back to a recent “first” in your life—a new job, new phase, new challenge. What emotions did it stir in you? Did you sense God’s presence in that transition?

New seasons often bring a mix of fear, excitement, and uncertainty. Allow space for people to share openly.

2. The Israelites’ motives were sinful when asking for a king, but God named that and then worked within their request to lead them back to him. What do you think it means to believe that God can still work through us—even when our motives or decisions aren’t perfect? How does this shape your view of God?

This question revolves around God’s grace and sovereignty. Encourage honest discussion around failure, repentance, and hope. Some other biblical examples: Joseph’s brothers’ betrayal; David’s sin; Peter’s denial.

3. God used lost donkeys, a servant, townspeople, Samuel, and the Spirit to guide Saul. What are some of the ways you have experienced God’s guidance through unexpected people or situations?

These could be big or small examples – both are fine! As a group think through how we can be more attuned to God’s action in our lives.

4. Saul had a specific role, but his success depended on his dependence on God. What role has God given you, and how are you learning to depend on Him in it?

Some follow-up questions: What does “dependence on God” look like practically for you (e.g., prayer, Scripture, community)? Where do you feel the tension between self-reliance and God-reliance?

5. “Do you see the one the Lord has chosen?” What helps you keep your eyes fixed on Jesus in a world filled with competing “kings” and idols?

Some areas to explore: what some of the “kings” or idols might be that pull people’s attention away from Jesus (e.g., success, approval, comfort); spiritual practices help us realign our focus; people and resources that help us stay centered on Christ