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“One who faces his own failures is steadily advancing on the pilgrim's way.”
[William Temple]

ICEBREAKER

What are you grateful for or what has brought you joy over the past week?

BEGIN WITH PRAYER

Spend a moment praying the following passage, beginning in a posture of humility and gratitude!

“The Lord has established his throne in heaven, and his kingdom rules over all.”
[Psalm 103:19]

MAIN POINT

God's permissions are never without purpose. Failure and regret have divine designs!

PASSAGE

- 1 Samuel 8:1-22

DISCUSSION

1. What stood out to you about the passage? What word or phrase resonated with you?
2. What reasons did Israel's elders give in their request for a king? (see v. 4-5 and 19-20)
3. What was their real reason, according to verse 7? What was wrong with their desire to have a king?
4. Share about a time that you (ultimately) discovered you had a misplaced desire for something that wasn't what God wanted for you. How did you discover that? What was the result?
5. How did Samuel respond to the elders? What is the key difference between Samuel's response to the elders and the elders's response to their situation?
6. How is Israel's demand for a king (in 1 Samuel 8) similar to the way many Israelites responded to Jesus when He was on earth (in Luke 23)? Why did people struggle to trust that Jesus was the Messiah?
7. When in your life have you had a similar struggle, trusting fully that Jesus is who he says he is? How did God reassure you that his way is the best?
8. Why were the Israelites willing to ignore the warning about a king? Why does God seem to “give in” to their request? What does this teach us about Him?

9. When are you inclined to do something just to be “like everyone else”? What does that desire communicate to God?

STEP OF OBEDIENCE

The failures that God allows in our lives has a divine design ... to show us the King we need AND the King God gives: Jesus! Based on our conversation today and the leading of the Holy Spirit , *what is a step of obedience that you can take to live out this passage and the truths above?*

PRAYER FOCUS

We Are Bridge Builders → *We are focused on those who are not yet connected to Jesus and His church. We strive to reach people by breaking barriers and filling gaps of division with love, grace, and truth.*

- As we strive to live out this Rock Bridge value, let's pray that God will add more Bridge Builders to our Ministry Teams who serve others to see them mature in Christ.
- For those not yet serving, we pray for clarity to discover their best fit and how their gifts can impact the lives of others at Rock Bridge.

Optional Closing Prayer

Father God, we praise you for
your mighty providential hand in our lives.
You are in control and work every detail
for our good and your glory.
Even amid the unknown, that may cause anxiety,
we choose to trust you and rest in your sovereignty.
You are worthy to be praised for who you are.
We are so thankful for your sovereignty
that guides, protects, and holds our lives together.
Continue to strengthen our faith in you.
Help us be a light to others
who also need to trust your sovereignty.
Amen.