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*Hey small group leaders! As we continue our journey through 1 Samuel, we hope you will embrace the attitude of thanksgiving that Samuel displayed in 7:12: "Up to this point the LORD has helped us!" If we allow our lives to be filled with humility, obedience, and trust, God's word (the Bible) will point us to THE Word (Jesus) so we can be a blessing to those around us!*

*Thank you for shepherding a group of people to Love God, Love Others, and Live Sent!*

*NEED A RESOURCE, HAVE A QUESTION, OR WANT TO HAVE A CONVERSATION?  
Let us know how we can help! Contact your groups director or [discipleship@rockbridge.cc](mailto:discipleship@rockbridge.cc)*

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**"God often hides His blessing in trouble or trial,  
which makes it all the sweeter when it comes our way."  
[A.W. Tozer]**

**LEADER RESOURCES || Leader Note** *We do our best to equip, empower, and encourage you to shepherd your group well. Access a resource by clicking on the underlined title and share them with your group!*

- **Passage Summary**
  - These passages highlight the work of God to initiate the rule of Saul, and despite the focus on Saul, God's hand is highlighted. God works with sinners, often in secrecy, and even through sin to show His mercy and accomplish His will. The passages show God's providence (donkeys), God's secret work that few recognize (choosing Saul), and how people should respond to the work of God. Saul is the example of responding (or not) to the work of God, ultimately proving hesitant, reluctant, and passive toward God's word and work.
- **Chapter 9 & Chapter 10 Commentary**
  - Use these commentaries to give you background for this week's discussion. These would be good resources to share with your group before you gather.
- **The Necessity of Humility**
  - This short podcast reminds us that we need to pray for humility in our lives and cultivate humility on an ongoing basis. This would be a good resource to share with your group after you gather.

**ICEBREAKER || Leader Note** *The main goal for the icebreaker is to build joy and gratitude together.*

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

**BEGIN WITH PRAYER || Leader Note** *Wherever two or more are gathered in God's name, He is there! We want to begin our time together by thanking him for being present with us and praying God's Word back to Him. Ask a few people to pray as you begin your time in a posture of humility and dependence!*

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

*"God — his way is perfect; the word of the Lord is pure.  
He is a shield to all who take refuge in him."*

[Psalm 18:30]

**MAIN POINT || Leader Note** *Read this aloud as a road map for where the discussion should go.*

God is always working. How will we respond to Him?

**PASSAGES || Leader Note** *There are two chapters to read this week, so follow the instructions below in the Discussion section.*

- 1 Samuel 9-10:1
- 1 Samuel 10: 2-27

**DISCUSSION || Leader Note** *Your role is to FACILITATE the conversation, so keep your group moving and encourage multiple people to share. The questions do not need to be asked in order and not every question has to be answered ... there is freedom to go where the Spirit is leading your group! Look for opportunities to point out the grace and glory of God in the lives of your group!*

*Have someone (or a couple of people) read 1 Samuel 9-10:1 aloud.*

1. What stood out to you about the passage? What word or phrase resonated with you?
2. What physical advantage did Saul have over his peers? How might that impress others?
3. What was God's purpose for the future king? What does this say about God's character? How does this affect our trust in God?
4. What is the significance of Samuel's private anointing of Saul (10:1)? How do you think Saul felt when Samuel anointed him?
5. *Read aloud → The act of pouring a flask of specially prepared olive oil on Saul's head symbolized a divine claim on him, as well as the outpouring of the Lord's enabling Spirit into the newly designated king. Though Samuel anointed Saul, it was the Lord who was responsible for designating Saul as the leader "over his inheritance". Though God desires for us to choose the best and trust Him in those choices, He doesn't abandon us when we make a less than best choice.* When has God mercifully used your disobedience to bring about good in your life?

*Have someone (or a couple of people) read 1 Samuel 10:2-27 aloud.*

6. What stood out to you about the passage? What word or phrase resonated with you?
7. *Read aloud → To dispel doubts concerning the Lord's claim on the young man's life, Samuel provided Saul with an unprecedented series of validating signs (v. 2-8) that would be accomplished almost immediately, even before Saul could return to his own home. This early confirmation would help Saul accept his new status and prepare him to accept his role as Israel's king when it was publicly bestowed on him. Saul was reluctant to share Samuel's words about the matter of kingship when he first returned home. Perhaps he felt relatives and friends would have a harder time believing he would be their new leader.* In publicly anointing Saul, how does Samuel implicitly judge Israel and reward their protest (v. 17-19)?
8. What do we learn about the level of trust Saul had in God for the task to which God assigned him?

9. How was God's power and purpose demonstrated in these passages? What does this demonstration tell you about trusting God?
10. How is God currently at work in your life to lead or change you? What steps do you need to take to acknowledge your trust in Him in that process?

**STEP OF OBEDIENCE || Leader Note** *This is an opportunity for people to put into practice what the Spirit is inviting them to do and live in obedience to God for the sake of love! You can encourage your group to be accountable to one another and use these to follow up with one another throughout the week.*

As we are open and attentive to receive the Holy Spirit, we can then choose faith OVER fear, insecurity, ego, and everything else. 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?***

*Give your group a few moments to reflect on their answers to the questions above. Then have your group answer the question aloud. Feel free to separate into smaller groups of 3-4 for this question.*

**PRAYER FOCUS || Leader Note** *We want to commit to praying for OTHERS as a unified church who is dependent upon God for everything. Be intentional about saving at least 5-10 minutes for prayer at the end of your small group each week to pray for the focused area below. You are encouraged to break into smaller groups of 3-4 people if your group is much larger than that.*

**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\*** *This would be a good prayer to read TOGETHER as you close your time. If you don't, consider texting it to your group the day after.*

Thank you for the promise that you are always at work.  
Thank you, Lord, for the assurance  
that this brings to my heart and mind.  
Open my heart and eyes to the amazing work  
that you are doing in the world around me.  
Bring justice to the evil, bring peace to the brokenhearted,  
bring revival to this lost world.  
Start with me, Lord: revive my heart, strengthen my faith,  
and embolden me to share your love with those around me.  
Amen.