

DISCUSSION NOTES

FEBRUARY 9, 2019

Start by praying and asking for God's help as you seek to grow as authentic followers of Jesus.

LISTENING TO GOD'S WORD

1. Read 1 Samuel 13:5-14. Make 5-7 observations. Who is present? What action takes place? What is the focus? What stands out most to you?
2. In verses 13-14 (of this chapter), Samuel confronts Saul. What is the primary wrong that Saul has done? What are the consequences? Does this seem fair to you — why or why not?
3. Consider 1 Samuel 14:1-14-46 (either read the whole passage or have someone summarize it). Make 5-7 quick observations. What happens? What emotions are present? What is the main point? What stands out most to you?
4. In chapter 14, what noble traits do you see in Jonathan? Who was the focal point of Jonathan's action?

What flawed traits do you see in Saul? Who was the focal point of Saul's action?

5. Read 1 Samuel 15:1, 17-31. Make 5-7 observations. What happens? What key phrases or words do you notice? What is troubling or difficult to understand? What seems most important?
6. In chapter 15, Samuel confronts Saul again. What is the primary wrong that Saul has done this time? How does compare with his previous transgressions? What seems most significant about this episode?
7. If you were to describe Saul as a leader, what words or phrases first come to mind?

LIVING IT OUT

8. What observations can we make about leadership from this lesson? Why is healthy leadership so essential to the work of God?
9. In his sermon, Pastor Jeff said "Fear and personal force are never good substitutes for love and reliance on the power of God...Good leaders bless people more than they press people." Do you agree? Why or why not?
10. Read 1 Samuel 14:6-7, where we see two amazing statements of faith. Why are *both* the statement made by Jonathan, who leads, and the statement his armor bearer, who follows, important? In the end, what difference does their unified faith make for the nation?

What inspires you from this example of clear conviction about God, strong expectation of God, and decisive action for God?

11. What is one takeaway from this study that you want to apply to your own life this week?