



DISCIPLE GROUP CURRICULUM CURRICULUM GUIDE WK 8: JUNE 13 & 16

LEADER INFO:

Serve Day – Serve as a Group. Details & links in announcements below! Disciples of Jesus love God & love people! Disciples show they Love All People through serving & sharing the Gospel. This is your Groups day to do both! **Let's see who can sign up the most group members the quickest.**

GROUP ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Serve Day – Saturday July 13th. We want to learn more Serve Day at coe22.com/localoutreach. Click on "Sign Up Here" button or share the link below with your group, which will take them to the sign-up form directly. There is a place to mark that your Disciple Group is serving together, and the name of the Group.

Sneak Peeks – Join the Fleming Island campus team and be one of the first to see inside where hundreds of lives will be transformed as we plant the gospel in Fleming Island. [Sign up here](#) or at coe22.com/events.

June 25 - 6:30pm

June 30 - 2:30pm

Independence Day – This year Independence Day falls on Thursday, July 4. Please be aware that 7:22 services will be held at San Pablo and Mandarin campuses ONLY. If you attend at Baymeadows, please attend at San Pablo or Mandarin instead.

THIS WEEK'S READING PLAN:

Monday - 1 Samuel 15:1-35

Tuesday - Isaiah 1:1-20

Wednesday - 1 John 5:1-5

Thursday - Deuteronomy 10:10-22

Friday - 2 Timothy 3:1-9

Saturday - Luke 6:46-49

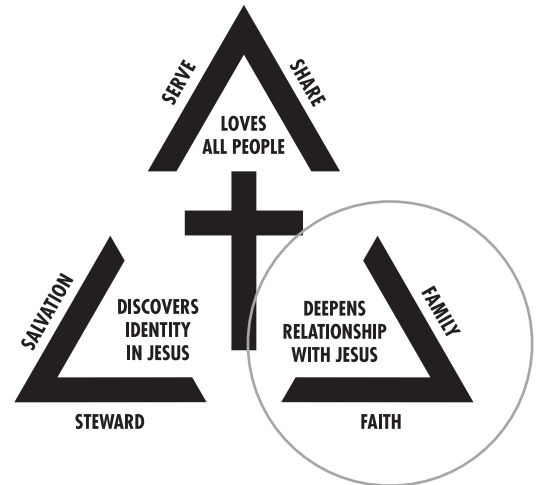
MEMORY VERSE: *But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart." - 1 Samuel 16:7*



PROPHETS PRIESTS KINGS - WEEK 8: ME FIRST

THE POINT: WE DON'T COME TO JESUS ON OUR OWN TERMS AND CONDITIONS. WE EITHER SURRENDER TO THE LORDSHIP OF CHRIST OR REJECT HIM. NEGOTIATING IS NOT AN OPTION. **GOD WILL NOT BE SECOND.**

TEXTS: 1 SAMUEL 15



God comes to his man Saul with a mission. Saul decides that he would rather do things his own way. When confronted with his sin and disobedience, Saul first lies and then tries to shift blame. At the end, even though Saul is "sorry", it's clear that he's more concerned about being honored by the people than restoring his relationship with God. Are you surrounding yourself with people who are pointing you to Jesus and if so, are you listening to them?

TEACHING & DIALOGUE

Have someone read 1 Samuel 15:1-9 out loud.

1. In this portion of Scripture, God tells Saul to wipe out a neighboring people called the Amalekites. There are people that struggle with this command. What is your typical response when you come across a verse that you struggle to understand or agree with? Is this the best response?

(The typical response for most people when they come to something they don't understand is to either ignore it or question God or the Bible. Probably the best response when you find yourself in that situation is to try and dig deeper into the Scriptures to really understand what is going on.)

Read 1 Samuel 15:10-35 out loud.

2. What are some of the events in this chapter that specifically show us more about Saul? What do they say about his character?

(First, Saul didn't obey God and this shows that Saul cared more about what he wanted than what God wanted. Second, Saul lied about obeying God when he knew he hadn't done the right thing. Third, when Samuel kept pressing him and Saul finally confessed, he tried to deny, minimize, and blame shift. He essentially blamed the people for his own lack of leadership. Fourth, he set up a monument for himself, which shows that for Saul, in the end, it was all about him.)

3. In this chapter, what do you see as the one thing above everything else that motivated Saul? How did that lead him to make poor decisions? What are some other common things that drive people and what does it usually do to them in the long run?

(The one thing that drove Saul was his pride. As Pastor Britt said, HE ULTIMATELY LOVED HIMSELF MORE THAN ANYTHING. He thought he knew better than God, which prompted him to leave Agag alive and to spare the sheep and goats. This precipitated his need to justify himself when confronted about his sin. He needed to be hailed as the hero which motivated him to set up a monument to himself.)

4. When Samuel first approached Saul and challenged him on his sin, Saul responded with "I have kept the command of the Lord." Saul knew full well that he hadn't. In fact, Samuel had to confront him two more times before he confessed. Then when Saul did "confess" he blamed other people instead of owning up to it. When you are confronted with sin, what is your normal reaction?

5. Compare 2 Samuel 12:1-13 and Psalm 51, where David was confronted over his sin, with Saul's reaction. How are they different? What can we learn from David so that we respond to a rebuke as God intends?

(David listened without trying to justify himself. He readily accepted the rebuke, taking full responsibility for it. He showed humility as he agreed with God's judgement yet he was bold enough to ask for mercy and forgiveness. He made his response God-centered rather than self-centered.)

6. Samuel confronts Saul with these words, "To obey is better than sacrifice and to listen is better than the fat of rams." Essentially, God is saying he wants relationship far more than religion. What are some ways that people prefer religion over relationship? What does this look like in real life?

(In one sense, religion is easy. You don't have to change your life. It's formulaic. Relationship is far more difficult. It demands your heart. In real life, this looks like going to church to be seen or giving money to be recognized.)

ACTION STEP

Are you surrendered to the Lordship of Jesus Christ or are you prone to justify your actions when they conflict with God's commands? Do you self-examine regularly? How could Psalm 139:23-24 help you do that?

Grab a partner and share about the last time you were confronted by someone and how you responded to their correction/advice. Ask your partner for their suggestions on how you could have handled it differently.

