

Life Group Leader's Guide

The King and Kingmaker

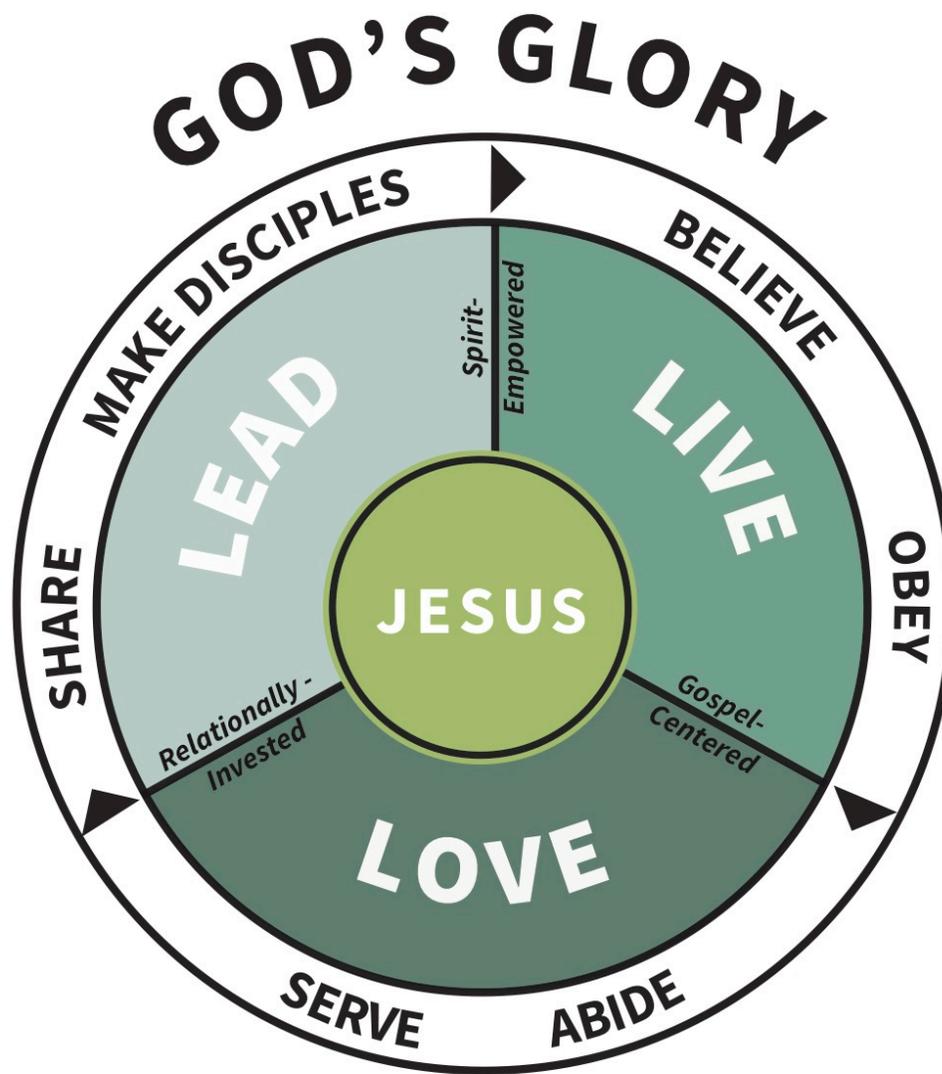
A Study of 1 Samuel

Based on the sermon series by Pastor Ben Cross

First Baptist Church of Eugene

September 2017 – Version 2.0

PROFILE OF A DISCIPLE



LIFEGROUP LEADER'S GUIDE

Introduction

Thank you so much for choosing to serve as a Life Group leader. **A life group is a small community that seeks to LIVE, LOVE, and LEAD like Jesus through authentic relationships.** You're leading people to put their faith into action each week. God can and will use you in powerful ways as you lead your friends and neighbors into Christ-centered community.

Below are some reminders for leading your Life Group through this curriculum. A curriculum is a guide, not a strict template that must be followed to a tee. It is good to have structure and consistency, however make sure you prayerfully allow room for the Holy Spirit to lead each of your times together as a group. **Life Groups are purposed to put faith in action and see lives transformed.** The most important part of each meeting is not what people know, but how they grow - applying God's truths to real life.

Don't forget to take regular breaks from this curriculum to go out and serve our community, have a neighborhood BBQ and invite friends, attend a concert or community event, etc.



WARM-UP

As you begin your life group, you have a couple of options for how to get started.

- 1. ASK.** Ask your group about last week's application (maybe review last week's conversation), then listen for how God has been at work in people's lives. This is also a great opportunity to review last week's story.
- 2. ICEBREAKERS.** This is a fun or sometimes serious question that opens up conversation, helps you all learn something new about one another, and/or relates to the theme in the passage. Feel free to come up with your own! Give everyone a chance to engage, but don't let it take too long. It's just a warm up.
- 3. PRAY.** Don't forget this as you begin your time together. Prayer is powerful.



STORYTELLING

In this section, you'll find a summary of the text you're about to go over. Feel free to read this (try not to stare down at the page the whole time) or read the text for yourself and tell the story in your own words! **Remember, your job is to just tell the story, not to teach on any particular points.**

Next, have everyone bring out their Bibles and read the passage together. Then rebuild the story, asking questions like, "Then what happened?" and "Who were the characters in this story?" This ensures that everyone is involved and starting on the same page — something especially important to any new or non-believers in your group.



DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

In this section, you'll find questions to help your group discuss the passage. The questions are in no particular order, so feel free jump around or ask different questions that better follow where your group is going. Remember, try to lead your group from head-questions (facts) to heart-questions (emotions and faith), then to feet-questions (application).

This section also includes general questions that can be applied to any passage: What stuck out to you from this passage? What does this teach you about people? What does this teach you about God?



APPLICATION

These are extremely important questions for your group. They not only can stimulate great discussion and prompt your group members into action, they can also allow you to see into a person's heart in significant ways.

There are two ways to ask life application questions: (a) Use story specific questions provided in the guide, or (b) Form your own questions based on comments made during the discussion time.

These life application questions are the most important, because this is where people put their faith into action.



WRAP-UP

As you close your time together, lead the members of your group to come to an action-based conclusion. What is a take-away that God could be putting on your hearts? How can they put their faith into action? How can we live differently and become more like Christ? Then follow-up each week by asking how things went.

Lastly, conclude your group time with prayer. Ask for people's prayer requests and pray for God to continue to teach you about this passage throughout the week.

SOME HELPFUL TIPS :

- Do not skip the story rebuild or questions sections. They are intended to get everyone on the same page and help the discussion gradually become more serious. That being said, feel free to come up with your own questions within these sections.
- Don't be afraid of the "awkward silences." Let the seconds pass by in these times — some great comments can come out of these moments.
- Manage your discussion time well to ALWAYS arrive at the application question(s) with at least 15 minutes of discussion time left. It is intended to be the most meaningful time of the group meeting.
- Make sure your group knows that these discussions take place in a safe environment where no one will attack them for having different perspectives or experiences. Keep an eye on the dynamics of the group so that everyone feels safe sharing personal thoughts and experiences with others.

1 SAMUEL: THE KING AND KINGMAKER

Introduction



WARM-UP

1. **ASK.** What is one hope or expectation you have for our group this year?
2. **ICEBREAKER.** What do you fear most about change? What changes in your past experience turned out badly and what changes turned out to your benefit?
3. **PRAY.** Ask the Holy Spirit to work in your hearts and minds as you study this passage.



STORYTELLING

What do you know already about the stories in 1 Samuel?

The books of 1st and 2nd Samuel are one book divided into two parts because it took two scrolls to write one continuous story - hence the 1st and 2nd scrolls of one book. For a visual overview of the characters and themes, see the Bible Project videos at <https://thebibleproject.com/explore/1-samuel/> and <https://thebibleproject.com/explore/2-samuel/>

Hannah's prayer in 1 Samuel 2 introduces key themes and the first main character, her son Samuel. Samuel is the last of the judges who led the nation of Israel. Samuel was a good prophet, and yet the people of Israel wanted a king like the other nations. Saul was a kingly leader who began with great promise; however pride and disobedience led to his fall. King David followed Saul, similarly began with great promise and similarly fell because of his character flaws. However, David displayed a heart of humble repentance and hope in a the promise of a future king, God's messiah, who would come to save God's people. The epilogue in 2 Samuel chapters 21-24 repeats these themes, the rise and fall of human leaders, God's sovereign faithfulness in the midst of human frailty, and the hope of God's messianic king who would come to save His people.

Read through 1 Samuel 1 as a group.

Rebuild the story as a group.

1 SAMUEL: THE KING AND KINGMAKER

Introduction



DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

- Watch the Bible Project video of 1 Samuel. What characters and themes stand out to you about this book?
- How does seeing a biblical book as a whole before examining it in its parts be important?

GENERAL QUESTIONS: What stuck out to you from this passage?

What does this teach us about God? What does this teach us about people?



APPLICATION

- How does the name Yahweh of Hosts and that he thunders from heaven bring you comfort and confidence in troubling times?
- Does this name in any way make you feel uncomfortable and frightened?
- What are you most looking forward to in this study?



WRAP-UP

- Let's take a minute and ask the Holy Spirit to speak to us (pray and wait 1 minute).
- What is one truth from this story the Spirit is pressing on your heart to apply this week?
- Who could you share this truth with this week?

1 SAMUEL: THE KING AND KINGMAKER

1 Samuel 1:1 - 2:10



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- How does seeing a biblical book as a whole before examining it in its parts be important?
- (If you've listened to the intro sermon on 1st Samuel) How does the name Yahweh of Hosts and that he thunders from heaven bring you comfort and confidence in troubling times? Does this name in any way make you feel uncomfortable and frightened?

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