

— IN SEARCH OF A KING —

Understanding 1 Samuel

Small group questions

1 Samuel 15 - The fall of Saul

Leaders - if the questions make no sense or you don't know the answer - please contact the bishop!

1. What do you think are the most dangerous temptations for a Christian leader?

What is the passage about?

2. What was wrong with the people asking for a king 'such as the other nations have'?
3. What do you make of Saul's attitude toward himself, God, his soldiers, and Samuel?
4. How might we seek to justify our sins?

What does it teach us about God?

5. How do we cope with God's command of v3? (As background, consider Ex 17:8-14; Dt 25:17-18)
6. "They had no fear of God (Dt 25:18)." If this is the basic problem with the Amalekites, why might that history lesson have made Saul feel uneasy? What about us?
7. In what way does God's treatment of the Amalekites mirror what is coming for the whole world? (See also Rom 1:18-20)
8. "To obey is better than sacrifice." (1 Sam 15:22). How might we get this wrong in the same way that Saul did?
9. What does this chapter teach us about God's attitude to sin and his place in judgement?

How does it point us to Jesus?

10. In what ways is Jesus' kingship better than Saul's?
11. 'Jesus' death is where God's wrath and mercy meet.' Discuss.
12. Read Acts 13:36-39. How does Paul's teaching here put 1 Samuel 15 into perspective?

Conclusion

13. Give thanks for the wonderful kingship and atoning death of Jesus, who turns away God's wrath! Pray for one another that we might live lives that submit to Jesus' authority, to the glory of God the Father.