

Discussion Guide and Study Notes

Please use this guide in your Life Group discussion to help glean the most from our Sunday morning teaching. These notes are also excellent for your personal study and growth.

Till [Get the soil ready]

- Ever been stuck in a rut? What happened?
- From Judges to Ruth to First Samuel, Israel has been stuck in a rut. Before Memorial Day, we covered Ruth and the Downward Spiral in Judges. It flowed, Sin > Judgment (foreign oppression) > Judge (deliverer) > Deliverance > Rest and Repeat.
- Ruth's story occurs during the Judges. First Samuel begins with Eli and Samuel serving as Judges. But, there's a new game in town.

Sow [What God wants us to hear]

- Let's do some background on Eli and Samuel
 - o For Eli, see 1 Sam. 2:12, 17, 22-29 (apparently, Eli did not do enough to correct his sons)
 - o For Samuel, see 1 Sam. 1:27-28 (spoken by his mother, Hannah), 3:11-14, 19-21.
- Samuel will be the last Judge but the first of many prophets who will speak for God.



Tend [Working the truth into our hearts]

- First Samuel is full of stories of God's deliverance. Sometimes the people rely upon him but sometimes not.
- So, look at these examples (all from First Samuel). Did they rely upon God or not? You can skim the larger stories.
 - o Ark Captured, 4:1-22
 - o Samuel vs. Philistines, 7:3-14
 - o Jonathan Attacks, 13:15 to 14:23
 - o David vs. Goliath, 17:1-58
 - o David's Fear, 21:1-15

Harvest [Where the fruit is seen]

- How did you answer for the first story, Ark Captured?
 - o Were they relying on God? Really?
 - o Or, were they relying on something related to God?
 - o Did they trust the Ark or the God of the Ark?
- Samuel shows how deliverance works: Rely on God! What do we rely upon for deliverance from problems, battles, or struggles?
 - o Our own will power? Our wealth? Our health? Our wisdom?
 - o Do we rely on anything close to God but not God (Bible reading, prayer, church attendance, service, etc.)?
 - o All those are good things but they are not the thing...or the Person.
- God may deliver soon or you may have to wait.
 - o Record your commitment to seek his deliverance in your journal.
 - o Set a reminder in a calendar to record how and when God delivered or if you need to wait.

Preview: Check out Deuteronomy 17:14-20 of Moses' instructions for a king. What was required of him and the nation?

