

PEFC Weekly Family & Small Group Study Guide

August 7, 2022

Paynesville Evangelical Free Church
God Uses Ordinary People to Build His Kingdom
Gods in Control, Not Evil
I Samuel 28:3-25, 31:1-13



Big Idea

When it Seems Like Evil is Winning, Remember God's Sovereignty Never Changes!

1. Fear is an extremely powerful tool that Satan uses to disguise truth.
2. Evil is only as powerful as the lies and deceit of Satan that God allows.
3. When evil seems to overpower, remember that God is in control.

Introduction

Think of a time in your life when you really felt desperate. What emotions did you feel? How did you deal with them?

Bible Study Questions

If you haven't already, skim through I Samuel 28:3 – 31:13.

Have someone read I Samuel 28:3-25. Describe the crisis that Saul was facing. What role did fear play in his decision making? How might we deal with fear when we face crisis?

Why do you think God did not answer Saul when he inquired of him? What was Saul's response to God's silence? What might he have been hoping to gain? What does this tell us of his heart? What do you think Saul should have done instead? Why?

What is ironic about Saul's answer to Samuel in verse 15? Trace back the pattern of some of the decisions in Saul's life that led him to this point. What was Saul's biggest issue? How do patterns of disobedience (or obedience) affect our lives?

What does Samuel's response in verses 16 through 19 teach us about God? How can an understanding of God's sovereignty bring peace to us during a crisis?

What is the irony of God's judgment on Saul in verse 18 in light of David's actions in chapter 30? Compare and contrast David's emotions and actions in chapter 30 to crisis with Saul's.

What does David's reply to the "troublemakers" (vs 30:22) and his disposition of the plunder (vs 26-30) tell of his heart? How might these actions point toward God's use of David as king in the future?

Think back on the study of I Samuel over the last weeks. What are some things you learned (and maybe surprised you) of how God uses ordinary people to build his kingdom? How can we practically apply them to our lives?

Next Steps

Identify patterns of obedience (like David) or disobedience (like Saul) in your life. Repent to God of past disobedience and make a conscious choice to consistently walk in obedience going forward.

List some promises of God that you can take comfort and peace in. Some helpful Scripture might be: Jn. 16:33, I Jn. 1:9, Deut. 31:8, Joshua 1:9, II Cor. 1:3-4, Ps. 103, Matt. 11:28-30, Rom 8:26-28 (all of Rom 8) Jn. 14:26-27.

Take note of how you experience God's sovereignty and grace in you daily life.

Prayer

Ask Jesus to use you (an ordinary person) to build his kingdom today. Share life needs within your group and pray for one another. Remember that prayer requests need to remain confidential and not be repeated outside your group without permission.