

Small Group Questions for March 19, 2017

Series: E38. Understanding God's story, their story and your story.

Standing Tall, Falling Hard

1 Sam. 1-15

Opening: Tell us about the worst fashion mistakes you can remember. How you thought it was a good idea at the time, but in looking back it was "so bad!"

1. Discuss the following concept: "The nation of Israel asks Samuel for a king, and in doing so they rejected their real king: God. Do nations, groups or individuals do anything like this today? If so, what does it look like in our context?"

2. What does it say about God; in that he gave the nation of Israel their desire for a king, even though it was a very bad idea? Talk about the intersection of God's will and the human ability to still make choices.

3. Unpack the statement, '**Saul was a real historical person...**

'Saul-likeness' is a current, everyday, real, interior struggle for all of us!' Has Pastor Paul gone nuts or is the Holy Spirit shining a light on truth we need to discuss as a group? Caution: Speaking in generality could be 'Saul-like'... ;-)

4. The interior character of Saul-like was gradually eroded because *he was too busy to worship and too big to obey*. What emotions does this bring up within you? What conversations should take place as a group around our everyday lives because of this point?

5. Pastor Paul said the help for the haughty heart is two things: *The fear of the Lord* and *The Love of God*. What is and what is not the fear of the Lord? And how can we grow in it? And how can we grow in the Love of God?

How can you pray for each other?