

COMMUNITY GROUP QUESTIONS FOR 1 & 2 SAMUEL

- 1) What are the 3 most significant leadership qualities you want to see in a person in order for them to be worth following?

- 2) In the books of I & II Samuel, there are five primary leaders of Israel: Eli, Samuel, Saul, David and Absalom. In several passages, God reveals what is important to Him in a leader of His people. Read I Sam. 13:8-14; 15:20-24; 16:6-7, II Sam. 7:8-15; and Ps. 78:70-72. Think about the lives of these five men and describe how they do or do not meet what God considers to be important.

- 3) Look back at the list of leadership qualities your group developed in Question #1. Discuss the differences between your group's list and what you discovered in Question #2. What are the differences and why do you think these differences exist?

- 4) David's life and character is central in these two books. Many of his failures and sins are recorded. Unlike Saul, who sinned in a way that disqualified him and his descendants from kingship over Israel (I Sam. 13:11-14; 15:24-31), God does not reject David or his descendants. Why? What consequences did David have for his failures? Do they seem too harsh, not harsh enough or just right to you and why?

- 5) The topic of covenants is repeated through these two books (i.e., between David and Jonathan [I Sam. 18:1-5; 20:12-17 & 40-42, between God and David [II Sam. 7:8-17] and between Israel and the Gibeonites [Josh 9 and II Sam. 21:1-9]). How would you describe these covenants in I & II Samuel and how are they kept? In our lives, God has made some covenants (or promises) with us. Can you name some and why they are important to you?

- 6) We don't normally think of an object as a character in a story, but the ark of the covenant shows up multiple times in these two books, often with devastating consequences (refer to I Sam. 5:1 to 6:16, I Sam 6:19 to 7:2, II Sam. 6:1-11 and II Sam. 6:12-19). Rather than rely on Hollywood and the movie "Raiders of the Lost Ark" to inform us, what does

Scripture say this object is (II Sam. 6:2, Ex. 25:21-22, Lev. 16:1-14) and what does it represent? What is the fulfillment of this “picture” in our time?

- 7) One key principle throughout these two books is the importance of waiting on the Lord and the consequences that follow when leaders fail to wait on Him. In what situations do you find it difficult to wait on the Lord and why? Pair up with one or two other people in your group and pray for each other to wait on the Lord this week.