

THERE ARE NO COINCIDENCES

1 SAMUEL 9:1-10:16

CHURCH GROUP SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE - JUNE 14, 2026

SCRIPTURE READING

1 Samuel 9:1-10:16 (ESV)

REACH ONE

REACH ONE - Getting to know people and helping people get to know Jesus.

As we continue growing in the habit of intentionally going out of our way to see people, carve out some discussion time to let group members share how they took a step toward others during the past week. It does not matter if it was small (e.g., learning their barista's name) or large (e.g., getting to share Jesus with someone), celebrating wins like these can go a long way into making this part of our daily rhythms and lifestyle.

SERMON RECAP

The providence of God is a rich and complex topic. But at a basic level, the providence of God means that, no matter what happens, God is always in control and always working to accomplish His good purposes. He is even working through—

- Unexpected circumstances
- Unlikely people
- Sinful decisions

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Observation: What does this passage say?

1. Read 1 Samuel 9:1-10:16 aloud as a group. Before interpreting or applying the passage, share observations about it.
 - Who were the main characters in this passage?
 - What did Saul do in this passage? What actions did he take?
 - What did Samuel do in this passage? What actions did he take?
 - What did the Lord do in this passage? What is said about him in the passage?
2. How would you explain or summarize today's passage in your own words?

Interpretation: What does the passage mean?

1. How do the lost donkeys become part of God's larger purpose for Saul? What does this teach us about God's providence?
2. What did Saul know about God's plan at the beginning of the story, and what did Samuel know? What does this difference show us about how God works?
3. What does this passage teach about the relationship between God's sovereign plan and human choices?
4. What is the nature and character of the Lord revealed through this passage? What verses provide evidence of this?

Application: How can we apply this passage to our lives?

1. What difficult circumstances or challenges are you mourning today? Where is your heart heavy? Read Isaiah 61:1-3. How might the Lord be in the midst, working to give "beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord," ... that He might be glorified?
2. God's providence is at work, even in unexpected circumstances. You are loved and led by God, always. In all things, at all times, He is at work. Read Prov 16:9 and 19:21, Psa 33:10, Isaiah 14:27, John 5:17, Acts 17:24-28, and Phil 2:12-13. Reflect on God's providential work in the life of Joseph, through whom He moved to save a nation (Gen 50:20). Then consider this: In your own life or in the life of another, how have you seen the Lord work in unexpected ways to bring glory to His

name and His grace to you and those around you?

3. God's providence is at work, even in unlikely people. In what aspects of your life do you most deeply sense your own vulnerability? What makes you most keenly aware that you are a mortal "jar of clay"? Read 1 Cor 1:25-29, 2 Cor 4:7 and 12:9-10. What might it look like for you to face your weaknesses and, with open hands, fully and freely surrender them to the Lord, so that the power of Christ might rest on you (2 Cor 12:9b)?
4. God's providence is at work, even in our sinful decisions. Where in your life are you knowingly, willingly living in sin? What personal sin are you tempted to try to hide from the all-seeing, all-knowing Lord? Read Rom 5:20-6:4 and Col 3:1-5. What sin do you need to confess today to the One who is faithful and just to forgive and cleanse (1 John 1:8-9)? In other words, today, where might you put to death what is earthly in you so that you might lastingly turn and walk in the newness of Christ's life (Rom 6:4)?
5. The providence of God means that, no matter what happens, God is always in control and always working to accomplish His good purposes. How might this encourage you in your current circumstances? How might it challenge you and invite you forward to receive the Lord's freedom?