

CONFIDENCE IN THE LORD

1 SAMUEL 10-11

CHURCH GROUP SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE - JUNE 21, 2026

SCRIPTURE READING

1 Samuel 10-11 (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.

ICE BREAKER QUESTION

Share with the group a time when you felt completely prepared and confident for a task; or a time when you felt completely overwhelmed and in over your head.

SERMON RECAP

In 1 Samuel 10–11, we see Saul called by God to be king over Israel. Although Saul looked impressive on the outside, he struggled with insecurity and fear. When publicly revealed as king, Saul hid among the baggage rather than stepping confidently into God's calling. Yet when God's Spirit empowered him, Saul led Israel to victory over the Ammonites. Through Saul's story, we are reminded that true confidence is not found by believing in ourselves, but by trusting who God says we are, relying on His strength rather than our own, and resting in the grace He provides through King Jesus.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Observation: What does this passage say?

1. This is a long passage. Have some members of the group summarize what happened in 1 Samuel 10–11 in their own words.
 - What are the major events?
 - Who are the key people involved?
 - How does the story progress from chapter 10 to chapter 11?
 - What contrasts do you notice between Saul in chapter 10 and Saul in chapter 11?
 - What role does God play throughout these chapters?

Interpretation: What does the passage mean?

1. Why do you think Saul hid among the baggage after God had clearly called him to be king, and what does his response reveal about where Saul was looking for confidence (himself or God)?
2. In the sermon, Pastor Eric distinguished between humility and faithlessness.
 - What is the difference between saying, "I am weak," and saying, "God cannot use me because I am weak"?
 - Why do you think God often chooses to work through weak people?
3. Saul's victory came after "the Spirit of God rushed upon him" (1 Samuel 11:6).
 - Reflect on the fact that God used a fearful and faithless king (Saul) to rescue a fearful and faithless people (Israel). What does this teach us about God's character? How is that good news for us?
4. How will Jesus ultimately prove to be a better King than Saul?

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

1. Outside of God, what currently gives you the greatest sense of confidence? Why? What would happen if that thing were taken away from you?
2. Where in your life today do you feel least able (in your own power) to carry out the work God has given you? (E.g., your marriage, parenting, evangelism, work, school, forgiving someone, or something else)
3. The sermon also challenged us to dream big and trust God to use us for Kingdom impact. What is one area of Kingdom impact you are currently praying for God to accomplish through you that you could not possibly do in your own power?
4. What would it look like this week to live more confidently in who God says you are and more dependently on His strength for what he is calling you to do?