

Leader Guide

Here I Am

Spring 2025 | Week 1

Message Date 4/6/2025

THE GOAL

This week we are circling back to a passage where Samuel anoints Saul as king. There are a couple significant things that we want to unpack. First, when Samuel anointed the king, the Spirit of God came upon him and transformed Saul's heart. And because of this transformation, the question will be: "What did Saul do with his calling?" One of the key goals is to explore that we have a better resource than Saul did. In his time, the Holy Spirit would come upon someone and empower them. Today we have the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, which is even more significant. The goal this week will be to unpack "What are we doing with the gift of the Holy Spirit in our lives?"

MY STORY

- 1) What is a common saying that just gets on your last nerve?
- 2) What is your best survival skill in a dangerous situation?

QUICK REVIEW

- 3) What caught your attention from Sunday's message?

DIGGING DEEPER / TAKING IT HOME

1 Samuel 10:1–9 (CSB)

¹Samuel took the flask of oil, poured it out on Saul's head, kissed him, and said, "Hasn't the Lord anointed you ruler over his inheritance?"

²Today when you leave me, you'll find two men at Rachel's Grave at Zelzah in the territory of Benjamin. They will say to you, 'The donkeys you went looking for have been found, and now your father has stopped being concerned about the donkeys and is worried about you, asking: What should I do about my son?'

³"You will proceed from there until you come to the oak of Tabor. Three men going up to God at Bethel will meet you there, one bringing three goats, one bringing three loaves of bread, and one bringing a clay jar of wine.

⁴They will ask how you are and give you two loaves of bread, which you will accept from them.

⁵"After that you will come to Gibeah of God where there are Philistine garrisons. When you arrive at the city, you will meet a group of prophets coming down from the high place prophesying. They will be preceded by harps, tambourines, flutes, and lyres.

⁶*The Spirit of the Lord will come powerfully on you, you will prophesy with them, and you will be transformed.*

⁷*When these signs have happened to you, do whatever your circumstances require because God is with you.*

⁸*Afterward, go ahead of me to Gilgal. I will come to you to offer burnt offerings and to sacrifice fellowship offerings. Wait seven days until I come to you and show you what to do.”*

⁹*When Saul turned to leave Samuel, God changed his heart, and all the signs came about that day.*

- 4) After Samuel anointed Saul as king, what signs did he say would accompany his anointing, and why do you think he gave Saul a sign?

He will find men that will tell him his donkeys have been found. You will meet men from Tabor bringing food and goats as a gift for you. Then you will meet the prophets in Gibeah, and you will prophecy. And then you are to go to Gilgal. When God does this kind of stuff, He does it to assure the recipient of these signs that God is with him.

- 5) Nowadays, we don't have prophets to give us signs. What are some of the ways we can discern the will of God for our own lives and our own calling?

First, asking the question: “Is the decision before me or the direction before me a moral decision?” Meaning, is it an issue of something right or wrong based on God's Word? For example, should I steal this loaf of bread? That's a moral decision. Sometimes it's an issue that isn't a moral decision, but it is one of faith. What will I do with what God has put in my hands? This is a decision that requires discernment and the will of God to lead us. Another way we gather wisdom is through other people who are wise and know Jesus well.

1 Samuel 11:1–5 (CSB)

¹*Nahash the Ammonite came up and laid siege to Jabesh-Gilead. All the men of Jabesh said to him, “Make a treaty with us, and we will serve you.”*

²*Nahash the Ammonite replied, “I'll make one with you on this condition: that I gouge out everyone's right eye and humiliate all Israel.”*

³*“Don't do anything to us for seven days,” the elders of Jabesh said to him, “and let us send messengers throughout the territory of Israel. If no one saves us, we will surrender to you.”*

⁴*When the messengers came to Gibeah, Saul's hometown, and told the terms to the people, all wept aloud.*

⁵*Just then Saul was coming in from the field behind his oxen. “What's the matter with the people? Why are they weeping?” Saul inquired, and they repeated to him the words of the men from Jabesh.*

- 6) Some time has passed between Chapter 10 and the opening of Chapter 11. We don't know how long but, there's something significant in the passage of time. First, Saul was anointed King. What was he found doing when the news of the Ammonite's raid happened? Why is this significant? Could he have done something different?

He was plowing his field. This is one of the key points that Pastor Craig brought up this past Sunday. Saul wasn't playing defense and didn't go on offense. Meaning he had the Spirit of God behind him, but he was just basically maintaining the status quo instead of stepping into the calling that God had prepared for him.

- 7) The same can be true for us. Many of us are simply playing to the status quo and trying to maintain things and play defense in our lives. We aren't seeking to be stretched to grow to move forward. If you are, great job, but let's be real for a moment, all of us can take ground and move forward. We all have areas to grow in. What is one of the biggest areas that you want to stretch or feel God moving you into?

I know that I (Justin) am in a season where God is stretching me. I am being challenged both in church and outside of church. I am being challenged by whether I will remain faithful to the calling or whether I will surrender and just play status quo. Perfect example: one of the things my wife and I have done is change the way we eat dinner. It may seem like a small thing, but we sit down at the dinner table and talk while we're eating, but there was a moment when we were stuck in a rut watching TV. That was our status quo. We needed to breakout of it.

- 8) This next series of questions is about challenging our thinking, helping us step outside of ourselves and to lean into what God wants for us. You don't have to answer them all in your group, but I would encourage you to pick one and chat about it.

- What do you want God to do through you?
- What relationship do you want with God?
- How closely do you want to walk with Jesus?
- How reliant do you want to be on the Holy Spirit?
- How much room will you give the Spirit of the living God in your life?

CHAIR TIME TOOLS

Reflection questions for Chair Time. Think about the following questions and pray through them with Jesus.

Read first Samuel Chapters 10 and 11.

- 1) What lessons do you see about God's character and love from these passages?
- 2) What could Saul have done differently to have a different outcome?
- 3) What lessons can we learn from Saul's decisions? And how can you continue to take ground instead of playing defense?