

king's chapel

Community Group Discussion Guide

Week of March 25, 2018

This Week's Focus: Scripture teaches us that God's greatest act of love, faithfulness, and deliverance was in his Son Jesus Christ, and that all who place their faith in his atoning work will be saved.

This Week's Text: 1 Samuel 12

The gospel is not the first "step" in a "stairway" of truths, rather, it is more like the "hub" in a "wheel" of truth. The gospel is not the A-B-C's but the A to Z of Christianity. The gospel is not the minimum required doctrine necessary to enter the kingdom, but the way we make all progress in the kingdom. The gospel is the way we grow and are renewed. It is the solution to each problem, the key to each closed door, the power through every barrier. **Dr. Tim Keller**

Observations and Questions for Discussion:

- What has the Holy Spirit impressed on your heart and mind from this week's sermon/text?
- Briefly recount the story from 1 Samuel 1-11. What is significant about the city of Gilgal in Israel's history and why is it an appropriate place to renew the kingdom? Reference Joshua 4:19-24. What mantle did Samuel pass to Saul? What role/responsibility did he not pass on to Saul?
- Define integrity. How is it different from perfectionism? What was Samuel teaching the people of Israel by publicly announcing his integrity to them? Is there anyone who God is calling you to forgive or ask for forgiveness? Reference Matthew 5:23-24.
- Discuss how the gospel empowers us to live a life of integrity in all aspects of life.
- What does Samuel remind the people about their past and present conduct? What does he remind them about God?
- Discuss the following three truths that we can learn about God's faithfulness to his people.
 - It is the Lord God alone – no human king – that rescues us from our oppressors and idols.
 - God rescues his people through prayer.
 - When you tell of God's goodness, you give testimony to yourself and the world about God's love, care, and forgiveness.

- What are some ways we can preach the gospel to ourselves daily?
- What divine conditions come with Saul's inauguration as king of Israel? Reference verses 13-15. What is God calling Israel to do?
- Discuss how obedience to God's law does not earn favor with God, but it is the response to God's grace and love for us.
- How did the people of Israel respond to God's thunderstorm? As God's children, in what sense should we fear him? Are you struggling with fear in your life that has distanced you from God? How does proper fear of God actually give us great joy? Reference Psalm 130:3-4.