



Community Group Discussion Guide

Week of April 22, 2018

This Week's Focus: We can trust God with every aspect of life because Jesus Christ has successfully won the ultimate battle, defeated the greatest enemy, and overcome the deepest of hopelessness on the cross.

This Week's Text: 1 Samuel 13:14-14:23

"And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him." **Colossians 2:13-15**

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 13:1-15. What has transpired in Israel's battle with the Philistines thus far? What excuses did Saul make for his unlawful sacrifice, and what were the consequences of his disobedience?
- In what ways were Israel's military forces vastly inferior to the Philistines (13:5,15-23)? What did Samuel's departure signify (13:15)?
- Who do we often misidentify as our enemy? Who is the real enemy we battle daily (2 Corinthians 10:3-5)? What is Satan's primary tactic against the people of God? When spiritually attacked, what worldly weapons are you tempted to use?
- Discuss each of the following items of armor that God has given his church to combat Satan's lies and temptations (Ephesians 6:10-20):
 - Belt of Truth
 - Breastplate of Righteousness
 - Shoes of the readiness given by the gospel of peace
 - Shield of Faith
 - Helmet of Salvation
 - Sword of the Spirit
 - Prayer

- What are some ways you have allowed the enemy to disarm you?
- Give some examples from the text where we see the differences between King Saul and his son Jonathan. With whom did Saul align himself after Samuel's departure (14:3)? What was the foundation of Jonathan's military confidence? Who was responsible for Israel's victory over the Philistines (14:23)? What does this teach us about God's sovereign power and man's responsibility to walk by faith in God?
- What does it mean to have faith in Jesus Christ? How has God proven himself worthy of our complete faith and trust (Colossians 2:13-15)? How does the gospel overcome our feelings of defeat and hopelessness?
- What specific area(s) of your life is God calling you to trust him by faith? Do you seek relationships with other believers where your faith can be cultivated and grown?