



COMMUNITY GROUP GUIDE

“Becoming more like Jesus together through regular gatherings, shared devotion, and sacrificial love.”

1 Samuel 15 | Week 8

INTRO

- Springtime is almost here! Have everyone in your group share what they are most excited for in the new season.

READ AND DISCUSS (15 Min)

Have someone read 1 Samuel 15. (Break the passage up and encourage multiple people to read). Ask and discuss as a group the following three questions.

- **What does this passage teach us about God?** What does this passage teach me about who he is (his nature and character), what does this passage teach me about the way he interacts with his creation?
- **What does this passage teach us about man?** What does this passage teach us about the condition of man? Our sinful nature? Our need for a savior?
- **What do you feel led to do in response to this passage?** Is there something we need to do? Is there a sin I need to confess? A relationship I need to reconcile? A song to sing? With these questions we are asking people to consider how this passage informs the way they interact with God, with other people, and the world.

APPLY

- Samuel told Saul that he had been disobedient to God (vs. 19), and Saul disagreed. What do you think? Did Saul receive a just punishment for his actions? *Encourage group members to explain their answers. Use this as an opportunity to talk about the difference between full obedience and partial obedience.*

- How did Saul try to cover his disobedience?
- In what ways do you identify with Saul? How are you tempted to cover up your sin?
- Read 1 Samuel 15:22-23. What is God's judgment against Saul?
- Out of this same text, what does God really want from Saul? What does he want from us?
- What does it do to your heart to know that our disobedience can only be overcome by the good news of Jesus?

Pray

- Pray prayers of praise to God who has covered our sin with his righteousness (2 Corinthians 5:21).
- Pray for the Deacons God would raise up to care for the needs of Mercy Church.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please take some time to let your group members know these important announcements!

→ **Fasting Guide**

- ◆ As a church, we are committing to praying and fasting during one meal each Wednesday until April 9, Easter Sunday. Although this will be our collective plan as a church, fasting from food is not required, nor is fasting on Wednesdays only. We encourage you to determine in what capacity you will fast with us in this season. Additionally, we've created a weekly guide that will provide you with passages of scripture to prepare your heart for prayer and fasting and prayer prompts to help you pray in line with Mercy's mission. See <https://mercycharlotte.com/fasting> for more information!

→ **Men's Bible Studies | Join Today!**

- ◆ Men's Bible studies exist to encourage men to become more like Jesus as they study scripture together and pray for one another. These groups meet on an ongoing basis at different locations throughout the city. See mercycharlotte.com/news to find a study near you and get connected!

→ **Deacon Nominations**

- ◆ Take this opportunity to remind your group that the first round of deacon nominees will be reviewed in early March! Need a refresher on how to recommend someone? See mercycharlotte.com/deacons.

→ **ServeLink | March 19th**

- ◆ Christ has called every believer to give their life to him and his mission (Matt. 16:24, Matt. 28:19). We take that call seriously, and consider it a joy to offer up the gifts that God has given us to worship him and build his kingdom. If you are a member of a serve team or desire to start serving, join us on the 19th for a time of fellowship and training!