

Checking In

1. Take a few minutes to check in with everyone and share about a person for whom you are thankful, also share any challenges that you faced this past week?
2. Church Life –Parenting from the Heart – May 29th, 6:30-8 p.m. Men’s Retreat – June 1st, 9:00-4:00 p.m. Register online. Golf Tournament – June 9th.
3. What insights did you gain from the sermon and our passage in 1 Samuel 1:1-20? What specifically encouraged or challenged you from this week’s sermon?

Listening

Exploring God’s Word

Read & Re-tell

Read: 1 Samuel 1:1-20

Read: Have one person read the entire passage all the way through.

Avoid having each person read one verse, which is highly distracting and promotes inattention

Re-read: 1 Samuel 1:1-20

Re-read: Have a second person reread the passage all the way through using a different translation.

Re-tell: 1 Samuel 1:1-20

Re-tell: Have someone re-tell the entire story/content of the passage.

The Re-teller should feel NO pressure to memorize or capture everything because the group will help by adding details during the “review” time. Be sure that the Re-teller does NOT interpret, but simply tells the essence of the narrative/theme/parable. Experienced Christians have the greatest difficulty retelling as they tend go into unnecessary depth, encourage them to stick to the basic meaning of the text and keep it simple.

Review: 1 Samuel 1:1-20

As a group together fill in any missing or important details which might have been missed in the re-telling.

After the retelling, ask the group if anyone has anything to add to the retelling, or if anyone saw something different in the passage

Learning

Examining God’s Word

- *What does this passage teach us about God (His character, His attributes, His ways of working, etc.)?*
- *What does God do in the story/passage?*
- *What does this passage teach us about people/mankind?*
- *What does this passage teach us about the church and the world around us?*

Discussion Guidelines

1. Keep discussion to the passage. It is especially important to rein in members who have more Bible knowledge and may be prone to drawing connections with passages that are unfamiliar to others in the group.
2. Don’t teach, facilitate conversation through questions. If a member makes a questionable comment, rather than correcting, ask, “Can you show me where in the passage you see that?” Or ask, “What does everyone else think about that idea?” Allow the group to self-edit.
3. Keep to the time allotted and redirect tangents
4. Everyone shares in sentences, not paragraphs.
5. Give people time to respond. Silence is OK.

Leaning In

Responding to God's Word.

- *What does this passage teach us about obedience to God and His word?*
- *What is God asking you to do, change, or be as a result of reading this passage?*
- *With whom might God be asking you to share these truths with this week?*

Loving

Responding to God

In light of this week's sermon in our series, "**This Wasn't the Plan,**" how is God inviting you to respond?

- Take a few moments in silent prayer to ask God, in light of this passage, how is God inviting you to respond in your thinking, beliefs, and/or actions?

Share with your group

1. What is a belief you have that this passage is calling you to reconsider?
2. Is there any step of obedience God is inviting you to take?
3. How might the Holy Spirit be using this passage to change how you think about God, yourself, or others?

Give time (a minute or two) for people to simply examine, breathe, & meditate. Allow them time to ask, "God, what do you want me to do this week because of what I've seen today?" Don't rush this part. This is the transformational part, where my life begins to look differently. I become intentional. Because of my new or reinforced beliefs about God and Man, how do I behave differently this week? What am I going to commit to and become accountable for (with this group)?

Have each person in the group answer the following question: "If this passage is true, how should it change how you live this week? Group members should respond with: "I will...". This teaches the importance of obedience to God's word and allows for accountable the following week. Most of the time the "I will" statements are nothing terribly profound. In fact, they are mostly "simple," but often not easy or natural, requiring effort, intentionality, risk, and loads of faith to execute

Lifting Up

Praying for Others

- What is happening in my own life right now that I need to share and for which I need prayer?
- This week I am committed to praying for _____ about:

Checking Out

- What was most meaningful about this group session for you (*Give each person 1-2 sentences to share*)?