

## WARM-UP

- What is one big transition you've made in life?
- Have you ever received conflicting instructions? How did you respond?
- Have you said things in a fit of anger that you regret? Why do you regret them?

**WORD** *<sup>13</sup>“And now behold the king whom you have chosen, for whom you have asked; behold, the Lord has set a king over you. <sup>14</sup>If you will fear the Lord and serve him and obey his voice and not rebel against the commandment of the Lord, and if both you and the king who reigns over you will follow the Lord your God, it will be well.” 1 SAMUEL 12:13,14*

*And Samuel said to him, “The Lord has torn the kingdom of Israel from you this day and has given it to a neighbor of yours, who is better than you.” 1 SAMUEL 15:28*

These verses show a distinct contrast. While chapter 12 shows the promise of God to the Israelites of blessing their obedience, chapter 15 shows how this favor was torn from Saul. This was the same promise that God gave David, who would become king after Saul. It was the promise He gave to each generation of His people. However, while David obeyed the commands of God, Saul did not. Although he started strong, he did not end up transitioning his leadership and kingship properly to the next generation—whether this meant David or his own son, Jonathan. At the end of his reign, Saul and his son Jonathan died tragically, and the kingdom passed to other hands. “Generationship” is a term we coined to talk about the relationship between two generations, and how the choices we make and our personal relationship with God will certainly have an

impact on the next generation. Although Saul's life did have many good moments, let us look at certain choices he made in his walk with God and its impact on the generations that came after.

## 1 | Saul did not walk in obedience to God.

*17And Samuel said, “. . . 19Why then did you not obey the voice of the Lord? Why did you pounce on the spoil and do what was evil in the sight of the Lord?” . . . 24Saul said to Samuel, “I have sinned, for I have transgressed the commandment of the Lord and your words, because I feared the people and obeyed their voice.”*

**1 SAMUEL 15:17,19,24**

(Read also **1 SAMUEL 15.**)

In the Old Testament, God usually spoke to His people through prophets. Samuel was the prophet through whom God spoke to Saul. Here, we see that Saul disobeyed a clear order from God to destroy their enemy completely; instead, he took some of the plunder for himself. He admitted that this was because he feared the people more than he feared God. Verse 26 clearly shows that Saul had broken faith with God; because he disobeyed, he would no longer be king of Israel. How can the voices of the world around us cause us to disobey God's voice?

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## 2 | Saul did not guard his key relationships.

*And Samuel did not see Saul again until the day of his death, but Samuel grieved over Saul. And the Lord regretted that he had made Saul king over Israel. 1 SAMUEL 15:35*

After Saul had *rejected the word of the Lord* (1 Samuel 15:26), Samuel also left as the Lord led him to the next king. Not only did Samuel leave his side, Saul almost hurt his own son

Jonathan in a fit of anger (1 Samuel 20:33) over his jealousy of David, a highly favored soldier, leader, his son-in-law, and a close friend of Jonathan. It is very important for us to guard our key relationships. These are the people around us that are true friends and mentors, who are not afraid to tell us what we need to hear. We also need to nurture our relationships with those coming after us, the next generation, without favoritism or jealousy. What are the key relationships around you that you need to guard?

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### Saul did not submit to God's plan for the next generation.

*<sup>30</sup>Then Saul's anger was kindled against Jonathan, and he said to him, "You son of a perverse, rebellious woman, do I not know that you have chosen the son of Jesse to your own shame, and to the shame of your mother's nakedness? <sup>31</sup>For as long as the son of Jesse lives on the earth, neither you nor your kingdom shall be established. Therefore send and bring him to me, for he shall surely die."* **1 SAMUEL 20:30,31**

After God had clearly decided to take the kingship from Saul and transfer it to David, Saul continued to try keeping the kingdom for himself and his son. One of the things we must learn is to submit to the plan of God, even when it hurts. Another lesson is to trust that God also speaks to the next generation. Jonathan knew that David had the favor of God. How might Saul have helped transition leadership to God's chosen king instead of hurting himself and those around him? Are there plans you have insisted on that you ended up submitting to God's will?

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## APPLICATION

- Have you already made the decision to follow and obey God? Pray with someone today to give your life to obeying His will and finding His destiny for you.
- Who are the people around you that you know genuinely care about you? Listen to them with humility. In the same way, don't hesitate to give loving correction to those you are leading when they need it, whether they listen or not.
- What plans do you have for your own life? Submit these plans to God.

## PRAYER

- Pray for the guidance of the Spirit as you make choices that impact the next generation. Ask God for His strength to carry out His commands.
- Thank God for key relationships, both with Him and with those in your life that can correct you when needed. Pray for His wisdom to nurture these relationships and receive correction humbly.
- Pray for God's grace to surrender all your own plans to His sovereign will. Ask God to show you people He wants you to pray for and help submit to His will as well.

## NOTES

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