

king's chapel

Community Group Discussion Guide

Week of February 25, 2018

This Week's Focus: Jesus Christ is the King of kings who laid down his life to free us from the idols that enslave us to sin and death.

This Week's Text: 1 Samuel 8

"Idols are anything more important to you than God, anything that absorbs your heart and imagination more than God, anything you seek to give you what only God can give. A counterfeit god is anything so central and essential to your life that, should you lose it, your life would feel hardly worth living." **From *Counterfeit Gods* by Timothy 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 1-7. What is the state of affairs in Israel at the beginning of chapter 8? How did Samuel's sons contribute to the nation's desire for a king?
- What are some practical ways we can teach and reflect to our children the truth of the gospel? Is the grace of God your source of hope and comfort during those times you fail to parent well? Who alone has the power to rescue and redeem people from sin, including our children?
- Was Israel's desire for a king inherently wrong? Reference Genesis 17:6? What was the problem with their request? How and why was their king supposed to be different from other nations' kings? Reference Deuteronomy 17:14-20. Contrast this with the characteristic "ways of the king" that Samuel lists in his warning. Reference verses 11-17.
- How did God respond to Israel's idolatry? What is God teaching us when he disciplines us by granting our requests? What are the kings (idols) in your life that keep you from treasuring Christ and how can we identify them? Discuss how the gospel alone frees us from bondage to counterfeit gods and to a life of joy in Christ.
- Discuss the following four insights (borrowed from Dale Ralph Davis) that teaches us about ourselves and our relationship with God:

- We have a tendency to assess our problems mechanically rather than spiritually.
- Instead of looking to God for help, we are more interested in prescribing what form God's help must take.
- God will sometimes give us our request to our own peril.
- Sometimes our requests are perfectly rational but can be outside God's will.