

king's chapel

Community Group Discussion Guide

Week of August 12, 2018

This Week's Focus: On the cross, Jesus suffered the judgment and wrath we deserved for our rebellion so that we would be delivered from the from the domain of darkness and transferred to the kingdom God.

This Week's Text: 1 Samuel 28:3-25

"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 2:14-15**

Observations and Questions for Discussion:

- What has the Holy Spirit impressed on your heart and mind from this week's sermon/text? What have you learned more clearly about yourself and about God?
- Why did the narrator repeat the fact that Samuel had died? What did the prophet's absence mean for Saul and the people of Israel?
- In desperation, where did Saul turn for help? To what lengths did he go to get what he wanted?
- What does the Bible clearly state about divination, necromancy, and the consultation of mediums (Leviticus 19:31; 20:6,27; Deuteronomy 18:10-12)? What sin is at the root of these abominable practices (1 Samuel 15:22-23)?
- Discuss the following reasons we might experience silence from God. Which do you struggle with most?
 - Willful disobedience
 - Neglecting the reading of God's Word
 - Neglecting the preaching of God's Word
 - Neglecting fellowship in gospel-centered community
 - Seeking God's voice for the wrong reasons

- What biblical principles can we glean from this passage and the rest of Scripture about the existence and influence of spiritually dark forces? Do you tend to either overemphasize or completely ignore the influence of Satan, demons, and evil spiritual forces?
- Who was responsible for bringing Samuel “up out of the earth” (verse 13)? What was Saul hoping to receive from Samuel? What was Samuel's (and God's) message to Saul? Discuss the difference between remorse (Saul's response) and repentance.
- How does the gospel cure us of the most hopeless misery in all of life – being abandoned by God?
- How does this passage encourage you to live on mission to demonstrate and declare the gospel to those within your spheres of influence?