



Community Group Discussion Guide

## Week of September 2, 2018

**This Week's Focus:** Jesus did not save himself from pain, but instead he endured the pain and death we deserved for our sin to reconcile us to God.

**This Week's Text:** 1 Samuel 31

"Knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence. For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God. So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal." **2 Corinthians 4:14-18**

### **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?
- How did God fulfill his purposes and promises through the events of chapter 30 and 31 (1 Samuel 28:17-19).
- How do we reconcile the fact that Saul "fell on his sword" and yet "the LORD put him to death and turned the kingdom over to David the son of Jesse" (1 Chronicles 10:13-14)?
- What does the Scripture teach about suicide and murder? Is suicide the unforgivable sin (Mark 3:28-29)? What is the assurance of everyone who has placed their faith in Jesus Christ (Philippians 1:21)?
- Explain the difference between religiosity (Saul's MO) and genuine faith in God. Contrast worldly sorrow with godly grief over sin (2 Corinthians 7:10). What is the fruit of true repentance?
- How does the definite fulfillment of God's word of judgement actually serve to comfort God's people?
- What gospel ("good news") did the Philistines publicly declare across the country? What did they display as a trophy of their victory? What is the earth-shattering good news of Jesus Christ? What can we display as proof of Jesus' victory over sin, Satan, and death?

- Do you believe that God is always good and in control even in the midst of tragedy (2 Corinthians 4:14-18)?
- How does this passage encourage you to live on mission to demonstrate and declare the gospel to those within your spheres of influence?