

# groups

Study Group: Leader Guide  
In Search of A King  
1 Samuel 8 – March 9<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>

## CHECK-IN

*An opportunity to show authentic community as we **share the struggles** and **celebrate the victories** we've experienced in the last week.*

## STUDY

*Main Topics: Rejection, God's Response, Grace, Consequences*

Read 1 Samuel 8

- What factors contributed to this demand for a king from the elders?
- What can we learn from Samuel's sons who turned away from the Lord?
- Why was this demand a wicked thing?
  - What implicit messages were the Israelites telling God by demanding a king?
- Why is this demand a rejection of God rather than a rejection of Samuel?
- God says the people of Israel have been rejecting Him since the day they came up out of Egypt. Where have we seen this take place in their journey?
- How does God respond when humanity rejects Him? (see Leader Notes)
- What are the consequences of the Israelites' decision?
- How does this passage identify our need for Jesus?

## APPLY

- Share a time when you were given a gift but in your heart you wanted more.
- When do you have a difficult time believing God is enough for you?
- Have you experienced a time where God allowed you to have what you wanted but you found that it was not fulfilling?
- What would you say to someone who declares "nothing and no one is going to be king of my life"?
- What were some effects from a time when other "kings" ruled over your life?
  - Are there any "kings" you no longer want to rule over your life
- How is the Church supposed to stand out from "all the other nations"?

## CLOSE

Which attributes of God did you see in this week's passage? How should it change the way that you pray, think, speak or act this week?

## Leader Notes:

- God's Response to Humanity's Rejection
  1. God responds by initiating reconciliation with humanity. From the first day of rejection, God prophesies of the reconciliation He is working to achieve (Genesis 3:15). This can be seen through His covenants with Noah, Abraham, Moses & Israel, and David. The tragic reality is that each of those groups failed in upholding the terms of the covenant. The only hope we have in eternal reconciliation with God is found in the saving work of Jesus Christ. He fulfills the righteous requirements of the law and the covenants to pave the way for our redemption.
  2. God also responds by allowing humanity to receive at times what they claim they want. You see this very clearly in God allowing the Israelites to have a king reign over them after *they* demanded it. Romans 1:26 makes this very clear as well: "Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves..." The results from this can be either 1) Humanity realizes the emptiness of that which is devoid of God and turns back to Him or 2) Humanity becomes more hardened as they pursue greater extremes, pulling them further from God.
  3. God also responds with punishment and wrath. The inevitable consequence of rejecting the God who gives life is death both physically and spiritually (James 1:15, Romans 3:23). Scripture says that God is patient with humanity, desiring that we should repent and turn to Him for salvation. We see this clearly in the example of Israel where countless times God forgives the people for their sins. Nonetheless, there will be a day when the opportunity to repent and be cleansed by the blood of Jesus has passed, and any who are not found in Jesus will receive the only just punishment for sin that is not atoned for, which is the wrath of God (Revelation 20:15).

## Reminders to Leaders:

- This guide is to help you facilitate discussion with your Study Group.
- Use it as a resource to lead your group in discovering and owning the truths of God's Word.
- There may be questions you do not want to use and there may be instances where you just want to focus on a particular point or truth.
- Some questions may bring out emotions and cause people to dwell on their relationship with God. Your role is to **facilitate this experience, not to complete** the discussion guide.

## What are Groups?

Groups at Boca Community fall into 4 categories: Study, Equipping, Serve or Outreach. Each group consists of 8-16 people who encourage, challenge and care for one another as they walk through life together.

A full list of Groups can be found at [bocacommunity.org/groups](http://bocacommunity.org/groups)