

COMMUNITY GROUP WEEKLY DISCUSSION GUIDE
WEEK OF OCTOBER 26, 2009

THIS WEEK'S FOCUS
The Heart God Wants

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God."
-Mat 5:8

"The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?"

"I the LORD search the heart and examine the mind, to reward a man according to his conduct, according to what his deeds deserve."
-Jer 17:9-10

"When I want to do good, evil is right there with me. For in my inner being I delight in God's law; but I see another law at work in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within my members. What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God – through Jesus Christ our Lord!
-Rom 7:21-25

THIS WEEK'S TEXT
1 Samuel 16:1-13

RELATED TEXTS TO EXPLORE

Luke 18:9-14; Ps 40; 1 Sam 9, 10, 15:22-23; Hos 6:6; Amos 5:21-24; Jer 17; Ps 78, 89; Acts 13; 1 Kings 8; Jer 17; Rom 10; Mat 5

STUDY GUIDE

- **What observations can be made about:**
 - The main players in the story of 1 Samuel
 - Samuel's hesitation to obey God
 - God's response to Samuel's objection, "How can I go?"
 - The rubric by which people are inclined to make assessments of others' worth or value
 - The rubric by which God does
 - The way in which God vets the various choices for king before Samuel

- **What does each of these things mean? What did they mean for the church at Corinth then, what do they mean for us now?**

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

Use any or as many of these questions as will be helpful for your discussion.

- What has God spoken to you about this week regarding the sermon or passage?
- What does this passage reveal to us about Jesus?
- How does this passage enhance our understanding of the Gospel?
- What does this text mean for us as a community? Individually? How does it free us to be the people God intends for us to be?
- How do we need to live out the meaning of this text in our city?
- Pastor JR made the statement that, "God wants a heart that places loyal love over religious ritual." How are you experiencing or demonstrating loyal love of God? Are you doing anything that would qualify as merely religious ritual?
- Which religious rituals help increase and grow your love for God? How do you exercise those in a way that they don't become wrong or dangerous?
- Do you agree that, "grace inevitably means lordship"? Why or why not? How would you counsel someone who claims to have received the grace of God while rejecting His lordship? What happens where there is grace but no lordship? Lordship but no grace?
- Have there been times in your life where
- Look at Jer 17:9-10. How do you reconcile this with Jesus' words in Mat 5:48? How do we have a heart that pleases God in light of this? Then look at Jer 17:14 & Rom 10:13/Joel 2:32

"Oh, let the evil of the wicked come to an end, and may you establish the righteous – you who test the minds and hearts, O righteous God!"
–King David, Psalm 7:9

MEMORY VERSES

Last Week: Eph 1:18-21

This Week: 1 Sam 16:7

PRAYER FOCUS

For the Vision and Direction of the church (October):

Apostles Church wants to be a people who intentionally connect others to Jesus. We will authentically, compassionately and intelligently dialogue with the culture about the Gospel of Jesus.

In Response to the Text:

- Praising God for being completely holy
- Praising God for requiring holiness of His people
- Confessing the way we consume ourselves with outward appearance
- Confessing the way that we attend to our appearance to the neglect of our heart
- Thanking God for making Jesus our holiness
- Thanking God for putting within us new hearts – hearts that please Him
- Asking God to cultivate our desire for Himself above all things
- Asking God to pour His Spirit out on our city and create renewed hearts in its people

FURTHER RESOURCES FOR STUDY AND PREPARATION

- *Darkness and Light* – Dr. Martin Lloyd Jones
- *A Heart Like His* – Beth More (for women)
- *After God's Own Hear* - Name
- *David: Man of Prayer, Man of War* – Walter Chantry
- *David: A Man of Passion & Destiny* – Chuck Swindoll

NEXT WEEK'S TEXT

1 Samuel 17: 1- 54