

Saul's Leadership Failure

Small Group Guide

Warm-up Question: (Choose one, make up your own, or skip this part altogether, depending upon the nature of your group.)

1. What movie or show has the most cringe-worthy boss or leader?
2. Who is a leader or hero of yours that you look up to? It can be someone you know personally or admire from afar.

Read the following passage: 1 Samuel 15:1-31

The story of Saul is one of great potential but ultimately a total letdown. Saul had great potential to be Israel's first king but allowed his insecurities to get in the way of his responsibility to God. As leaders, we will always feel the tension from our insecurities, brokenness, or the pressure from society. However, it is our faith in God and commitment to do the right thing that can guide us through these challenges. Being a great leader isn't easy, and we will surely make mistakes along the way, but staying the course in all seasons will help us make better decisions when under pressure in the more challenging times.

Questions for Discussion (Choose several that are relevant for your group):

1. **Reflecting on Personal Experiences:** Can you share an instance when you witnessed a leader successfully navigate a difficult situation? What specific qualities or actions made their leadership effective in that moment?
2. **Analyzing Failure:** Think about a time when leadership failed in an organization or community you were part of. What were the key factors that contributed to the failure, and what lessons can be learned from that experience?
3. **Defining Leadership Success:** How do you personally define successful leadership? What are the core attributes and behaviors that you believe are essential for a leader to be successful?

4. **Impact of Leadership Styles:** How do different leadership styles (e.g., transformational, transactional, servant leadership) influence the success or failure of leadership? Can you provide examples where a particular style was notably effective or ineffective?
5. **Balancing Strengths and Weaknesses:** In what ways can leaders leverage their strengths while addressing their weaknesses to avoid failure? What are some focus areas in your life that you need to be mindful of so you can avoid failure in the future?

Pray