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## 1 SAMUEL 28:3-25

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### GETTING STARTED...

It was a single straw that broke the camel's back, but in the case of Saul it was closer to an anvil. The final story we get of the life of King Saul is the problematic conclusion to a life filled with problematic choices. Saul, desperate for guidance, turns to a medium to solve his problems only to receive the very real judgment of God. And as we see his downfall we are invited to consider his actions and the outcome of his life. As we see God's judgment against his sin, we are reminded that our sins also merit the judgment of God, and outside of the salvation of Jesus, so we would be in the same place. We are called to heed the warning that is given to us in the life of Saul, and turn to place our trust in Jesus Christ.

### READ THE TEXT: 1 SAMUEL 28:3-25

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<sup>3</sup> Now Samuel had died, and all Israel had mourned for him and buried him in Ramah, his own city. And Saul had put the mediums and the necromancers out of the land. <sup>4</sup> The Philistines assembled and came and encamped at Shunem. And Saul gathered all Israel, and they encamped at Gilboa. <sup>5</sup> When Saul saw the army of the Philistines, he was afraid, and his heart trembled greatly. <sup>6</sup> And when Saul inquired of the Lord, the Lord did not answer him, either by dreams, or by Urim, or by prophets. <sup>7</sup> Then Saul said to his servants, "Seek out for me a woman who is a medium, that I may go to her and inquire of her." And his servants said to him, "Behold, there is a medium at En-dor."

<sup>8</sup> So Saul disguised himself and put on other garments and went, he and two men with him. And they came to the woman by night. And he said, "Divine for me by a spirit and bring up for me whomever I shall name to you." <sup>9</sup> The woman said to him, "Surely you know what Saul has done, how he has cut off the mediums and the necromancers from the land. Why then are you laying a trap for my life to bring about my death?" <sup>10</sup> But Saul swore to her by the Lord, "As the Lord lives, no punishment shall come upon you for this thing." <sup>11</sup> Then the woman said, "Whom shall I bring up for you?" He said, "Bring up Samuel for me." <sup>12</sup> When the woman

saw Samuel, she cried out with a loud voice. And the woman said to Saul, “Why have you deceived me? You are Saul.” <sup>13</sup> The king said to her, “Do not be afraid. What do you see?” And the woman said to Saul, “I see a god coming up out of the earth.” <sup>14</sup> He said to her, “What is his appearance?” And she said, “An old man is coming up, and he is wrapped in a robe.” And Saul knew that it was Samuel, and he bowed with his face to the ground and paid homage.

<sup>15</sup> Then Samuel said to Saul, “Why have you disturbed me by bringing me up?” Saul answered, “I am in great distress, for the Philistines are warring against me, and God has turned away from me and answers me no more, either by prophets or by dreams. Therefore I have summoned you to tell me what I shall do.” <sup>16</sup> And Samuel said, “Why then do you ask me, since the Lord has turned from you and become your enemy? <sup>17</sup> The Lord has done to you as he spoke by me, for the Lord has torn the kingdom out of your hand and given it to your neighbor, David.

<sup>18</sup> Because you did not obey the voice of the Lord and did not carry out his fierce wrath against Amalek, therefore the Lord has done this thing to you this day.

<sup>19</sup> Moreover, the Lord will give Israel also with you into the hand of the Philistines, and tomorrow you and your sons shall be with me. The Lord will give the army of Israel also into the hand of the Philistines.”

<sup>20</sup> Then Saul fell at once full length on the ground, filled with fear because of the words of Samuel. And there was no strength in him, for he had eaten nothing all day and all night. <sup>21</sup> And the woman came to Saul, and when she saw that he was terrified, she said to him, “Behold, your servant has obeyed you. I have taken my life in my hand and have listened to what you have said to me. <sup>22</sup> Now therefore, you also obey your servant. Let me set a morsel of bread before you; and eat, that you may have strength when you go on your way.” <sup>23</sup> He refused and said, “I will not eat.” But his servants, together with the woman, urged him, and he listened to their words. So he arose from the earth and sat on the bed. <sup>24</sup> Now the woman had a fattened calf in the house, and she quickly killed it, and she took flour and kneaded it and baked unleavened bread of it, <sup>25</sup> and she put it before Saul and his servants, and they ate. Then they rose and went away that night.

## UNDERSTANDING THE WORD

1. What is the reason why Saul goes and consults the medium? What was going on to make take this option? How should we understand the silence of God?
2. What new news does Saul receive in this vision? Compare 1 Samuel 15:22-23; 28 with what is said here.

## REFLECTING ON THE SERMON

3. What was the main point of the sermon?
4. What has God been applying to your heart from the sermon?

## APPLYING THE POINT

5. What should we do when we feel like God does not answer our prayers? How does David respond in these moments – Consider Psalm 13, 22.

6. How should we respond to seeing the judgment of God? How should we apply this into our own lives? Into our evangelism?
7. Are there sins in your own life that you have become comfortable with? How can we fight against sin without falling into the trap of legalism? How does the gospel of Jesus help us fight sin well?

### **PRAYING & SHARING**

1. How can you share what you have learned with... another believer? An unbeliever?
2. Share and pray for one another in your life group. How can you specifically pray for and encourage one another in response to this text?



## How to Use this Guide

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This guide is intended to help facilitate Promontory Small Groups as they meet to understand the Bible passage, discuss the sermon, and how to put it into practice in our lives. What is contained in this guide is not an exhaustive text analysis nor a full list of questions that can or should be asked during Small Group. This is simply a guide to help **start conversations that are centered on the Word of God.**

The Small Group Guide is separated into three main sections that are arranged with an intentional order: *Understanding the Word*, *Reflecting on the Sermon*, and *Applying the Point*. We want to first understand the Word of God, then check that understanding by what has been preached, and then discuss how to put it into practice in our own lives. The order is intended to imitate the process of how the Word of God makes changes in our lives. Head, heart, hands, and all of it wrapped in prayer.

Our goal is not that you answer every question in this guide, but that you are able to discuss the Word of God in a way **that helps everyone follow Jesus together!**

*“Great are the works of the LORD,  
studied by all who delight in them.” - Psalm 111:2*