

AFFIRMATION OF GROWTH (15 MINUTES)

- **Check in:** Let each person share how their challenge went this week and one thing that God has taught them in facing it.
- **Opening Prayer:** Pray specifically for both those who struggled with the challenge and those who met their goal. Ask God to reveal the truth and continue the work he began in each person.

BIBLE DISCOVERY (35-45 MINUTES: WHAT 10 MINUTES, SO WHAT 10-20 MINUTES, AND NOW WHAT 15-20 MINUTES)

- **Watch Video**
- **Big Idea for gGroup:** Sin tends to create excuses to cover up what God wants to deal with.
- **WHAT? (To allow great discussion we will not cover every Bible verse read on Sunday or in the chapter)**
 - **Read 1 Samuel 7:3-14**
 - What was the reason the Israelites failed against the Philistines?
 - How did their actions differ this time than the elders plan in 1 Samuel 4:1-4?
 - **Read 1 Samuel 8:1-7**
 - What excuses did the elders of Israel give for wanting a king?
 - What did God say about the request?
 - **Read 1 Samuel 8:8-9**
 - What was the real reason for them wanting a king according to God who knows their hearts?
 - **Read 1 Samuel 8:10-18**
 - What were the behaviors of a king that Samuel warned the people about?
 - **Read 1 Samuel 8:19-22**
 - Did the people heed Samuel's warnings?
 - Why did they say they wanted a king?
- **SO WHAT? (If you like to get this section started you can ask, "what stood out to you from the Bible?")**
 - What does it mean to have God as King in our lives?
 - How did we see God already fulfilling the role of a king described by the Israelites in 8:20?
 - So the big idea tonight is sin tends to create excuses to cover up what God wants to deal with. How do we see this play out today?
- **NOW WHAT?**
 - What excuses do we personally make to put God 2nd or to prevent our next steps in our walk with God?
 - What are ways we can combat these surface level excuses?
 - What is the purpose and desire of an outreach project? How do you make it point to God?
 - We want to start thinking as a group what outreach project we can do. Is there some connection to a person that needs help? Is there a need in the area that you can help to point them to God?

CHALLENGE FOR LIFE (10 MINUTES)

- **One Challenge:** Has this passage revealed a point of growth or a needed change? Is there something you must do or voice in order to better obey God? Be specific and narrow it down with an "I will" statement
 - I will _____
- **Closing Prayer**