1 Samuel Chapters 10 and 11

Please **pray before beginning to read and study your bible**. Repent of any sin or attitude that would prevent you from hearing the Holy Spirit and ask him to guide your heart and mind as you read. **Read through the entire chapter first** before going back to read and answer questions. **Take notes** when God reveals Himself to you.

Chapter 10

1. To what position did Samuel say the LORD was appointing Saul in v. 1? Who's property was Israel? _____
2. The LORD provided Saul with concrete signs that it was by His will and direction that Samuel anointed him king over Israel. What were these signs? How long did it take for all of these signs to occur?

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3. Why do you think the LORD provided these signs for Saul?

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4. What is significant about Saul's hometown of Gibeah? (Read Judges chapters 19 and 20 and 1 Samuel 9:21)

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5. What happened to Saul according to 1 Samuel chapter 10, verses 6 and 9?

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6. Samuel instructs Saul to do "as occasion serve thee" after he is filled with the Holy Spirit. In other words, he should not worry about what to do next, as God will direct him. Read Acts 1: 4-8. Why does Jesus give his apostles instructions to wait on the Holy Spirit before witnessing to the nations? How important is the Holy Spirit in guiding the steps of those who desire to follow Christ's direction? (John 14: 26-27, Galatians 5: 18-25)

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7. What are some possible reasons for Saul's reluctance to stand before all of Israel to accept the role of king?

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8. It is easy to laugh at Saul hiding "among the stuff" but can you remember a time when you hid from God or ignored his calling because you were afraid, stuck in your past, or filled with doubt?
9. What sign, proving his plan for Saul's promotion as king, did the LORD provide the people of Israel? _____
10. How do you think the people felt about the proceedings at Mizpah? Would they have talked about their excitement and confidence in the new king? After getting home, would they have pondered whether Israel was any safer now than before the tall guy was anointed? Did Samuel's rebuke stir up any remorse for asking for one?
11. The people shouted, "Long live the king!" and some valiant men went with Saul back to Gibeah. But what did others who weren't so thrilled with Saul do to stir up trouble? What does the KJV call them? _____

Chapter 11

12. What did Saul go back to doing in Gibeah (v. 5)? Did he go about trying to become kingly, filling a role he didn't know much about, or did he "do as occasion serve thee?" What does this verse imply about his lifestyle, character, and faith?

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13. Name a few reasons why Saul's accension to kingly authority may have languished after the anointing at Mizpah.

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14. How did the men of Jabesh Gilead respond to the news that Nahash the Ammonite was encamped near their city? _____
15. The territory of Gilead was included in the land given to the descendants of Gad after the Israelites defeated the previous inhabitants, the Amorites, under the leadership of Moses and Joshua. The city of Jabesh Gilead was located in the territory of Gilead, a prime piece of land coveted by the Ammonites to the southeast. They had already attempted to gain control of this area about 30 years prior. Read Judges chapter 10, verse 6, through chapter 11, verse 40. Why might Nahash have demanded such barbarous conditions of surrender from the men of Jabesh Gilead?

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16. Nahash the Ammonite sure seemed confident that he had the upper hand, that Jabesh couldn't muster the support needed to defeat him. Why did he assume such

an advantage? (Judges 21: 8-11)

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17. Look forward to 1 Samuel 12:12. Why, specifically, did Israel ask for a king and what did they want the king to do (1 Samuel 8:20)?

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18. Were the men of Jabesh Gilead present at the assembly in Mizpah when Samuel declared Saul King of Israel (1 Samuel 10:20)? _____
19. Where did the elders of Jabesh send messengers when they were threatened by the Ammonites? _____
20. How did Saul hear the news? _____
21. What was the special link between Jabesh Gilead and the tribe of Benjamin that may have contributed to Saul's anger and zeal for saving Jabesh from the Ammonites? (Judges 21: 1-2, 12-13) _____
22. Sending pieces of oxen with his message to the other tribes of Israel to prove a point makes sense when you understand the history of the Levite and his bride documented in Judges 19-21. Why did the "fear of the LORD" come upon the Israelites after hearing Saul's message and why did they feel compelled to turn out in defense of Jabesh (Hint – answer can be found in question #16)?

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23. Did Jabesh deserve the unified support of Israel? Would it have been provided if Saul of Gibeah had not been made king? Do you see God's omniscient, redemptive power at work here?

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24. Find the original Hebrew text for 1 Samuel 11:7. Is the verse accurately translated in your Bible? Could it be that Saul was threatening the people rather than their oxen?

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25. What else does Saul mention that lends credibility and authority to his message to the Israelites? _____
26. Read v. 10 in the KJV and look up the original Hebrew in the Blue Letter Bible App. To whom do the men of Jabesh promise to come out and submit?

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27. After the LORD hands Saul and Samuel the victory, what three ways do the people show a change of heart towards Saul?

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A Few Personal Applications

- The Israelites shrugged off their lived experience of God's divine love, mercy, and deliverance, and requested a fallible, common man to replace the LORD as their king. Consider your own allegiance to Jesus Christ as king. Have you been looking to something or someone else for your protection, peace, purpose, or pleasure?
- Examine your thoughts, priorities and activities from the past week. In what ways have you demonstrated true faith in the LORD as your King and Deliverer?
- Read Matthew 17:17. Does God have reason to feel the same frustration with our lack of faith that He did with the old and new testament generations?

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- Read Hebrews 11:6. How can a person please God without placing their faith in Him alone? Does your daily life… your pursuits, relationships, and entertainment… indicate that you believe in Him and His promise to reward you for *earnestly* seeking Him?

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- Read Matthew 6:33 and Romans 14:17. Rather than looking for satisfaction of our physical needs and wants, what did Jesus say we should be seeking? Who would be our King? How will we be rewarded?

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- Even in the midst of their faithless rejection of Him, the LORD was working everything out for Israel's good and had a plan of redemption ready for when they returned to Him. God has the power and the heart to correct our course when we repent and honor him as King. In what ways has God revealed His faithfulness and mercy towards you when you demonstrated a lack of faith in Him?

Read Exodus 34: 6-7 and list the ways in which the LORD's character, as defined by Himself, is proven true in this biblical account. Thank God for His faithfulness in being who he says he is. _____