

SAINTS & STRUGGLES

P E R M I S S I O N T O B E H O N E S T



WEEK 5 | GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

CONNECT

- Do you consider yourself a people pleaser? Why? Why not?

CONSIDER

- What encouraged or challenged you from the sermon and/or daily devotions this week?

CHRIST

- This week we are talking about approval. **When you hear the word *approval*, what is the first thing that comes to mind? Which do you seek more: the approval of people or the approval of God?**
- When asked by religious leaders why he taught in the name of Jesus, in Acts 5:29, Peter replies, “We must obey God rather than human beings!” God deeply desires for us to only want HIS approval. **Have you been looking for approval from people instead of God? If yes, who? What are some things you can do to look only to God for approval?**
- The struggle with approval can take many different forms. You can look for approval from social media, in our work, and from family to friends. **Is there one area you struggle with approval more than others? Is there more than one?**

Read 1 Samuel 15:1-35 as a group.

- Here is a recap: God asked something of Saul and Saul did not follow God’s exact instructions. Saul did not complete what he was sent out to do. **Do you think Saul did this because of pressure from others? If you were in Saul’s shoes, what would you have done?**
- In v24, Saul says to Samuel, “I was afraid of the men and so I gave into them.” You can probably look back on a time when we gave into peer pressure. Whether it was because we were afraid of losing a friend or we wanted to “be cool” or fit in, there was a fear of rejection. **Have you given into peer pressure recently? If so, what was the fear driving that decision? Call out the fear!**

- Due to Saul's disobedience, God regrets having made Saul the king over Israel. **Has your disobedience ever caused regret in someone else?**
- **Based on what we have learned and discussed, what is one next step you can take to only care about what God thinks? How can our group support and pray for you?**

CALLING

- Caring only about what God thinks about us can help us to avoid a lot of heartache and confusion. God loves us so much and His approval is better than anything. Do you believe this?
- **Daily Devotions:** Spend 15 minutes each day with Northside devotions. Text DEVO to 81212 or use the Study tab in Northside's mobile app for Daily Devotions.
- **Memorize:** *"For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ."* - **Galatians 1:10 (ESV)**