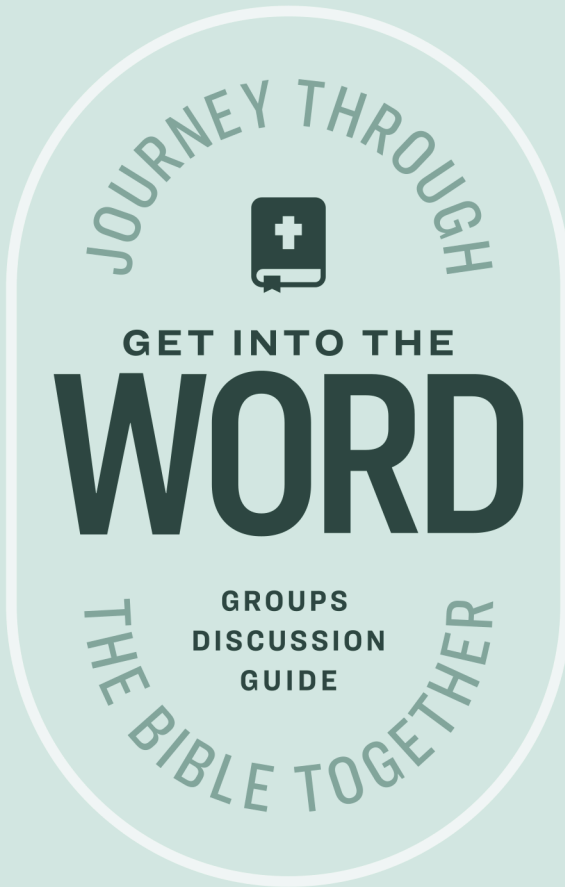




Week of Sunday,
August 10, 2026

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Living out our God-given calling as we follow Jesus and make disciples every day.

Growing in the MARCS of a disciple every day!

AUGUST FOCUS - MISSIONAL

Select a question below to ask the group to gauge how you are growing in the MARCS of a disciple.

1. Who did you intentionally engage this week who does not follow Jesus? What was the context?
2. Where did you sense God prompting you to speak or act— and how did you respond?
3. How are your current rhythms (schedule, hobbies, work) helping or hindering mission?

INTRODUCTION

Obedience is often tested in the places where we are tempted to compromise, excuse, or hide. In 1 Samuel 15, Saul hears a clear word from God but chooses partial obedience, then tries to justify his actions when confronted. His story invites us to examine our own hearts: Are there areas where we have “almost” obeyed? God is not looking for religious activity to cover disobedience. He calls us to honest repentance, full surrender, and daily faithfulness to His Word.

Psalm

READ ALOUD

1 Samuel 15:1-3 and verses 10-15

DISCUSS

Opening Question

What is the difference between technically doing what was asked and avoiding the spirit of the request, and full obedience?

- What command did God give Saul concerning the Amalekites, and why was this judgment connected to Amalek's earlier opposition to Israel? (**Exodus 17:8-16**)
- How should we understand God's regret or grief without assuming that God makes mistakes or changes His character?
- How did Saul attempt to justify or cover his disobedience when Samuel confronted him, and what does this teach about the deceptive nature of sin?

Have someone read aloud **1 Samuel 15:22-23**.

- What does this passage tell us about what God truly desires from His people?

DISCUSS & APPLY

- What can partial obedience look like in our lives and how does it affect our walk with Christ?
- How can our partial obedience affect those around us?
- What are some ways Christians today might use good spiritual activities to avoid dealing with specific sin?
- What is the difference between conviction from God and shame that leads to hiding or making excuses?

RESPOND

Is there an area in your life where you may have only been partially obedient to what God has commanded you to do; how can you go all in this week?

Praying as a Church - Week 28 Prayer Prompts

(Share and pick some to pray through as a group.)

Praise

- As you read about David's anointing, praise God for seeing what people cannot see. 1 Samuel 16:7
- Thank Him for His faithfulness to accomplish His purposes through ordinary people. 1 Samuel 16:12-13
- Use Psalm 133 to celebrate the beauty of unity among God's people.

Silence & Solitude

- Reflect quietly on David's willingness to wait for God's timing. 1 Samuel 18:14; 19:18-24
- Ask the Lord to help you become comfortable with seasons of waiting. Psalm 130:5-6
- Listen for ways He may be inviting you to trust Him more deeply.

Ask — Allow the Word to Guide Your Prayer Requests

- Allow David's dependence on God to guide your prayers. 1 Samuel 17:45-47; 18:14 Ask God to increase your confidence in His presence rather than your own abilities. 1 Samuel 17:37
- Pray for courage, humility, and faithfulness in both public and hidden seasons. 1 Samuel 16:11-13; 18:5

Invite Him to prepare you for whatever He has called you to do.

Lament — What Has Grieved You as You Have Read the Word?

- Notice the effects of jealousy and fear in Saul's life. 1 Samuel 18:8-12; 19:9-10
- Bring before God any places where comparison, insecurity, or unforgiveness have taken root in your heart.
- Ask Him to replace those attitudes with contentment, love, and genuine joy for others.

Mission

- Use Psalm 133 to pray for unity within Long Hollow and among churches throughout our community. Psalm 133:1
- Pray that believers would reflect Christ so clearly that others would be drawn to the Gospel.
- Ask God to strengthen His Church around the world as we serve together for His Kingdom.

This Week: Wednesdays at LH Fall Kickoff

Here are some questions you can discuss with the whole family.

1 Samuel 15:1-3 and verses 10-15

Why is fully obeying something that's important to God?

For younger children, help them see that God gave Saul clear instructions, but Saul only obeyed part of the way. Older children and teens can talk about why partial obedience is still disobedience and why it matters to follow God completely.

Why do you think Saul tried to make excuses when Samuel asked him about the animals?

Younger children may connect this to times they have hidden a mess or blamed someone else. Older children and teens can discuss how sin can make us defensive, dishonest, or more worried about looking right than being honest before God.

What is one way we can obey God this week, even if it is hard?

For younger children, guide them toward simple examples like telling the truth, sharing, or obeying parents. Older children and teens can think about choices at school, with friends, online, or in private where God may be calling them to trust and obey Him.

GET INTO THE WORD

A YEAR-LONG JOURNEY THROUGH THE OLD TESTAMENT

Week 28

- 1 Samuel 16 / Psalm 129
 - 1 Samuel 17 / Psalm 130
 - 1 Samuel 18 / Psalm 131
 - 1 Samuel 19 / Psalm 132
 - 1 Samuel 20 / Psalm 133
- MEMORIZE: Deuteronomy 29:29 Psalm 101:3-4

Other Resources

BEMA Podcast - A Donkey Herder to Lead Us

Marty Solomon and Brent Billings take a look at **Israel's first two kings** and try to see what the Text is showing us in these two characters.

WATCH

The Bible Project's Guide - Samuel

See a collection of videos, classes, and articles that dives into **1 and 2 Samuel** and its themes.

The Bible Project's Guide - Psalms

See a collection of videos, classes, and articles that dives into **Psalms** and its themes.

What's going on at Long Hollow

- **Tuesday Prayer Nights** - Every Tuesday starting August 11, 6:00 PM Chapel
- **Wednesdays at LH** (Every Man, Every Woman, School of Ministry) - August 12, 6:30 PM
- **1st Grade Bible Presentation** - August 14 during services, Hendersonville Worship Center
- **55+ Dinner** - Thursday, August 20, 6:00 PM, Student Building
- **Hope For The Journey Simulcast** - Saturday, August 22, 8:00 AM, Chapel

Starting a D-Group

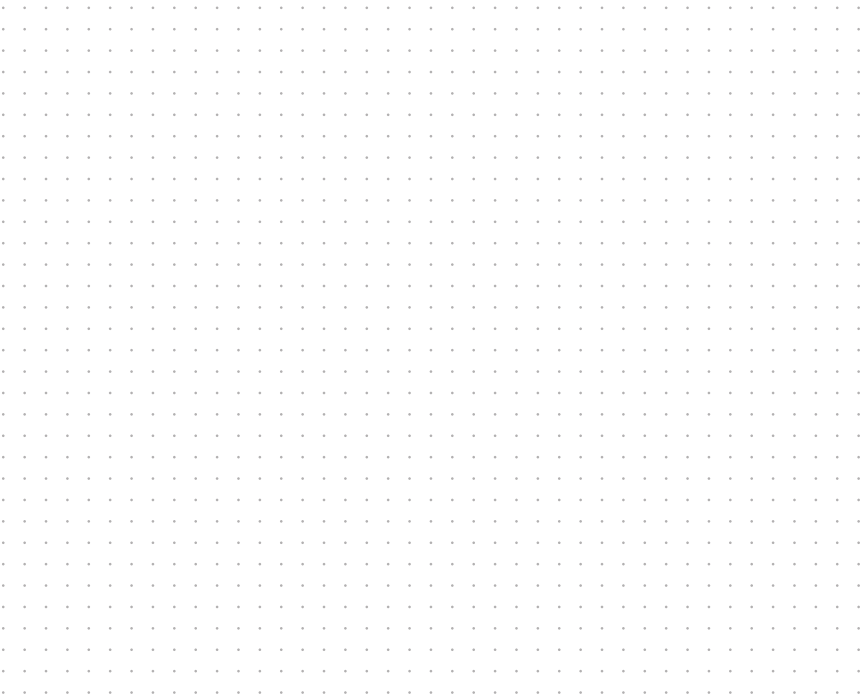
If you or someone you know would like to start a D-group, we have everything you need, including reading plans, journals, and a launch guide to walk you through the first four meetings.

longhollow.com/dgroups

What’s Going On?

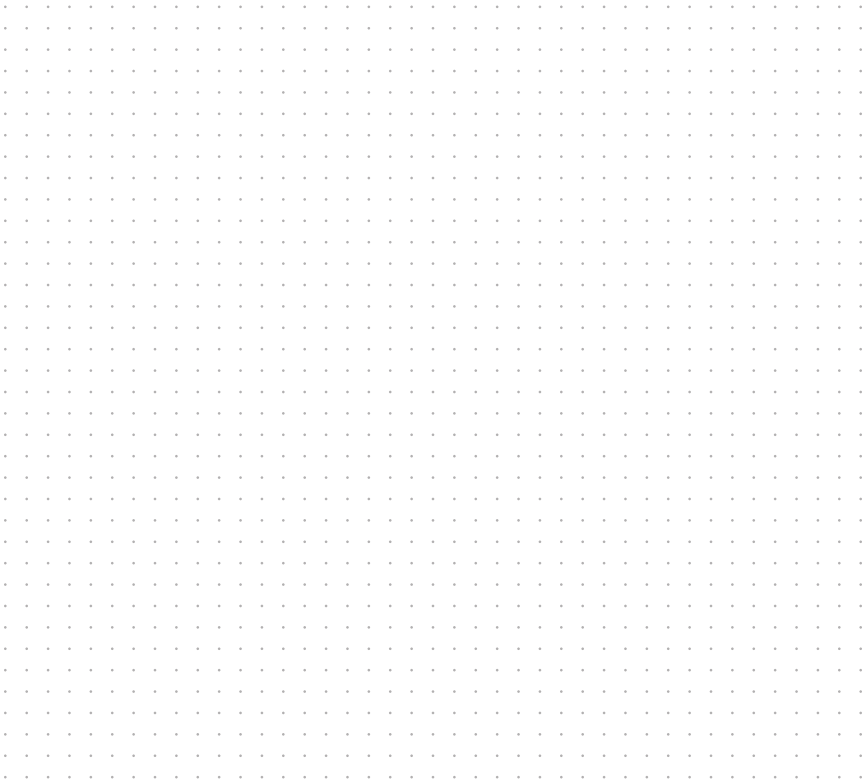
1 Samuel 15 tells the story of King Saul receiving a clear command from God through the prophet Samuel. Saul is told to attack the Amalekites and completely destroy everything connected to them. At first, Saul seems successful. He wins the battle. But instead of fully obeying, he spares King Agag and keeps the best animals. When Samuel confronts him, Saul claims he has obeyed.

The sound of the animals proves otherwise. Saul then tries to explain that the animals were saved for sacrifice to God. Samuel makes the main point clear: God wants obedience more than religious offerings. This chapter shows Saul’s heart. His problem is not military failure, but spiritual rebellion. He treats partial obedience as if it were full obedience, and that becomes the turning point in his kingship.



A Bit of Background

The Amalekites were long-time enemies of Israel. Their conflict with God’s people began after Israel left Egypt, when the Amalekites attacked them in the wilderness. Because of their ongoing hostility and violence, God had promised judgment against them. Saul, Israel’s first king, was called to carry out that judgment. This was not meant to be a personal war for wealth or fame. It was an act of justice under God’s command. In Israel, the king was not supposed to rule by his own wisdom or desires. He was meant to lead under God’s authority. Saul’s failure showed that he cared more about appearances, possessions, and approval than obeying God completely.



Living out our God-given calling as we follow Jesus and make disciples every day.

MISSIONAL

Engaging with the world to share the Gospel intentionally.

ACCOUNTABLE

Being transparent with Christ and other believers about your walk.

REPRODUCIBLE

Disciples who make disciples; the mentee becomes the mentor.

COMMUNAL

Living in deep community with other believers; never alone.

SCRIPTURAL

Grounded in the Word of God as the ultimate authority.



LONG HOLLOW
CHURCH