



Week of Sunday,
August 30, 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 your missional focus?

INTRODUCTION

When Saul faced fear and silence in 1 Samuel 28, he chose to seek a counterfeit voice instead of humbling himself before God. His story warns us that unanswered prayer is not an invitation to panic, compromise, or look elsewhere for direction. It is a moment to examine our hearts, repent of sin, and wait faithfully on the Lord. Consider where you are tempted to seek control, approval, comfort, or answers apart from God, and how He may be calling you back to trust and obedience.

1 Samuel

READ ALOUD

1 Samuel 28:3-10

DISCUSS

Opening Question

How comfortable are you with silence, and why do you think people tend to be so opposed to silence?

- What does Saul's fear reveal about his spiritual condition?
- Why might God's silence sometimes be connected to unrepentant sin?
- What does Saul seeking a medium, which he kicked out of Israel, teach about the difference between outward religious action and inward obedience to God?

Have someone read aloud 1 Samuel 28:11-19.

- What does this show us about seeking "new" guidance from God while ignoring what He has already commanded?
- How can the fear of people lead someone away from faithful obedience to God?

DISCUSS & APPLY

- What is the biblical difference between remorse and repentance, and how do Saul's actions help illustrate the danger of wanting relief from consequences without truly turning back to God?
- What are some ways people today seek guidance, comfort, or control apart from God?
- How has the fear of others, or what they think, impacted your obedience to God?

RESPOND

Set aside time this week in a private, quiet moment to write down and confess the sin in your life to God. If appropriate, share it with a trusted believer who can pray with you and hold you accountable.

Praying as a Church - Week 31 Prayer Prompts

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

Praise

- As you meditate on Psalm 139, praise God for His perfect knowledge, constant presence, and faithful love.
- Thank God that nothing in your life is hidden from Him.
- Worship Him as the righteous King whose purposes never fail. 2 Samuel 5:10; Psalm 145:13

Silence & Solitude

- Read Psalm 139 slowly and prayerfully.
- Invite God to search your heart and reveal anything that needs His transforming grace. Psalm 139:23–24
- Linger in His presence, allowing Him to examine your heart with love. Psalm 139:7–12

Ask — Allow the Word to Guide Your Prayer Requests

- Let David's dependence on the Lord shape your conversations with God. 2 Samuel 5:19, 23
- Ask Him for wisdom in the decisions you are facing.
- Pray for a heart that seeks His direction before taking action. 2 Samuel 5:19
- Invite Him to make you increasingly sensitive to His voice.

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

- Reflect on the closing chapters of Saul's life and the consequences of ignoring God's voice. 1 Samuel 28:5–20; 31:1–6
- Bring before the Lord any disappointment, regret, grief, or spiritual weariness you may be carrying. Psalm 142:1–3
- Trust Him to meet you with mercy and restore your fellowship with Him. Psalm 143:8–11

Mission

- Use Psalm 143 to pray for those who are discouraged, overwhelmed, or spiritually weary around the world.
- Pray for pastors, missionaries, and church leaders serving in challenging places.
- Ask God to draw many to Himself as the Good Shepherd who faithfully leads His people. Psalm 143:10

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

1 Samuel 28:3-10

When King Saul was scared, he looked for help in the wrong place instead of trusting God. What are some things people might run to when they feel afraid?

For younger children, help them name simple fears and safe ways to ask God and trusted adults for help; for older children, talk about unhealthy comforts, peer approval, or trying to control the future.

God had already told Saul what to do, but Saul did not obey. Why do you think it is hard to obey God when we do not like His answer?

For younger children, connect this to obeying parents even when they do not understand; for older children, discuss how pride, fear, or wanting approval can make obedience difficult.

Saul wanted God to answer him, but he did not want to repent. What does it mean to say, “I’m sorry,” and then really change?

For younger children, use examples like telling the truth or sharing after being selfish; for older children, talk about the difference between feeling guilty and choosing to turn away from sin with God’s help.

GET INTO THE WORD

A YEAR-LONG JOURNEY THROUGH THE OLD TESTAMENT

Week 31

- 2 Samuel 6 / Psalm 144
- 2 Samuel 7 / Psalm 145
- 2 Samuel 9 / Psalm 146
- 2 Samuel 11 / Psalm 147
- 2 Samuel 12 / Psalm 148

MEMORIZE: John 1:1-2, John 1:14

Other Resources

The Bible Project - David, the Latecomer King

Tim and Jon discuss the motives behind Israel's request and the role of **Israel's first kings**, Saul and David, in the unfolding theme of the firstborn.

WATCH

The Bible Project's Guide - Samuel

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

- **Groups Night of Prayer** - Tuesday, September 1, 6PM, Chapel
- **Intentional Mom** - Wednesday, September 2, 9:30AM, Hendersonville
- **55+ Lunch** - Thursday, September 3, 10AM, Hendersonville Student Building
- **Child Dedication Gallatin** - Sunday, September 6, 9AM for the 10:30AM service
- **Women's Night** - Sunday, September 13, 5:30PM Hendersonville Campus

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

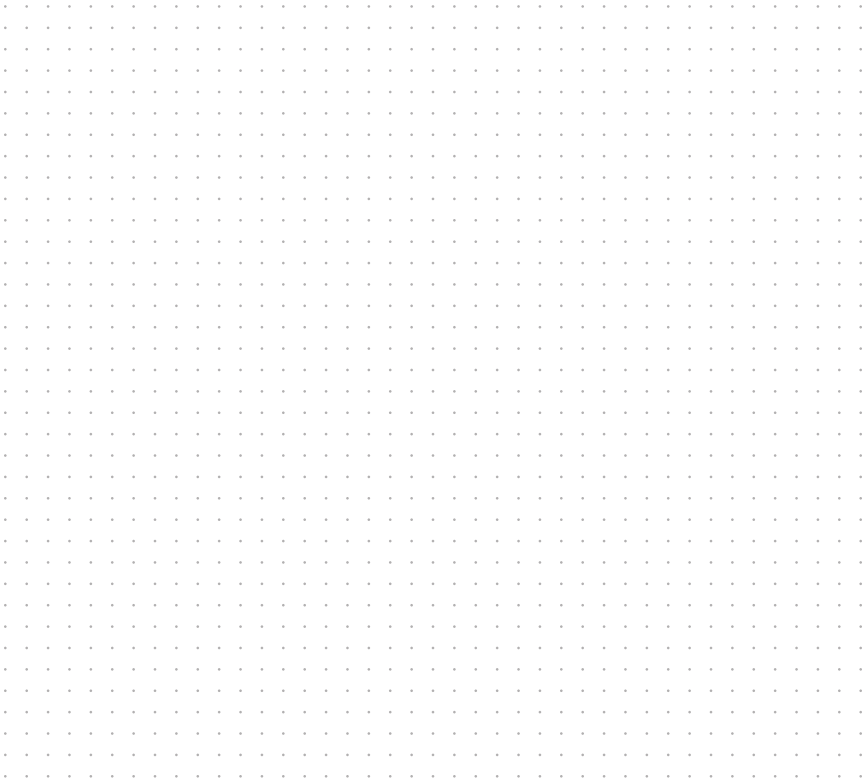
What's Going On?

1 Samuel 28 comes near the end of Saul's life and reign. Saul has already disobeyed God repeatedly, and God has rejected him as king. Samuel, the prophet who once spoke God's word to Saul, is now dead. David has been anointed as the next king, but Saul still sits on the throne. In this passage, the Philistine army is preparing to attack Israel, and Saul is terrified. He asks God for help, but God does not answer him through dreams, priests, or prophets. Instead of repenting, Saul looks for another voice. He disguises himself and visits a medium at En-dor, even though he had banned such practices. The story shows Saul's spiritual collapse: he wants guidance from God, but not obedience to God.



A Bit of Background

In Israel, mediums and spiritists were forbidden because God’s people were not to seek power or knowledge from the dead or from dark spiritual sources. God had given Israel His Word, His prophets, and His priests. Saul knew this. Earlier, he had removed mediums from the land, which was the right thing to do. But when fear took over, he went back on his own command. The Philistines were one of Israel’s greatest enemies, and their threat made Saul desperate. The passage also reminds us of Saul’s earlier sin with the Amalekites, when he feared people more than God. His silence from heaven was not random; it was tied to years of rebellion.



BIRTH OF
CHRIST



CRUCIFICATION
& RESURRECTION



BOOK OF
REVELATION

By this time Samuel had died, all Israel had mourned for him and buried him in Ramah, his city, and Saul had removed the mediums and spiritists from the land. The Philistines gathered and camped at Shunem. So Saul gathered all Israel, and they camped at Gilboa. When Saul saw the Philistine camp, he was afraid and his heart pounded. He inquired of the LORD, but the LORD did not answer him in dreams or by the Urim or by the prophets. Saul then said to his servants, "Find me a woman who is a medium, so I can go and consult her." His servants replied, "There is a woman at En-dor who is a medium." Saul disguised himself by putting on different clothes and set out with two of his men. They came to the woman at night, and Saul said, "Consult a spirit for me. Bring up for me the one I tell you." But the woman said to him, "You surely know what Saul has done, how he has cut off the mediums and spiritists from the land. Why are you setting a trap for me to get me killed?" Then Saul swore to her by the LORD: "As surely as the LORD lives, no punishment will come to you from this."

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