

Connecting Group Study Guide

Knowing, Growing, Going

Week of May 22-28, 2016

Follow-up

1. Start by sharing with each other about your previous week.
2. Take some time for each person to share “cultural bridges” with the group. Provide some feedback (is it clear, etc.). Ideally, this exercise will help each person have this tool in their toolbox for future reference.

Knowing God

Read 1 Samuel 13:1-15.

In this week’s sermon we focused on God & Culture from a different perspective. We looked at the internal and external posture of the Church itself and the role this plays in the way the church interacts with the surrounding culture. One particular theme that presented itself involved our call to holiness and obedience. The issue of obedience is particularly relevant to 1 Samuel 13:1-15.

1. In your own words explain what is happening in 1 Samuel 13:1-15.
2. How does Saul demonstrate disobedience in this passage? What is God’s response to Saul through the words of the prophet Samuel about his disobedience?
3. According to 1 Samuel 16, God has his prophet Samuel anoint David as king of Israel in place of Saul. How does this tie into 1 Samuel 13:1-15? What insight about God do we see revealed through all of this?

Growing in Christ-likeness

Read Hebrews 5:8-9.

1. Compare the actions of Saul from 1 Samuel 13:1-15 and the life of Jesus Christ according to Hebrews 5:8-9. What is the big difference between the two?
2. Why do you think God holds our obedience to Him and His ways in such high regard?

Going to Our Neighbors and the World

1. As people who are called to exemplify the holiness of God to a watching world, share with your group an area in which you have been struggling to obey the word of God?
2. In light of what you just shared with the group, what are you going to do about it this week?

Action Step: Share with the group something practical that you will do in order to seek to become obedient in that particular area. If you are unsure of what to do, ask the group for suggestions. Be prepared to share about your progress in this area with the group at your next meeting. Begin to hold one another accountable in the love of Christ.

Close in prayer together.