

## **God's Plan**

### **1 Samuel 9:1-10:27**

#### **1. No Coincidence**

This historical account is a story about God; displaying His guiding hand behind all that occurs in this passage. God used Saul's father in sending Saul and the young servant to search for the missing donkeys as steps for them to meet Samuel so that through God's guidance, Samuel may anoint Saul as God's chosen to govern His people.

Although many people today believe in coincidence, our daily lives are not a coincidence, as God works through each scene of life so that His plans may be fulfilled. (Romans 8:28)

#### **2. Empowers for Service**

Spirit of God came powerfully upon Saul by empowering him to prophesy and was noticed by others as he was changed into a different person. God's purpose was to confirm Saul, an unlikely candidate to the Israelites, as ruler in Israel with the plan to deliver God's oppressed people.

God does not call us to serve without first empowering for service.

#### **3. With Freedom Comes Obedience**

When Saul is anointed as Israel's ruler, and the signs were fulfilled, he was given the freedom "to do whatever his hand finds to do, for God is with him", but at the same time to obey, as he is given strict parameters in what he must do at Gilgal.

When we are in Christ, we experience freedom, but our freedom is not meant for disobedience, as God's Word is what gives freedom (James 1:22-25; Galatians 5).

Questions:

- *Everyone has a role in God's plan.* Both Saul's servant and the young women played a crucial role. Without them, the story would not have played out like it does here. What is your place in God's plan? And what is your role in what God is doing here at Elliott Heights? What is God asking you to do? How will God use you?
- What do we learn about the level of trust Saul had in God for the task to which God assigned him? Why is trust such a hard thing for us to learn?
- What other things battle for our trust?
- Even though the Lord provided many signs for Saul, he did not gain confidence from them. He at times acted on his fears such as when he hid among the luggage. How should he have responded to his fears? How could he use what God had recently done in his life to stand tall and trust God?
- List one area where you know what God wants but have difficulty trusting Him? List the ways He has confirmed His presence to help you. Then seek God through prayer for strength and for help to remember the truths from the list you created.