

The Invitation to Leadership: *Humility Unlocks a Leader's Potential*  
1 Samuel 11:1-13:23, May 24/25

Icebreaker: When was the last time you had to ask for help?"

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Read the passage, 1 Samuel 11:1-13:23 (divide the passage into three segments for easier engagement)

- Chapter 11 – Saul rescues Jabesh
  - Chapter 12 – Samuel's farewell speech
  - Chapter 13 – Saul's impatience and disobedience
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Discussion Questions

1. In 1 Samuel 11, what do you learn about Saul's leadership style? What role does the Spirit of God play in this passage (v.6)?
2. Why do you think Saul remains silent when some mock his kingship (11:12–13)? What might this tell us about his character at this point?
3. In chapter 12, how does Samuel defend his integrity and leadership before the people? What does this tell us about his view of accountability?
4. Look at 1 Samuel 12:20–25. What is Samuel's final encouragement and warning to the people? Why does he mention "revering" the Lord so often?
5. In 1 Samuel 13:8–12, what reasons does Saul give for disobeying God's command? Do they sound reasonable or like excuses? Why or why not?
6. Why was offering the sacrifice such a serious offense (13:9–14)? What does this reveal about the boundaries of leadership and obedience?
7. How do humility and fear of the Lord show up in godly leadership? Try to define or describe pride and humility.
8. Where have you seen pride or pressure lead to premature action—either in your own life or in someone else's leadership?

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Application: (in pairs or smaller groups)

7. Is there an area in your life where you're tempted to act without waiting on God's timing or instruction? How can you recognize when you're getting ahead of—or leaving out—God in your decisions?
8. What does it look like for you to surrender control?

Pray for one another.

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Optional: Invite the group to practice a breath prayer this week. When you feel yourself tensing up or wanting to take control, pause and pray this simple phrase:

- Inhale: "Not my will..."
- Exhale: "But Yours be done."

Leader note: These chapters highlight a pivotal shift in Israel's leadership. Saul begins with spiritual strength and humility (ch. 11), but pride and insecurity soon take root. Samuel steps back from leadership, urging the people to remain faithful (ch. 12). In chapter 13, Saul steps outside his role and disobeys God's command, revealing the spiritual cost of pride and fear-driven leadership.