

Home Small Group Lesson
“The Providence of the Ordinary”
1 Samuel 9

Start It Up

- **Opening Icebreaker:**

We all look forward to extraordinary moments (Vacations, graduations, promotions, marriage). What are the ordinary moments in which God gives you the greatest joy?

Talk it Over

- **Sermon Summary...**

1. **Saul begins his ordinary journey in obedience** (v.1-3)
2. **...God weaves his providence through every turn** (v.4-18)
3. **... Saul is shown ‘all that is in his heart’ from God** (v.19-27)

- Which part of the sermon impacted you, gave insight, challenged you, encouraged you or helped give direction to life?
- What things in life feel like “looking for lost donkeys? Are there things in life – especially repeatable things – that feel like a waste of your time and energy? How does God use those moments?
- We do see red flags here for Saul’s leadership. He isn’t prepared with money, he doesn’t know Samuel, he’s from the ‘wrong’ tribe. But for better or worse, Saul is who God chooses. How does that affect the way you think about some of the ‘questionable’ leadership you see – in your families and workplace, in your church and at the national level?
- By the time it’s all said and done, there is no doubt this meeting between Samuel and Saul is providential. What kinds of things can we look back on in our stories for God’s providence?
- We often get the ‘why’ of a season of life. God gives us the gift of seeing the value of the struggle of a season by witnessing the glory thereafter. But what happens when we don’t get the answer of “why?” How do we reconcile the providence of God in our stories when we can’t so clearly see the ‘net positive’ result?

Pray it Over:

- Pray for the moments in our lives that we are asked to find lost donkeys – that we would be obedient to begin the mundane journey!
- Remember the obvious pieces of providence in our past. Thank the Lord for his part in putting it all together!
- Ask God to take ordinary days, seasons and even lives, and turn them into adventures where you restored as King over our hearts.