



**LEADER TIPS**

*Supplemental Texts & Key*

Sermon Scripture References

Leviticus 7:28-38; Matthew 18:15-17; 1 Corinthians 5:3; 1 Kings 2:27; Hebrews 7:26-28

Sermon Description

Leadership among God’s people matters more than we may realize. Sinful leadership can leave a lot of wreckage in its wake. Therefore, we should be quite discerning about who is put in leadership and refuse to idolize anyone in leadership. No leader transcends the threat of moral failure and spiritual infidelity. Leaders among us should only and always lead us to put our faith in Christ, the ultimate servant leader and God’s solution to sinful leadership. In this sermon, Pastor Andrew demonstrates how Samuel, a unique servant leader in the history of God’s people, points us to Jesus, the ultimate servant leader of God’s people. Jesus is the leader everyone needs. Jesus is the unique prophet who not only brings God’s Word but is God’s Word; the unconquerable king who overthrows all the enemies of God’s people, namely sin, Satan, and death; and the great high priest who never fails to make intercession for us.

Text Insights

-This passage contrasts with the Lord’s dealing with Hannah. While the Lord lifted Hannah up from her barren state, he levels Eli’s household from their blessed state due to their wicked ways. Review Hannah’s prayer for thematic connects.  
-Leviticus 7:28-38 details what portions of sacrificial offerings should go to the priests.

*Discussion Primer*

Consider opening up your time together by discussing the primer question, which flows directly from the week’s scripture focus and sermons. Forward the primer to your MC and encourage them to prayerfully consider it in advance of meeting.

*Sermon Description*

The sermon description is provided to help you as a leader recall the key points, terminology and emphases from the recent sermons. Often it may be helpful to use these in summarizing the sermons for your MC and/or in helping you to guide the discussion of the six replicable questions.

*Replicable Questions*

These questions provide an alternative to the Intersection Questions. They may be used to mix things up and stimulate interaction with the text. Over time, learning to ask such questions will help disciples as they read the Bible regularly.

*Intersection*

Consider using one or more of these questions to stimulate further discussion with respect to how the text and the sermon intersect with our lives and our church in direct and meaningful ways.

*Vision Casting*

As leaders, be intentional to cast vision regularly and reminding your MCs why we do what we do, that is, out of a desire to know God more deeply, to treasure his gospel more richly and to fulfill our mission more faithfully. Remind participants of the MC stipend and ask if they know of needs that could be met with the funds.

**DISCUSSION PRIMER**

In what ways have you been disappointed, or even harmed, by sinful leadership? How have you maintained faith in Christ despite sinful leadership? In what ways have you been blessed and your faith in Christ strengthened by servant leadership?

**SERMON OUTLINE**

**WHEN MESS MEETS MERCY: THE GOSPEL OF 1 SAMUEL  
“GOD’S SOLUTION TO SINFUL LEADERSHIP”: 1 SAMUEL 2:11-36**

Big Idea: Although sinful leaders are present among God’s people to prey upon God’s people, they will not prevail over God’s people because the solution of God’s ultimate servant leader is coming.”

Sermon Outline

- The Problem of Sinful Leaders (vv. 12-17; 22-26; 27-34)
  - They are present among God’s people.
  - They prey upon God’s people.
  - They will not prevail over God’s people.
- The Solution of Servant Leaders (v. 11; 18-21; 26; 35-36)
  - Servant leaders serve in humility before God.
  - Servant leaders cultivate intimacy with God.
  - Servant leaders grow in the grace of God.
- The Ultimate Servant Leader
  - Jesus is the ultimate prophet.
  - Jesus is the unconquerable king.
  - Jesus is the unfailing high priest.

**INTERSECTION: *How does the text intersect with our lives?***

- ▶ Compare and contrast sinful leadership with servant leadership.
- ▶ How do servant leaders point us to the ultimate servant leader, Jesus the Christ?
- ▶ Why would Jesus instruct us to exercise discipline in the church? How does Jesus instruct us to do so in Matthew 18:15-17? (Keep in mind that church discipline is integral to the process of making disciples. we discipline one another each time we admonish one another to exercise repentance and faith in Christ. The process outlined by Jesus unfolds as repentance and faith in Christ ceases to be operative in a disciple’s life).
- ▶ Can we confuse being nice with being loving? What qualities does gospel love have that mere niceness lacks?
- ▶ Why is the doctrine of divine judgment good for God’s people?
- ▶ What is the role of a prophet? priest? king?
- ▶ How does thinking of Jesus as your ultimate prophet, priest, and king help you appreciate and apply more fully what he has done, is doing, and will do for you? Address each role one at a time.

**REPLICABLE QUESTIONS**

**Read 1 Samuel 2:11-36 and explore together what the passages reveal about:**

- |                                       |                                  |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1) The character and purposes of God? | 4) Our identity in Christ?       |
| 2) The fallen human condition?        | 5) Our obedience to Christ?      |
| 3) The gospel of Jesus Christ?        | 6) Our relationship to neighbor? |

**APPLICATION: “So, what now?”**

**Have each participant identify a personal take-away in light of this study. Encourage specificity in response to God’s revelation by asking if there is . . .**

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|-----------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| • a command to obey?  | • a beauty to behold?  | • a mission to fulfill? |
| • a promise to claim? | • a truth to believe?  | • an example to follow? |
| • a sin to repent of? | • a service to render? | • a person to tell?     |