



News to Know

Refuge Shirts

The deadline to order our new shirts is this Wednesday. You can order [here](#).

See You at the Pole

Next Wednesday, September 24, your student's school will host a prayer gathering at the flagpole before school, and many of our students will even be leading it! Wake up early and join them there. That evening, we'll join a community worship gathering at 17 Springs with other youth groups. We will not have Refuge that night, but we'll meet at 17 Springs instead.

Refuge: Wednesday at 6:30

We'll worship this Wednesday in The Harbor at 6:30.

Sunday Morning Small Groups

I will always encourage your student to participate in a small group. We have great groups with awesome leaders.

Abounding Grace Girls' Bible Study

Join our girls' Bible study each Sunday at 6:00 in Grace Cottage.

Refuge this Week

On Wednesday, we're going to ask the question, "What holds you back? by looking at 1 Samuel 9-10. In these chapters, we see Saul being anointed and proclaimed as king.

In chapter 9, we see how Saul and Samuel meet. Saul's father's donkeys go missing, and Saul sets out to find them. After three days, he gives up the search and arrives in Samuel's hometown. His servant suggests they visit the prophet he's heard about...Samuel. Unbeknownst to Saul, God had already told Samuel the day before that he would meet the new king. This story points to the sovereignty of God. Every decision, every event, every circumstance, nothing is random. Nothing happens by chance. It's a powerful reminder of how amazing our God is, the One who knows all things and has the power to bring everything together perfectly. So, if that's the case, why do we worry? If the God who spoke creation into existence, who governs every detail of history, and who orders the steps of kings and nations is the same God who directs your life, then what is stopping you?

After Samuel anoints Saul as king, he gives him three signs to confirm God's calling. And they happen, just as Samuel said, showing that God has picked Saul to lead Israel. But here's the surprising part: when the opportunity comes, Saul freezes. He's sent to a place with a Philistine fortress. It was a perfect chance to do exactly what God called him to do: defeat the enemy and save His people. Yet, he does nothing. Fear takes over. Even with God's clear confirmation, Saul is too scared to step up. Saul had the Spirit of God. He was fully equipped to do the work, but he held back. And here's the point for us: as Christians, we're also empowered by the Spirit of God. So ask yourself: what's holding you back from fully following God? What has He called you to do, but fear, doubt, or hesitation is keeping you from stepping into?

Samuel then calls all of Israel together at Mizpah to proclaim Saul as king. Interestingly, there's a parallel here with the account of Achan at Ai. They cast lots, and the lot falls on Saul. But when the people look for him, he's hiding among the baggage. After everything he's experienced, he's still holding back! Saul is hiding because of shame. He knows he isn't the man he needs to be to serve as king. He's proclaimed king, and the first thing he does is declare the duties of a king. He wants to make sure Israel doesn't forget that their king should not be like the kings of other nations. Yet deep down, Saul knows he doesn't measure up to the kind of king God wants him to be. Instead of stepping fully into God's calling, he hides among the baggage afraid, insecure, and unsure of himself. His sin isn't just a personal struggle; it's actively keeping him from obeying God and fulfilling the calling on his life. What sin is keeping you from stepping fully into what God has called you to do? Where are you hiding?

Resource of the Week

This week's resource is titled, "Help! I Think I'm a Bad Parent."
You can find it [here](#).



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