

### **AFFIRMATION OF GROWTH (15 MINUTES)**

- **Check in:** Let each person share how their challenge went this week and one thing that God has taught them in facing it.
- **Opening Prayer:** Pray specifically for both those who struggled with the challenge and those who met their goal. Ask God to reveal the truth and continue the work he began in each person.

### **BIBLE DISCOVERY (35-45 MINUTES: WHAT 10 MINUTES, SO WHAT 10-20 MINUTES, AND NOW WHAT 15-20 MINUTES)**

- **Watch Video**
- **Big Idea for gGroup:** When we seek our own wisdom instead of God's direction we find ourselves making a bigger mess.
- **WHAT? (To allow great discussion we will not cover every Bible verse read on Sunday or in the chapter)**
  - **Read 1 Samuel 3:10-15**
    - What was the vision that God gave Samuel?
    - What was Samuel's feeling the next day?
  - **Read 1 Samuel 3:16-19**
    - What was Eli's response to God's message to Samuel?
  - **Read 1 Samuel 4:1-4**
    - What was the plan that the elders came up with when they lost to the Philistines?
    - Did they go to God for direction in their decision?
  - **Read 1 Samuel 4:5-11**
    - What was going on through the Philistine's minds when they saw the ark of the covenant?
    - Did the elders' plan work?
    - What was the outcome of the battle?
  - **Read 1 Samuel 4:12-18**
    - What did Eli's heart tremble for?
    - Did his son's death cause Eli to fall or the ark of the covenant being taken by the Philistines?
    - Did God's words to Samuel come true?
- **SO WHAT? (If you like to get this section started you can ask, "what stood out to you from the Bible?")**
  - **Read Galatians 6:1-2, Matthew 18:15-17, and Luke 17:3-4.**
    - What should we do when we see someone in sin?
    - Do you think things would have ended up differently if Eli confronted and rebuked his sons or even the elders' plan to take the ark of the covenant?
  - What are examples of seeking our own wisdom or even testing God like the elders?
  - What steps can we take when we are working through big decisions in our lives?
- **NOW WHAT?**
  - Which character from the Bible Story would represent your life right now and why?
  - What specifically can you do the next time you have to make a big decision in your life?

### **CHALLENGE FOR LIFE (10 MINUTES)**

- **One Challenge:** Has this passage revealed a point of growth or a needed change? Is there something you must do or voice in order to better obey God? Be specific and narrow it down with an "I will" statement
  - I will \_\_\_\_\_
- **Closing Prayer**