

October 18, 2026

Affirmed and Afraid

from our series, *Powerful: Stories from 1 & 2 Samuel*

Warmup: *What is your favorite piece of luggage/baggage to travel with, and why?*

REMINDER The stories in the Bible are *our* family stories. They shape us and they show us truths about God and about humans. Immerse yourself in the biblical story and see what the Holy Spirit shows you! We're going to consider several scenes from Saul's story. Read as many as your group has time for.

READ 1 Samuel 10:1-27; 1 Samuel 13:8-14; 1 Samuel 15:1-30

REFLECT

- What questions do you have about these stories?
- When you think about Saul, what adjectives would you use to describe him?
- On Sunday, Sarah observed that fear controls Saul. Where do you see that in these stories?
- If you are able, name your baggage where fear is making decisions for you. Fear says hide; faith says step forward! Pause and pray that the Holy Spirit will replace your fear with faith that God is in control.
- If you are able, name an area of your life where you are only partially obeying God's clear instruction. We all have reasons to justify our partial obedience, so talk yours out with the group. Pause and pray that the Holy Spirit will give you the power to fully obey!
- Here's an astounding truth: Jesus lived the perfect life that Saul could not, and He invites us to live with Him in His perfect obedience and trust! He sends the Holy Spirit to empower us to obey and trust – how do you respond?
- Read 1 John 4:18. How can God's perfect love drive out your specific fears? Don't answer with vague generalities, get specific.

RESPOND

- What is my next step of obedience?
- Share any other prayer requests and then pray for each other AND your neighbors with the authority King Jesus gives you in the power of the Holy Spirit!

"To transform religious and irreligious people into fully devoted followers of Christ."