

1. **Launcher:** What are some outcomes you’ve experienced from “cutting corners” in life?

2. **Worship God – Psalm 145:1-3 & 8-9**

Worship God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, for being our God and our King who rules, sustains, protects and governs us.

3. **Sermon Reflection: “The Downfall of Saul”**

How Does It Happen?

- Was Saul rotten from the beginning of his kingship? How is it that we get to this chapter with God not even answering Saul (v.37)?
- It’s a mistake to assume that Saul is not like us at all, in what ways do you relate with his actions in this story?
- Does your substance (your heart and desires) match up with your actions (going to church, being kind, loving your neighbor)? If not, turn to God in prayer together as a group.

Why Does It Happen?

- Why do our hearts gradually sway, inch by inch, away from God?
- Why is Jesus’ incarnation so shocking? What does it communicate to our abandonment of Him?
- What areas of your life do you need to open up and just let God love you?

4. **Kingdom Centered Prayer: You Can Pray with Us**

1. Worship God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, for being our God and our King who rules, sustains, protects and governs us.
2. Where can you confess the sin of Saul in your life? What are the seeds of his downfall that you see in yourself?
3. Marvel and rejoice in the work of Jesus who is our hope of revival and renewal in the Church and in our lives.
4. Pray for the world and the Church around the world, specifically that her members and her ministers would be faithful to God’s call, obedient to his word, and stand firm in the Lord.
5. Ask for the Holy Spirit’s help to root out the sins that lead to death. Ask God to help you put those things to death and to surround you with people who can walk faithfully alongside you.

5. **Mission:** Our mission as Christians is to be focused on the substance of our being—the desires and motivations of our hearts—praying and asking God to renew and transform us from the inside out. This is different than our sinful strategy, where we devise for ourselves a strategy to appear worthy on the outside, regardless of what’s going on within.