



People to Watch Out For 1 – Self-Promoters Discussion & Reflection Guide

Message & Scripture Discussion

- **When was the last time you saw someone choose to elevate or give credit to someone else?**
- **What stood out to you from Sunday's service?** How did you sense God at work in you through the songs, the story video, the message, and being together with others as part of the church? (The message's main points and scripture are listed below if it helps you think back.)
- Eddie shared the story of the baseball player who made an incredible play in the World Series and said, "This is not my moment. This is my dad's moment." **How do react to this unusual example of rejecting the opportunity for self-promotion?**
- Eddie shared that this series is intended to remind us that "God wants our relationships to be wholesome and healthy." **How would you evaluate the health of your closest relationships? Are you able to be wise and discerning about the people around you?**
- Another warning offered in Sunday's message is that "The most dangerous thing about being human is that we can deceive ourselves." **How have you seen this to be true?**
- The first King of Israel from the Old Testament, Saul, is an interesting case study to observe. **Look over the account from the Scriptures in the message, especially 1 Samuel 15. What do you notice about Saul's actions and attitude?**
- **Consider this quote:** "The most dangerous thing about being human is that we can deceive ourselves." **What are some practical ways to stay aware and humble rather than be self-deceived?**
- Eddie offered several takeaway reminders from Saul's example:
 - watch out for self-deception
 - watch out for blame-shifting
 - watch out for religious excuses

Which stands out to you as especially relevant and important for you to watch out for in yourself? Why?

- **Is there anything else from the message you want to explore more deeply this week?**

We hope you'll use this guide to take the teaching from Sunday's service and reflect on it with a few friends or with a group. If you have questions or want to talk more about how to take your next spiritual step, contact us at info@wschurch.org.

Message Main Points & Scripture

- **The same Scriptures that teach us to love and accept people also teach us to observe and evaluate people.**
- **watch out for self-promoting people**
- 1 Samuel 9:21 - "But I'm only from the tribe of Benjamin, the smallest tribe in Israel, and my family is the least important of all the families of that tribe! Why are you talking like this to me?"
- 1 Samuel 11:13 - "No one will be executed today, for today the LORD has rescued Israel!"
- 1 Samuel 15:10 - "Then the LORD said to Samuel, 'I am sorry that I ever made Saul king, for he has not been loyal to me and has refused to obey my command.' Samuel was so deeply moved when he heard this that he cried out to the LORD all night."
- **the road to self-importance is paved with self-deception**
- Jeremiah 17:9 - "The human heart is the most deceitful of all things, and desperately wicked. Who really knows how bad it is?"
- **The most dangerous thing about being human is that we can deceive ourselves.**
- 1 Samuel 15:12 - "Early the next morning Samuel went to find Saul. Someone told him, 'Saul went to the town of Carmel to set up a monument to himself, then went on to Gilgal.'"
- 1 Samuel 15:13-23 - When Samuel finally found him, Saul greeted him cheerfully. "May the Lord bless you," he said. "I have carried out the Lord's command!" "Then what is all the bleating of sheep and goats and the lowing of cattle I hear?" Samuel demanded. "It's true that the army spared the best of the sheep, goats, and cattle," Saul admitted. "But they are going to sacrifice them to the Lord your God. We have destroyed everything else." Then Samuel said to Saul, "Stop! Listen to what the Lord told me last night!" "What did he tell you?" Saul asked. And Samuel told him, "Although you may think little of yourself, are you not the leader of the tribes of Israel? The Lord has anointed you king of Israel. And the Lord sent you on a mission and told you, 'Go and completely destroy the sinners, the Amalekites, until they are all dead.' Why haven't you obeyed the Lord? Why did you rush for the plunder and do what was evil in the Lord's sight?" "But I did obey the Lord," Saul insisted. "I carried out the mission he gave me. I brought back King Agag, but I destroyed everyone else. Then my troops brought in the best of the sheep, goats, cattle, and plunder to sacrifice to the Lord your God in Gilgal."
- ²² But Samuel replied, "What is more pleasing to the Lord: your burnt offerings and sacrifices or your obedience to his voice? Listen! Obedience is better than sacrifice, and submission is better than offering the fat of rams. Rebellion is as sinful as witchcraft,

and stubbornness as bad as worshiping idols. So because you have rejected the command of the Lord, he has rejected you as king.”

- **watch out for self-deception**
- **watch out for blame-shifting**
- **watch out for religious excuses**
- 1 Samuel 15:21 - “My troops brought in the best of the sheep, goats, cattle, and plunder to sacrifice to the Lord your God.”