



**Holy Trinity**  
Combe Down



**St Andrew's**  
Community Church

## Homegroup Material Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> November, 1 Samuel 9

**Pray:** Ps.119:118 *'open our eyes that we may see wonderful things in your law...'*

**Think:** Why was the people of Israel's request for a king in 1 Sam 8 such a bad idea? [have a look back at 8:7-18]. What's at the heart of their request for a king?

Are there ways we treat God like that too? Discuss them...

### Read 1 Samuel 9

Why does God decide to give them what they ask for after all? (v.15-16)

**Chew over:** this is tricky when we think about it. God is giving them (the stupid idea!) of a king because of his compassion for them in their distress. There is a tension here between his love and compassion for them and his holiness – this request for a king is a rejection of Him (8:7). What do we learn here about God? How is this tension resolved in the person of Jesus? [you may also at this point want to consider the ways in which Saul is a little forerunner/type of Jesus in this story]

**Apply:** Think back to the times you have treated God a little like the Israelites in ch.8. How did it end up? Where can you see God's kindness to you in it? Was it used to discipline you in some way? [Heb.12:5-11]

**Re-cap:** Scan back over the details of the story. It is a long series of 'chance events'. We saw on Sunday that this story actually highlights God's warm providence. Here is one definition of providence:

*"Providence is God's way of providing for the needs of his people...that wonderful, strange, mysterious, unguessable way Yahweh has of ruling his world and sustaining his people, and his doing it, frequently, over, under, around, through or in spite of the most common stuff of our lives or even the bias of our wills."* (Dale Ralph Davis)

How does this story of providence encourage you in your own life? Consider how Saul may have felt at various points in the story.

Are there examples you can give of seeing God's providence in your life (whether spectacular or mundane)? How does it encourage you in your faith? What do we do when we can't see God's providence or we can't understand why certain things have happened?

**Worship/Prayer:**

If you know something of the rest of the story you will know that Saul does not go on to be a good king. God's prediction of how things will turn out for them with a human king is accurate. Finish your time together by thinking about the ways in which Jesus is the perfect king. Be specific with examples or ideas. Then spend some time in worship, before praying together.

Tim Lewis