

When Faced with Darkness (Dr. Paul Utnage)

Text: 1 Samuel 28

Purpose: Today we're gonna talk about anxiety in the face of uncertain futures. Our immediate future changes week by week, sometimes moment by moment. There's not only been the prospect of sickness, there's the potential for economic struggle, and a growing racial inequality that seems to be getting worse in many circles. More specifically for you here at Calvary, folks have faced the anxiety of going through leadership transitions and trying to get answers to questions, some of which have not been easy. Even church life has been a trying time for a number of you. That's what you face, and by the way, people outside your circles are praying for you. We need you as a church. Beyond that, there's always the regular stresses of regular lives. You know those stresses; you've lived with that anxiety.

Opening Interaction: Ask each person in the group two questions. First, ask each person to describe what kind of "planner" they are. Second, ask each person how much "control" of life (situations, circumstances, outcomes) tempts - or frustrates! - them.

Read the passage and Discuss:

- In this passage, what details seem important? Does anything jump out at you?
 - What is the author communicating to the audience?
 - What does this passage teach us about God?
1. How did Saul finally fail at the end?
 2. Why did Saul fail?
 3. And how can we avoid the thing that destroyed him?

Calvary Season of Prayer: Praise

Have a group member pull up calvary.church/prayer and read the weekly blog. This week is about praise. After reading, ask your group if they would bow their heads and at random offer praise to God.

Three things to pray for:

- There are a number of seriously ill persons in Calvary Church. Pray for their comfort and wellbeing. Pray for them by name if you know who they are.
- Pray for school-age children. Their weekly routines are in full swing. Especially pray for the children of your group members - by name!
- Pray for Dr. Paul and his wife Brenda as they move into St. Charles County and travel to visit family in the next couple of weeks.