**1 Samuel: Israel made a mistake in choosing a human king (1 Samuel 12:6-19)**

**Israel had a perfect King. Their problems never resulted from His leadership, only their sin and their departure from His leadership and His Law.**

**One reality emerges: any human leader is hopelessly flawed. The only perfect leader is a divine leader.**

**The issue is consistently the heart. Do we have a heart for God?**

**Summary of chapter lessons**

**Chapter 1: Breaking God’s pattern for the home causes problems.**

 **\*\*\*What seems bad is not always bad.**

**Chapters 2-3: Hannah’s humility and Eli’s failure**

 **\*\*\*Being spiritual does not automatically make a good parent.**

 **\*\*\*God gives grace to the humble.**

 **\*\*\*Even as leadership decays, God is at work.**

 **\*\*\*We can’t just talk about discipline; we have to do it.**

**Chapter 4: We can’t replace doing things God’s way with “good luck charms”.**

 **\*\*\*The instrument of God’s work should never be confused with the**

 **Source of that power.**

**Chapter 5-6: There is loss for us when we don’t glorify God, but He can take care**

 **of Himself and His reputation.**

 **\*\*\*Many of our problems stem from a lack of knowledge of God.**

 **\*\*\*It’s dangerous to want to be like the world.**

**Chapter 7-8: Rejecting God’s rule in our lives is a big mistake.**

 **\*\*\*When we repent, we should also learn.**

**Chapter 9-10: It’s a mistake to focus on the outward when determining a person’s**

 **potential spiritually, including your own.**

 **\*\*\*Focusing on ourselves leads to insecurity.**

 **\*\*\*Our character flaws left unattended worsen and can end in disaster.**

 **\*\*\*Our sins, even forgiven, can lead to serious consequences.**

**Chapter 11: When we live for the Lord, what could have been becomes what is.**

**Chapter 12: The Lord’s leadership is what we need.**

**Chapter 13: A person after God’s heart is teachable and obeys.**

 **\*\*\*God wants our obedience, not religious formality.**

 **\*\*\*Giving in to fear can bring about the very things we fear.**

**Chapter 14: Spiritual people don’t simply react to life; they act on faith.**

 **\*\*\*Sometimes God uses family members to teach us.**

**Chapter 15: God wants obedience, not religious formality.**

**Chapter 16: When we allow our insecurities to grow, they cause us to value man’s**

 **approval over God’s…and that can bring a price.**

**Chapter 17: Successfully dealing with our problems demands a spiritual**

 **perspective.**

**Chapter 18-19: Persistent sin ruins parents and their impact.**

 **\*\*\*Giving in to fear can bring the very thing we fear.**

**Chapter 20: A good friend values their friends and what happens to them.**

**Chapter 21: Fear destroys faith.**

**Chapter 22: God will exert pressure to bring us back to Himself.**

**Chapter 23: Our help is from the Lord.**

**Chapter 24: What makes sense to us may be wrong before the Lord (Pr. 14:12)**

**Chapter 25: A fool will not listen to the wise.**

**Chapter 26: Dealing with foolishness is exhausting, and exhaustion is dangerous.**

**Chapter 27: Our solutions may be worse than the problem.**

**Chapter 28:** **There is no good alternative to getting right with God.**

 **\*\*\*Over time, a bad idea becomes a really bad idea.**

**Chapter 29-30: God knows how to get our attention and when He does, we should**

 **listen.**

**Chapter 31: Refusing to respond to God will not end well.**