

Week 7: Promise to a Shepherd

Fellowship

- **Eat:** Ask 2-3 others to prepare a meal, sides, drinks for everyone, frame it as a communion meal!
- **Check-Ins:** In a large group or small groups of 2-3 do an emotional check-in—What is something you think the Lord is trying to teach you right now? Pray for one another for revelation and insight.

Adoration

- **Prayer:** Open to *The Beatitudes* from Matthew 5:2-12. Read one at a time out loud, then have someone pray that quality over our world, friends, family, enemies, political leaders, and so on.
- **Worship:** Ask someone to lead worship or use a speaker with your favorite music App.

Learning

- **Scripture:**
 - Reflection question from last week. Why do you think God gave Israel commandments rather than a list of beliefs to learn? Have you ever thought about this? What does this say about our humanity? What does it say about what we need?
 - Provide context before reading: (1) After Israel wandered in the desert for 40 years Moses passed away, (2) Israel established themselves in the promised land under the leadership of Joshua, (3) there are tumultuous years of tribalism and fighting.
 - **Read 1 Samuel 8:1-9**
 - **Summarize** Ask if anyone in the group can summarize what happens next in the story?
 - **Read 2 Samuel 7** “God’s Covenant with David”
 - What do you think of the contrast between these passages? What are you learning about the character of God through his response to Israel’s demand for a King? From his commitment of covenantal love to David?
 - What do we learn about humanity from David’s prayer?
- **Resources:**
 - Consider engaging this topic through Vaughan Roberts words from **God’s Big Picture** (pdf on *Church @ Home* tab or in the shared folder)
- **Dialogue Questions:**
 - What strikes you about the prophetic word brought to David from Nathan? Is it clear? Confusing? What do you think about Vaughan Robert’s comments?
 - What is striking about this covenant? How is it similar or different to previous covenants?
 - These passages highlight God’s accomodation and willingness to meet humanity where they are in their culture, desires, and understanding. How have you seen God accommodate to your weaknesses, bias, etc?
 - Have you ever had someone share a “prophetic word” with you? What was that experience like? Was it clear right away? How did time change your understanding of that word?
- **Implication Ideas:**
 - Reflect on the significance of Jesus being our eternal King in light of the political election season we are in. Does allegiance to Jesus change how you approach politics? How so?
 - Spend some time with God and ask him if he wants to use you to share anything with anyone? If this is intimidating try asking God for a word for someone you know and trust.