



Topeka Bible Church
“What is Certain in a World of Uncertainty”
Community Group Study Questions
1 Samuel 11 and selected passages

1. Think back over this past year. What were you certain of in life a year ago? Have some of those certainties shifted to uncertainties? What does God want us to do during uncertain times (*Philippians 4:6-7; Matthew 6:33-34; Psalm 18:2*)?

2. Why did the people of Jabesh Gilead (cf. *Judges 21:8-9*) want to make a treaty with Nahash, the Ammonite (*1 Samuel 11:1*)? How did Nahash respond (*1 Samuel 11:2*)? Why did he want to make the people of Jabesh a disgrace/reproach to Israel (cf. *Psalm 44:13*)?

3. Why did Nahash agree to wait seven days instead of simply attacking the people of Jabesh (*1 Samuel 11:3*)? What uncertainty were the people of Jabesh facing? How did they respond to their uncertainty (*1 Samuel 11:4*)?

4. Who responded to the people’s weeping (*1 Samuel 11:5*)? Would the people of Jabesh have expected this response? Has God ever surprised you with His response or solution during your times of uncertainty (*Isaiah 41:10*)?

5. Why did Saul become so angry (*1 Samuel 11:6; Ephesians 4:26*)? Does this anger seem strange since God's Spirit had come upon Saul? What did the presence of God's Spirit symbolize in the Old Testament (*Judges 3:10; 6:34; 1 Samuel 16:13; Psalm 51:11*)? Why did Saul cut the oxen into pieces (*1 Samuel 11:7*)?

6. What ultimately happened to Nahash and his people (*1 Samuel 11:11*)? Did the people of Jabesh Gilead appreciate Saul's actions (Notice what they did in *1 Samuel 31:11-13*)? While Saul appeared to deliver the people of Jabesh, Who really delivered them (*1 Samuel 11:13; 1 Chronicles 11:14; Proverbs 21:31*)?

7. Who delivers you during your time of uncertainty (*Acts 18:9-10*)? What does this deliverance look like (*Romans 8:37-39; 1 Corinthians 15:57; 2 Corinthians 2:14*)? Where do you need to trust God for "deliverance" in the midst of your uncertainty right now? How should you respond (*Deuteronomy 28:1-2, 15*)?

Memory Verse:

"But Saul said, 'Not a man shall be put to death this day, for today the LORD has accomplished deliverance in Israel.'"
(1 Samuel 11:12, NASB)