

**Think It Over:** This section is about turning what God is saying to you into action steps. These talking points, questions, and scriptures are designed to help you take your own next step. If you are leading a group through this guide, don't feel like you have to answer every question. Pick out those questions that will stir up conversation and action among your group.

- What did you like to pretend to be when you were a kid? Why do kids like to pretend to be someone else? When is it time for kids to realize who they are and stop pretending to be someone else? Why is it sad when we don't grow out of that?
- Read 1 Samuel 17:32-40. What are your first reactions? How was this a really bad plan for David? How is it really a bad plan for you to be someone you are not? What are some of the key things you need to remember when it comes to the assignments God gives you? How does Psalm 20:7 come into play?
- Review the *What are you armed with?* section. How has a "one size fits all" perception created problems in your spiritual growth? Read 1 Samuel 15:22. Why is that and 1 John 2:3-6 ERV so important to remember? How have you allowed tools to become rules in your life? Have you ever tried to make *your* tools rules for another person?
- Read Ephesians 6:10-18. What are you reminded of or what do you learn about the spiritual battle from this passage? Can you think of any ways Christians experience the spiritual battle Paul talks about? Pick two of the pieces of armor and jot down any thoughts you have on how each of them could help us live the Christian life. Why do you think Paul ends this passage with such an emphasis on praying for one another?
- Read Luke 18:9-14. How would you describe how each of these men related to God? What would it be like to have these two men in your Community Group? How do you think they'd relate to everyone else in the group?

**Next Steps:** How will you apply the Bottom Line to your everyday life? What do you really need to watch out for?

**Changing Your Mind:** Choose one of the verses listed in the Message Guide and commit it to heart.



If you missed a message, visit [www.scc.website](http://www.scc.website) or request a CD at Guest Services.



1 Samuel 17:32-58 NIV page 196

<sup>14</sup>...the Lord has sought out a man after his own heart. The Lord has already appointed him to be the leader of his people, because you have not kept the Lord's command."  
1 Samuel 13:14 NLT

### ➤ Armor for the Christ-following Life

➤ Saul's plan - be someone you are not. (32-38)

➤ David's plan - be who you are. (38-44)

<sup>7</sup>Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God.  
Psalm 20:7 NIV

➤ God's plan - your doing comes out of your being. (45-58)

### Assignments

Aligned with who David was

Aligned with how God had prepared David

Aligned with what God was calling David to do

Go in the power of your relationship with the Lord,  
not in the power of all you trust.

## What are you armed with?

### Religion or Relationship

A personal relationship doesn't mean a different set of rules. It means a different way of connecting.

<sup>15</sup>*If you love me, show it by doing what I've told you.* John 14:15 MSG

<sup>3</sup>*If we obey what God has told us to do, then we are sure that we know him.* <sup>4</sup>*If we say we know God but do not obey his commands, we are lying. The truth is not in us.* <sup>5</sup>*But when we obey God's teaching, his love is truly working in us. This is how we know that we are living in him.* <sup>6</sup>*If we say we live in God, we must live the way Jesus lived.*

1 John 2:3-6 ERV

<sup>11</sup>*So take everything the Master has set out for you, well-made weapons of the best materials. And put them to use so you will be able to stand up to everything the Devil throws your way.* <sup>12</sup>*This is no afternoon athletic contest that we'll walk away from and forget about in a couple of hours. This is for keeps, a life-or-death fight to the finish against the Devil and all his angels.* <sup>13</sup>*Be prepared. You're up against far more than you can handle on your own. Take all the help you can get, every weapon God has issued, so that when it's all over but the shouting you'll still be on your feet.*

Ephesians 6:11–14 MSG

### ➤ One size fits all VS no two are exactly alike

<sup>5</sup>*God did this so that he could buy the freedom of those who were under the law. God's purpose was to make us his children. Since you are now God's children, he has sent the Spirit of his Son into your hearts. The Spirit cries out, "Abba Father."* <sup>7</sup>*Now you are not slaves like before. You are God's children, and you will receive everything he promised his children.*

Galatians 4:5-6 ERV

<sup>7</sup>*Each person is given something to do that shows who God is: Everyone gets in on it, everyone benefits. All kinds of things are handed out by the Spirit, and to all kinds of people!* <sup>11</sup>*All these gifts have a common origin, but are handed out one by one by the one Spirit of God. He decides who gets what, and when.* <sup>12</sup>*You can easily enough see how this kind of thing works by looking no further than your own body. Your body has many parts—limbs, organs, cells—but no matter how many parts you can name, you're still one body. It's exactly the same with Christ.*

1 Corinthians 12:7, 11–12 MSG (see 12:8-10)

### ➤ A senseless God VS a loving Father

He is to be trusted, obeyed, and properly feared.

<sup>22</sup>*But Samuel replied, "What is more pleasing to the Lord: your burnt offerings and sacrifices or your obedience to his voice? Listen! Obedience is better than sacrifice, and submission is better than offering the fat of rams.*

1 Samuel 15:22 NLT

<sup>13</sup>*Go figure out what this Scripture means: 'I'm after mercy, not religion.' I'm here to invite outsiders, not coddle insiders."*

Matthew 9:13 MSG

### ➤ Tools VS rules

<sup>4</sup>*Instead of giving you God's Law as food and drink by which you can banquet on God, they package it in bundles of rules, loading you down like pack animals. They seem to take pleasure in watching you stagger under these loads, and wouldn't think of lifting a finger to help.*

Matthew 23:4 MSG

<sup>1</sup>... It seems that everyone believes his own opinion is right on this matter. How easily we get puffed up over our opinions! But love builds up the structure of our new life. <sup>2</sup>If anyone thinks of himself as a know-it-all, he still has a lot to learn.

1 Corinthians 8:1–2 TPT

<sup>3</sup>...So, no matter what I say, what I believe, and what I do, I'm bankrupt without love.

1 Corinthians 13:3 MSG

<sup>27</sup>*Jesus finished by saying, People were not made for the good of the Sabbath. The Sabbath was made for the good of people.*

Mark 2:27 CEV

### Bottom Line:

Religion transforms tools into rules  
while relationship uses rules as tools.

Resources for this message include messages by North Coast Community Church, Alistair Begg, Ray Fowler, and Summit Church.

To help you turn what God is saying to you into action steps, consider using the Think It Over section on the back.