



## Introduction

Our series *Big Story* continues this week with Erik Dunkin's message entitled "Rejected," taken from 1 Samuel 8. Israel realized they could not fully follow the Law of Moses and were feeling weak and inadequate. The leaders decided to ask Samuel for a king, so they could be like the nations around them. They rejected God because they refused to embrace their own weakness, which caused them to follow a rebellious and painful path. Just like many people today, they were stuck on appearing strong. We need to be okay with looking "weak" or different from the world around us, for in that weakness, God is strong.

## Discussion

1. **Read 1 Samuel 16.** In verse 7, the Lord is giving Samuel instructions on how to find the next leader of Israel. What is the difference between looking like a leader and being a true leader?
2. **Read 2 Corinthians 12:7-10.** What is Paul asking God to do? What is His answer? Share one experience where God used a weakness in you to manifest His power.
3. What are some areas in your life you're be afraid to appear weak or inadequate? Where do you think this fear comes from? Pray about it as a group.

## Think About It

"You come against me with a sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied...All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the Lord saves; for the battle is the Lord's, and he will give all of you into our hands." [1 Samuel 17:45,47] One of the most famous battle cries in the Bible comes from a young man fighting a nation's largest and deadliest warrior. David, stripped of armor and carrying a few stones and a sling, wasn't dismayed by the ridicule of his brothers or the enemy crowd around him. He knew his strength came from the Lord, and the battle was His to fight. God wants to fight our battles for us. He wants us to rely on Him, lean on His strength to help us fight the "deadly warriors" in our lives.

## Do Something

1. Write down anything you see as a "weakness" in your character [personality, skill set, etc.]. Pray that God will reveal His truth about each of these "weaknesses" to you. After praying, write down what God revealed to you about each of these "weaknesses."
2. As a group, pray about how you can reach out to someone in your circle who seems to be struggling spiritually.
3. Determine what it looks like to be "set apart" for God. What steps do you need to take in your life to follow God more closely?