

# Vineyard Crossroads Church

Sunday, August 15, 2010

Reef's Notes

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## Finding our Story – *Entering God's Story*

### ***God speaks today***

**Bible Text: 1Samuel 28**

**Introduction** – *Where do you turn in times of trouble?*

**When God is silent – consider and be aware of the following:**

- the reality of the supernatural (including spiritual warfare, witchcraft, demonization)
- what God has to say about magic
- your participation in the supernatural and in things that God says are off limits
- the condition of your own heart

**Inquiring of the Lord – the practice of seeking God's guidance**

- seeking God versus seeking God's guidance
- supernatural ways that God speaks to his people
- “common” ways that God speaks to his people
  - God's Word, God's Spirit, God's people
- living a Christ-centered life

**How to inquire of the Lord**

- be humble
- be specific
- make it a regular practice
- expect an answer
- be patient
- be teachable and obedient

**Conclusion** – *approaching life, death, and the end with confidence and hope in God*

# Devotional Life Worksheet

August 15-21, 2010

Finding our Story – Entering God’s Story

*God speaks today*

Bible Text: 1 Samuel 28

**This worksheet is designed to help you in your personal study and individual reflection, and for small group discussion and comment.**

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**Devotion #1** – Read 1<sup>st</sup> Samuel chapter 28. Weird, huh? Saul’s behavior in this chapter is a summary of how he has approached God, God’s call on his life, and the difficulties of life. Where do *you* turn in times of trouble? Think back on the last couple of years; reflect on choices you have made during difficult times. Who or what have you turned to? Did you turn to God, or something else? As you reflect on where you turn in times of trouble, what does this say about the condition of your heart?

**Devotion #2** – Do you believe in the reality of the spiritual or supernatural realm? How do your belief and experience of the supernatural affect your everyday life? Do you agree with the idea that spiritual warfare is a part of normal Christianity? Why? Why are things like magic, witchcraft, necromancy, paranormal psychology, and so forth off limits for followers of Jesus Christ?

**Devotion #3** – God speaks today, but for some people God is silent. Sometimes God is silent because of willful disobedience on our part, or participation in the occult. Sometimes a person is unable to hear or experience God because of severe trauma in their life (past or present). If you have participated in the occult, or have experienced some kind of severe trauma in your life from which you are still suffering; if you are dealing with some unconfessed or ongoing sin in your life; *and* God is silent in your life: turn to Jesus, deal with the sin or trauma (get some prayer and help from your small group leader or a pastor), exercise the authority and power of Jesus Christ, and get connected to some Christians who can go the distance with you.

**Devotion #4** – Read and reflect on Psalm 27:4. Why is inquiring of the Lord so important for followers of Jesus Christ? Do you regularly practice seeking God and his guidance in your life? Consider the various things that Pastor David mentioned for inquiring of the Lord: be humble, specific, and patient; be teachable and obedient; make it a regular practice; and expect an answer from God when you seek him. Talk with your small group or some Christian friends about inquiring of the Lord. Consider how you can encourage one another in this practice, grow in this important area of the Jesus journey, and hold each other accountable in this area.

**Devotion #5** – There will come a day when we all will stand before God – either at our death, or at the end of this age when Christ returns. As you think about your own death and the end, what comes to mind? Do you live your life with the awareness of standing before God some day and giving an account for your life? Are you able to consider things like your death and the end with a confidence and hope in God? Have you been ignoring God or being distant from him? Set aside some time today or this week to pursue God in extended prayer and worship. Think through what it means schedule-wise, heart-wise, and priority-wise, to continually cultivate your relationship with the Lord. How are you doing at this?