**Chapter 10: standing tall, falling hard**

**Icebreaker Question**: Share about a time when you had to admit you were wrong. Was this easy or hard?

1. Eli’s encouragement helped Hannah move from deep sadness to hope. Share about a time when someone deeply encouraged you.

2. What can we learn about prayer from Hannah and Samuel?

3. Compare the three fathers in the story: Elkanah, Eli and Samuel. What were their best and worst traits? Which of these traits do you wish you had more of?

4. Samuel was probably about 12 years old when God called him to be a prophet to Eli and all of Israel. He was required to speak the truth in love to his mentor and friend. Have you ever been in this position?

5. The Israelites and the Philistines both treated the Ark of the Covenant more like a good-luck charm than the sacred presence of the LORD. How might people today try to manipulate God for similar advantage?

6. Samuel is hurt when he sees that the Israelites want a king like other nations, instead of recognizing God as their king. Do you ever struggle with a desire to be like the culture around you, instead of letting God rule your life?

7. You are on the search committee for the first king of Israel. What would you look for in your applicants? What were Saul’s actual qualifications?

8. How do you think Samuel would have described the state of the nation at the end of his time as judge? Where do you see God’s grace in his statement after the battle with the Ammonites?

9. Imagine you have a friend like Saul, who keeps taking matters into her/his own hands and ignoring what God’s word teaches. What advice would you give her/him?

10. Chapter 10 opens with the beautiful story of Elkanah’s love and leadership of his family. The chapter closes with the story of Saul’s poor leadership of Israel and his self-love. Compare and contrast the leadership styles of these two men. In what ways is your leadership style similar to either one? In what areas can you improve?

In the time remaining ask your group members to share any of their personal reflection insights from their journal entries.