



Under Pressure #4

Pressure Reveals Our Leadership

Call Study – Jason Park

⁵ The Philistines assembled to fight Israel, with three thousand chariots, six thousand charioteers, and soldiers as numerous as the sand on the seashore. They went up and camped at Mikdash, east of Beth Aven. ⁶ When the Israelites saw that their situation was critical and that their army was hard pressed, they hid in caves and thickets, among the rocks, and in pits and cisterns. ⁷ Some Hebrews even crossed the Jordan to the land of Gad and Gilead. Saul remained at Gilgal, and all the troops with him were quaking with fear. ⁸ He waited seven days, the time set by Samuel; but Samuel did not come to Gilgal, and Saul's men began to scatter. **1 Sam. 13:5–8**

Leadership: The ability to influence others while faithfully following God.

BIG IDEA: Pressure reveals who is really leading us. (Who's really in charge?)

PRESSURE REVEALS WHO WE **TRUST**

⁸ He (Saul) waited seven days, the time set by Samuel; but Samuel did not come to Gilgal, and Saul's men began to scatter. ⁹ So he said, "Bring me the burnt offering and the fellowship offerings." And Saul offered up the burnt offering. ¹⁰ Just as he finished making the offering, Samuel arrived, and Saul went out to greet him. ¹¹ "What have you done?" asked Samuel. Saul replied, "When I saw that the men were scattering, and that you did not come at the set time, and that the Philistines were assembling at Mikdash, ¹² I thought, 'Now the Philistines will come down against me at Gilgal, and I have not sought the Lord's favor.' So, I felt compelled to offer the burnt offering." **1 Sam. 13:8–12**

Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. **Prov. 3:5**

Truth: Pressure reveals what we trust when circumstances move beyond our control.

How would you explain, "your own understanding?" _____

Q: When pressure rises, where are you most tempted to take control instead of trusting God?

PRESSURE REVEALS WHO WE **FEAR**

²⁰ "But I did obey the Lord," Saul said. "I went on the mission the Lord assigned me. I completely destroyed the Amalekites and brought back Agag their king. ²¹ The soldiers took sheep and cattle from the plunder, the best of what was devoted to God, in order to sacrifice them to the Lord your God at Gilgal." ²² But Samuel replied: "Does the Lord delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the Lord? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams. ²³ For rebellion is like the sin of divination, and arrogance like the evil of idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, he has rejected you as king." ²⁴ Then Saul said to Samuel, "I have sinned. I violated the Lord's command and your instructions. I was afraid of the men and so I gave in to them. **1 Sam. 15:20–24**

Fear of man will prove to be a snare, but whoever trusts in the LORD is kept safe. **Prov. 29:25**

Truth: Who you fear will eventually influence how you lead.

Q: Whose approval or opinion has the greatest influence on your decisions under pressure?

PRESSURE REVEALS WHO WE **FOLLOW**

²⁴ Then Saul said to Samuel, “I have sinned. I violated the Lord’s command and your instructions. I was afraid of the men and so I gave in to them. ²⁵ Now I beg you, forgive my sin and come back with me, so that I may worship the Lord.” ²⁶ But Samuel said to him, “I will not go back with you. You have rejected the word of the Lord, and the Lord has rejected you as king over Israel!” **1 Sam. 15:24-26**

Then he said to them all: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.” **Luke 9:23**

Truth: Before we can lead others well, we must learn to follow God well.

Q: What does your response to pressure reveal about who you are really following?

**EVERYONE OF US IS A FOLLOWER
PRESSURE REVEALED SAUL’S LEADERSHIP**

TRUST GOD vs. TAKE CONTROL

OBEY vs. COMPROMISE

FEAR GOD vs. FEAR PEOPLE

FOLLOW GOD vs. FALL TO PRESSURE

THIS WEEK’S CHALLENGE: Pressure is coming.

The question isn’t whether you will be influenced—it’s who will influence you when the pressure rises.

Where are you tempted to take control instead of trusting God?

Whose approval are you most afraid to lose?

Where is pressure tempting you to compromise what God has told you to do?

Who is really leading you?

Memory Verse

“Then Saul said to Samuel, ‘I have sinned. I violated the LORD’s command and your instructions. I was afraid of the men and so I gave in to them.’” **1 Sam. 15:24**

How can we pray for you?

2026 Bible Reading Plan
OT/PS/NT

