

THE ESSENTIAL NATURE OF TRUST

Title: SAUL – A Tragedy of Misplaced Trust.

I invite you to walk with me through the Old Testament and discover how God uses the stories of broken men—not perfect ones—to help us learn to trust Him.

These lives aren't just ancient history; they are windows into our own struggles and hopes. Each story leads us closer to Jesus, the one in whom all trust finds its meaning.

Along the way, your “trust muscle” will be stretched and strengthened as we explore what it means to truly follow the One who is trustworthy.

Let's take the journey together.



Series Overview

1. Goal: Strengthen trust in Jesus through Old Testament characters.
2. Theme: Who Do You Trust?
Who Do You Follow?
3. Outcome: Build trust in relationships, make discerning decisions, and deepen your relationship with Jesus.



SAUL – The Tragedy!

1. SELF-ABSORBED → Saul Prioritized **Performance Over Obedience**. When Saul offered the burnt offering instead of waiting for Samuel, he placed **outward action over inward obedience**. He feared the people's opinion more than God's command. I Samuel 13. Saul trusted **his own timing** more than God's word. **Life Application:** When we care more about appearances than obedience, we start building trust on sand. *"To obey is better than sacrifice..." – 1 Samuel 15:22*



SAUL – The Tragedy!

2. FEAR-BASED → Saul Was Driven by Insecurity and Fear. As David's popularity grew, Saul became obsessed with control and comparison. His fear turned to jealousy, and jealousy turned to rage. I Samuel 18:7-9. He couldn't trust God's sovereignty or celebrate others' success. **Life Application:** Insecurity erodes trust because it shifts our focus from God's calling to someone else's spotlight. *"Saul has slain his thousands, and David his tens of thousands..." – and Saul burned with envy.*



SAUL – The Tragedy!

3. VICTIM MENTALITY → Saul Refused to Take Responsibility. After disobeying God by sparing King Agag and the best of the Amalekite plunder, Saul made excuses and blamed the people. I Samuel 15. Saul couldn't own his failure, which kept him from being restored. **Life**

Application: Without honesty and humility, broken trust can't be repaired. Trust dies when responsibility is deflected. *“I have sinned,” Saul finally says—but only after being cornered. Too little, too late.*



The 5 Essentials of Trust

1. Understanding

You trust people who 'get you.' They listen, empathize, and validate your perspective without quick fixes.

2. Motive

Trust is built when the other person's heart is for you, not just for their own interests. You feel safe when someone genuinely wants your good.

3. Ability

Good intentions aren't enough. We trust people who are competent—who have the skills, wisdom, or experience to follow through.



The 5 Essentials of Trust

4. Character

You trust those who do the right thing when it costs them. Integrity, humility, and consistency over time shape deep trust.

5. Track Record

Trust is strengthened when someone has shown up again and again—when they've proven themselves trustworthy through real-life situations.



BUILD YOUR TRUST MUSCLE

1. Intentional Growth → Trust Is Grown, Not Given.

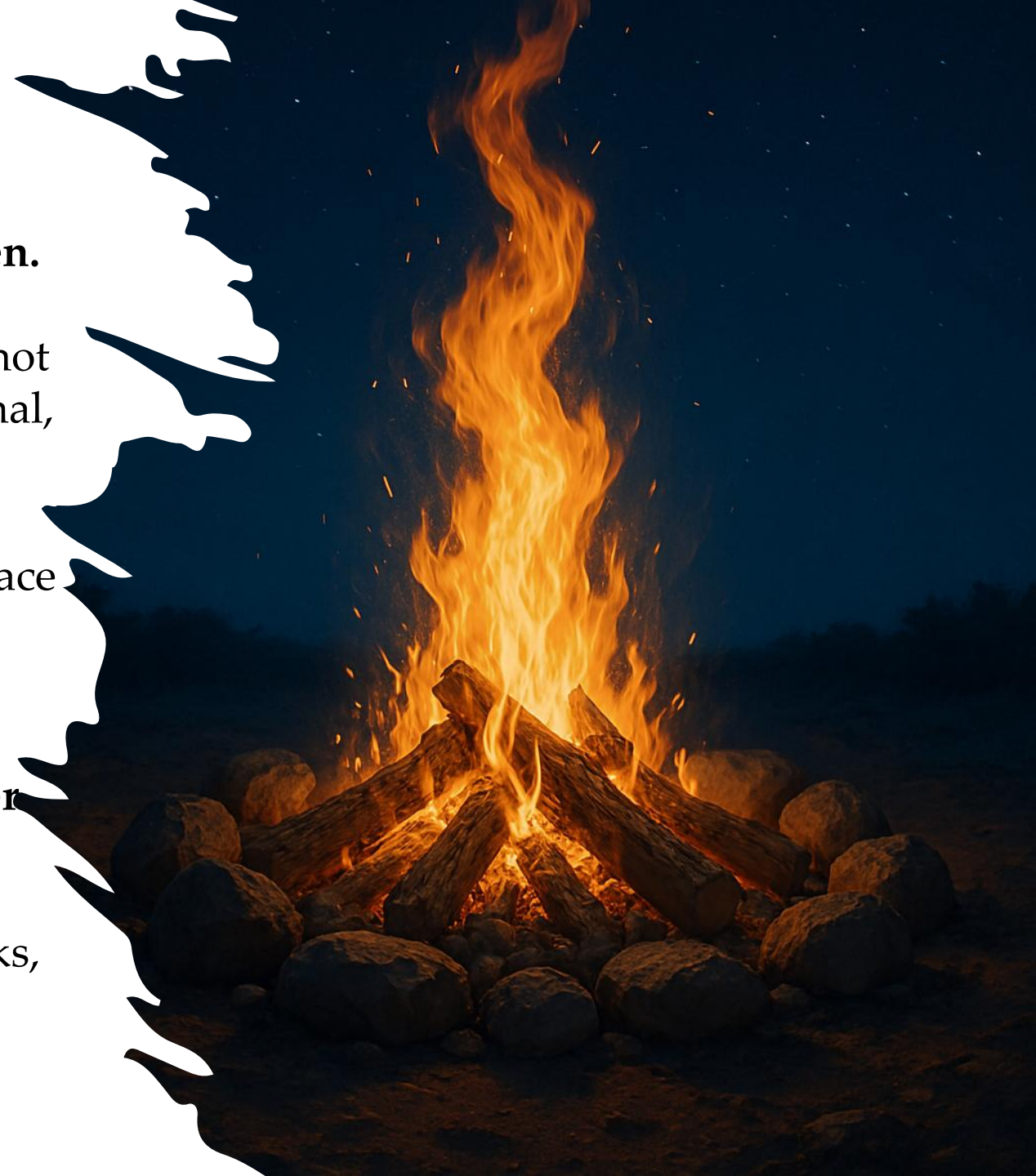
Trust develops over time through small, repeated experiences of vulnerability and repair. It's earned, not assumed. Quote: "We grow trust by taking intentional, small steps toward people who prove trustworthy."

2. Relational Training → Trust Strengthens in Community.

Real relationships that involve both grace and truth become the training ground for learning how to trust. Quote: "Real relationships are the training ground for building your trust reflex."

3. Restorative Repair → Requires Rebuilding After Breaks.

Broken trust is not the end. It becomes an opportunity for growth if both parties are willing to engage the repair process. Quote: "When trust breaks, those willing to work through it get stronger—not weaker."



Take Action!

Journal Prompts

1. Where in your life have you been tempted to perform for approval instead of obeying God?
2. How has insecurity or comparison affected your ability to trust?
3. Have you taken full responsibility for your failures, or are you still making excuses?

