



long  
story  
short



National  
Community  
Church

**Date & Sermon Series:**

March 18/19, 2017; Long Story Short

**Speaker: Pastor Heather Zempel**

**Scripture Focus:** Various on OT Kings (1 Sam 13:8-9, 17:36-37, 1 Kings 11:1-6, 1 Kings 12)

**Note to Leaders:**

This weekend we discussed The Kingdom. These questions provide a framework to prompt or foster discussion in addition to what is in your Long Story Short Curriculum Booklet. Don't feel you have to use all or any of these questions and you don't have to make it to the end! Use the questions that best fit your group and let discussion flow.

**Sermon Series Questions:**

1. What did God reveal to you?
2. What are you going to do about it?
3. What is one element of God's character you learned?

**Specific Questions:**

1. Pastor Heather says, "The outcome of our lives is not based on our abilities or opportunities but on our obedience to God." Where do you find yourself relying on your own abilities to try to gain the next opportunity?
2. In 1 Samuel 15:22, Why does Samuel say "obedience is better than sacrifice" when he knew sacrifice was crucial for this culture?
3. What is your response to failure?
4. Do you tend to get "ahead of the Spirit" or "lag behind the Spirit"? Where do you need to be more engaged in the presence of God?
5. Pastor Heather says that idolatry today looks different. We aren't worshipping all of these other gods. "We don't completely turn our back on God. We just don't always follow God completely." Where are you not completely trusting God? Where do we try

to “add to” God or cover our bases?

6. Pastor Heather asks us these questions to help us better understand the root of idolatry in our lives:

- To what or whom do we look to find value?
- Where do you find safety, refuge, comfort, pleasure, security, or shelter?
- Who must you please? Whose opinions count?
- Who or what makes the final decisions in your life?
- Where do you place your trust?

7. What would it look like for God's kingdom to be established in our generation?