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## Small Group Homework

For the week of: September 24, 2017

Speaker: Pastor Linn Winters

*"The Sway of Culture"*

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### GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. Was there ever a time in your childhood when you chose to do what you wanted regardless of what adults were telling you only to find out they were right? How old were you and what were the circumstances?
2. Make a list of some of the common influences of our culture, both good and adverse consequences.

How have these shaped you and the life you live now?

### QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

### DIGGING DEEPER

There's an unstated part of the American dream. It goes like this: *"We have the freedom to do what we want, when we want, with whom we want to do it, and nobody can tell us what to do.... As long as it doesn't hurt anybody."* But what if life doesn't work that way? What if you can't do what's right in your own eyes without eventually hurting someone?

1. Do you ever daydream about a life in which you don't have to answer to anyone—your boss, your parents, your spouse, the IRS? What is the allure of that kind of fantasy?
2. Consider the story in Judges 19–20. How is it that circumstances spun out of control even though everyone in the story did what they thought

was right? In your own life, when have you seen or experienced adverse consequences from people doing what they think is right?

3. Judges is a book that is filled with some of the darkest stories that can be told. Why do you think God would want and allow such stories to be printed and called Bible? What is He trying to teach us?
4. Below are biblical stories of sin and consequence. Read each one and discuss how they are similar to our culture today and what can be learned.

Sin  
Genesis 3:6-12

Consequence  
Genesis 3:13-19

Exodus 5:2

Exodus 14:26-28

Jonah 1:1-3

Jonah 1:4-17

5. If you were God, how would you respond to a culture, a nation, or an individual characterized by an attitude of *what I want, when I want it, with whom I want?*
6. How might your life be different if your standard of behavior changed from doing what you want as long as it *doesn't hurt* anyone to doing what you want as long as it *helps* someone? How would your relationships be different?

### TAKING IT HOME

None of us wants a king until doing what we want lands us in a place where we can't do what we want. When we begin to reap what we sow, we all look for a king to bail us out. We throw ourselves on the mercy of our parents, our bosses, the government . . . or God.

What steps can we take TODAY that will guide to be obedient to Jesus now rather than later?

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### Prayer Requests:

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