



# INTRODUCTION

Welcome to a study on the Life of King David. This is part one in a four part series that looks at one of the greatest characters in all of Scripture. Consider these facts about David:

- ☞ David was the only person in Scripture to be called “a man after God’s own heart” (1 Sam. 13:14; Acts 13:22).
- ☞ Jesus Christ is called the Son of David (Matt. 1:1).
- ☞ In the New International Version there are fifty-four references to either David himself, David’s writings or the lineage of King David.
- ☞ In the Old Testament Abraham is mentioned some 160 times, Moses is mentioned 718 times but King David is mentioned over 900 times!!!

So what was so special about the life of King David that Scripture was so concerned about? Why did God invest so much time, discussion and thought with David? Hopefully this study will seek to address some of those issues but also we will ask some hard questions about the life of David and what that means for Christians.

You may ask, “Why should we bother studying about Old Testament characters when we actually follow the New Testament for faith and guidance?” Paul summed it up best when he said:

*“For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope” (Rom. 15:4).<sup>1</sup>*

Those things written in the past that Paul was talking about was (and is) the Hebrew Scriptures known as the Old Testament. We learn from our past and adapt from our past. No doubt you have heard the adage, “History repeats itself” and even a

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<sup>1</sup> All Scripture will come from the New International Version (NIV) © 2011 unless otherwise noted.

half-hearted attempt at reading the Bible supports that truth.

This is where we meet the Biblical character David who is no stranger to repeating some of life's hardest lessons. Before we get any further we need to first discuss the purposes of these lessons and it is two-fold...

**INFORMATION:** Scripture is about knowing things about who God is and what His story says (Psalm 1).

*Purpose #1 – We want to understand what Scripture says about King David.*

**TRANSFORMATION:** It's not just enough to know things about God but we must allow the things we learn and study to transform our lives (Romans 12:2; Psalm 119:105).

*Purpose #2 – We want to allow what we learn about King David to form us spiritually and change our lives and the lives of others who we come in contact with.*

This is really the goal of Scripture: *To understand the story and place ourselves in that story as an ongoing reflection of the redemptive work of God.* The lessons are divided into four parts all of which are geared towards understand what the Scripture says and then allowing it to transform your lives.



🔗 **INITIATION (5-10 minutes):** This centers the lesson and directs our thoughts towards the thrust of the message.



🔗 **EXPLORATION (20-25 minutes):** This portion of the lesson is discussion-based and asks a series of questions designed to understand what the lesson-text is saying.



🔗 **APPLICATION (5-10 minutes):** This brings the lesson home and seeks to allow the student to make it personal.



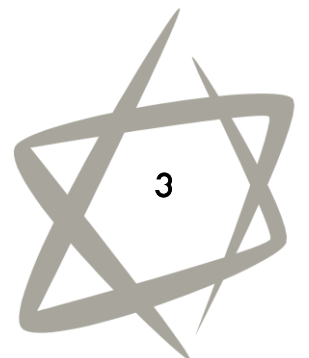
🔗 **MEDITATION (at home):** A brief devotional with other references for further study.

**It is my (Robbie) prayer that you will allow these lessons to penetrate your core because the Life of David has so much to offer us. These lessons will not cover every facet of David's life since this is a discussion-based (i.e. inductive) lesson. The teacher of the lessons is more of a facilitator of good discussion rather than a lecturer reading notes.**

**May we all strive to be like David who was...**

***"...a brave man and a warrior. He speaks well and is a fine-looking man. And the Lord is with him" (1 Sam. 16:18).***

*A note to the teacher. In case you get a "lull" in the discussion I will include my (Robbie) thoughts underneath each discussion question that you can either use or not use. It will be in this font and in this color. I will also include some space for you to take your own notes.*



# “AGAINST ALL ODDS”

1 Sam. 16:14-17:47



## INITIATION

God has always been in the business of choosing the least to serve in the greatest positions. Think about the twelve apostles in how Jesus chose fisherman, tax collectors and other unlikely people to be at the top of Jesus' disciples. If you think about Jesus he was probably the least likely someone would think of as the Messiah. He was not born into royalty or even in a royal city. It was the city of Bethlehem (coincidentally/providentially this is where David is from) which was a small rural city outside of Jerusalem. If you think of the most “backwoods” city around your area, Bethlehem was that type of city. God chose the lowly of circumstances to serve in positions of exaltation. Why? Perhaps Paul helps us when he says:

*“Instead, God chose things the world considers foolish in order to shame those who think they are wise. And he chose things that are powerless to shame those who are powerful. God chose things despised by the world, things counted as nothing at all, and used them to bring to nothing what the world considers important. As a result, no one can ever boast in the presence of God” (1 Cor. 1:27-29; New Living Translation [NLT]).*

**GROUP DISCUSSION:** As a class, come up with characteristics of people who would normally be in positions of leadership like your class president, sports captain, U.S. President, etc. Write the answers below.



## EXPLORATION

**The problem with characteristics of the people we just described is that usually people with a lot of charisma (good looks, popularity) don't do so well in Scripture. Think of Esau, Samson, and Saul. Why? When there is a lot of charisma there is a lot of pride and pride and God do not go hand in hand with each other.**

**1 Samuel 16:14-23 (Read...)**

**1** **What do you think it means when the writer tells us “the Spirit departed from Saul” (16:14)?**

*I think it means that Saul and God were not on speaking terms. Because of the poor decisions Saul has made God has removed his presence from Saul and has moved towards David.*

**2** **Re-read verse 18. List the six qualities this verse mentions and discuss how they could apply today.**

*Plays the harp, brave man, warrior, speaks well, fine-looking man and the Lord was with him. The major characteristic that stands out is that the Lord was with him which is something that is missing from Saul.*

**3 Why do you think David was the only person that could calm Saul?**

*The short answer is that God wanted it this way. Call it divine irony but God saw that this was the way His purposes could be sought to bring Him glory.*

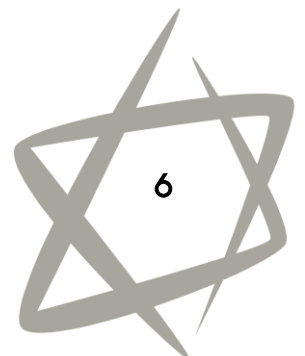
**1 Samuel 17:1-11 (Read...)**

**4 If you could picture Goliath, what would he look like (besides your dad first thing in the morning)?**

*I would say a cross between Shaquille O'Neal and Arnold Swartzenegger. A very scary dude!*

**5 What was the emotion that gripped the Israelites (v. 11)? Why did they react this way?**

*Fear! Wouldn't you be afraid if a mammoth giant stood across from you touting his strength, beating his chest like a bear begging for a warrior from the Israelites?*



**1 Samuel 17:12-23 (Read...)**

**6** What was David's role so far in this battle (vv.12-18)? Why do you think he had this role?

*He is basically a water boy. A go-between. I firmly believe David serves in this role because God wanted to choose the least likely candidate to do the toughest possible job. Also David's brothers were older than he and it was custom that the older brothers go to war first.*

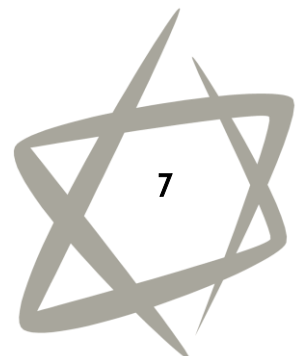
**7** Would you say David has a high position of rank right now? Why or why not?

*No. Because of his reduced role of fetching water and supplies.*

**1 Samuel 17:24-30 (Read....)**

**8** Why is David so upset/frustrated with the Israelites?

*Because of their lack of trust in the Lord to deliver them from the hands of the Philistines. All they need to do is look to their past where God brought them through Egypt, the wilderness and conquered foe after foe by the hand of Joshua.*



## 9 Do you see any hint of opposition against David? If so, where?

*They are basically telling David to go back to his little sheep and spend time with them. The sad part is that the opposition comes from his oldest brother Eliab. Sometimes the fiercest opposition comes from our family members who does not want us to participate in the kingdom of God. David would have none of it...David would rise above it and be something better.*

## 1 Samuel 17:31-37

### 10 Where does David's confidence come from?

*David had courage because the same God who had been with him in the fields with the sheep will be with him in the fields with the Philistine. David understood that if God was so concerned about helping David with the minor would he help with the major?*

## 1 Samuel 17:38-47

### 11 What does Goliath reveal about David's appearance (vv. 41-44)

*David is a small and ruddy person who appears to be weak and scrawny. This again confirms my motif that God uses the seemingly insignificant to the significant things in his kingdom.*

**12 What does David's response to Goliath reveal about David's character?**

*Pure, unadulterated confidence in God's ability to deliver David. David would later share his passion for God in a psalm: "Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God" (Psalm 20:7).*

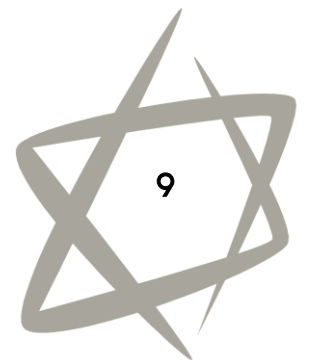
**1 Samuel 17:48-58**

**13 What simple things did you notice about how David killed Goliath?**

*Notice David did not use amazing weaponry or intelligent tactics. He used what was simple and uncomplicated to defeat the Goliath's complicated armor. David used a skill he learned as a young lad and mastered that skill and killed the giant effortlessly.*

**14 How does this story end with the way it started? (Hint: Compare 17:58 with 16:18)**

*He started as a boy from Bethlehem and ended as a boy from Bethlehem. It wasn't about him...it was always about GOD!!!*





## APPLICATION

**So often you hear this story told in a way in which we “slay our giants” but that is somewhat missing the point. It was never about David but about God working through David and David acknowledging that God could do it. The text is about being faithful to God in the face of oppressive opposition. Too often the church conforms to culture instead of going against it. God chooses people from lowly circumstances to serve His purposes. It may be that you will never slay a 9ft tall giant from Philistia but there are moments in your life that call you to rise above the occasion and defend God. Maybe it’s the time where a bully is picking on another student in the locker room and you know you just can’t sit there as a bystander so you rise to the occasion knowing that God is with you.**

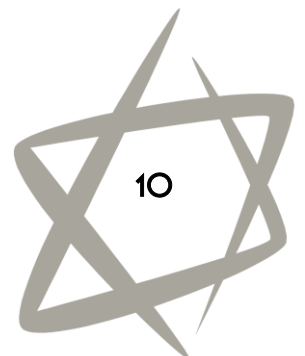
**Thought Question: In what ways is God choosing you to do things you never thought you could do?**



## MEDITATION

**Father in Heaven I pray that you grant me courage to face the struggles in my life I am afraid of. Help me to rise to the occasion not by my own power but by the power you have given me through Christ on the cross. Give me peace...give me assurance...hear my prayer. Amen.**

**Scriptures for further study: Matthew 19:29-30; 20:1-16; Mark 9:35; Luke 9:47-49; 13:22-30; 14:1-11; 20:45-47**



# “A FRIEND IN NEED...”

1 Sam. 18:1-4; 20:1-41



## INITIATION

Winnie the Pooh famously stated, “If you live to be 100, I hope I live to be 100 minus 1 day, so I never have to live without you.” That is a nice quote when applied to relationships and especially to friendships. Sometimes the loneliest of positions to be in are the positions of leadership. When you are on top it is a lonely place to be. David was not unlike us in that he needed the care of a friend whom he could trust when times got difficult. When David was running away from Saul he hid himself in a cave and wrote these words in Psalm 57:

*“I am in the midst of lions; I am forced to dwell among ravenous beasts—men whose teeth are spears and arrows, whose tongues are sharp swords” (57:4).*

David needed friendship from someone and that friend was Jonathan. Before we get to the story let’s first play a game.

**GROUP GAME:** “Would you rather...” Below are some examples of “would you rather’s” and for each answer the group who answers one way gets on one side of the room and vice-versa. For example, if I were to say, “Would you rather be a pine-cone or a tree?”, the trees get on one side and the pine-cones get on the other. All of these have to do with our friends. So....would you rather...

**Pick your friend’s nose?**

**Or**

**Pick their ears?**

**Get beat up for a friend?**

**Or**

**Get made fun of for a friend?**

**Have many good friends?**

**Or**

**A few best friends?**

**Work at Krystal’s with a friend?**

**Or**

**Work at Hot Topic?**

**Eat worms for a friend?**

**Or**

**Drink pond water for a friend?**

**Smell your friend’s feet?**

**Or**

**Smell their armpit?**



## EXPLORATION

**I imagine you are thoroughly grossed out but the game emphasizes a true point in that Jonathan and David risked a lot for their friendship. David's son would later say that there is a friend that is "closer than a brother" (Prov. 18:24) and in my (Robbie) experience that rings true. Odds are you are closer to a group of people that is not your immediate family and odds are you would do anything for them. Would you risk your life? You would be willing to do the right thing even if the right thing meant going against your parents? Keep in mind that Jonathan and David were not teenagers and your parents are not tormented by an evil spirit like Saul was (even though you may think they are) so don't think this gives you permission to rebel against them. But you have to admire their friendship as something that is nothing short of miraculous.**

### 1 Samuel 18:1-4 (Read...)

**1** In what ways can friendship be identified as being "one in spirit"? In other words, how is friendship a unifying concept?

*Friendships that are founded on biblical principles will have a unifying theme to it. These types of friendships are never one-way or all about you and never about me. True friendships seek to serve each other and will care about each other more than they care about themselves.*

**2** What is a covenant?

*A covenant is an agreement between two parties that is never broken. Marriage is seen as a covenant that should never be broken. God would often seal his covenants in blood (e.g. Jesus) but also with other symbols (rainbow with Noah in Genesis 9).*

## 1 Samuel 20:1-4

**3** Saul has a plan to kill David (see 1 Sam. 19) and Jonathan is eager to help David. The Message paraphrases verse 4 this way: *“Tell me what you have in mind, I’ll do anything for you!”* Who are some people you would do anything for? What about these people cause you to want to do anything for them?

*I would do anything for my wife. By anything of course I mean those things that are ethical and biblical. If a person held a gun to my wife’s head threatening to kill her I would willingly (without hesitation) offer my life instead of hers. I would do anything for her because I made an agreement (a covenant) to love her “for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness or in health, to love and to cherish ‘till death do us part.”*

## 1 Samuel 20:5-11 (Read...)

**4** Saul was Jonathan’s father. What are some risks Jonathan was taking for David?

*Jonathan risked his life as Saul would kill anybody who got in between he and David. Jonathan also risked an opportunity to be the next king. If David is not in the picture then Jonathan will be next in line when Saul dies. Jonathan also risked the direction of Israel as his actions would eventually lead to the overthrow of Saul and his kingdom.*

## 5 In what ways is true friendship risky?

*Anything that involves you lowering your guard for someone is risky. You run the risk of them sharing secrets about you that only they know. You run the risk that they may leave you to find someone else. You run the risk that they might hurt you in some capacity, disappoint you or do something against you. You also may suffer ridicule for being friends with people who are perceived as "nerds" or "losers" at school. There are also risks by choosing the wrong type of friends which leads us down roads we should not take and there are certain consequences that come with certain friends.*

### 1 Samuel 20:12-17 (Read...)

6 **Jonathan was sure he would work things out with his dad. He asked a favor from David: *"Show me unfailing kindness like that of the Lord"* (20:14). In other words, "treat me like the Lord treats me." Why is this approach to friendship important?**

*It says that if you are willing to treat me like God treats me then you have the interests of the Lord and not only yourself. It means that your friendship is rooted and grounded in the Lord which is a good place to start! Perhaps the only way to start!!!*



**7 Jonathan “loved him [David] as he loved himself” (20:17). Why is love the root of all friendships? See 1 Corinthians 13:4-8.**

*Because love is the category that serves others' needs first. Love is something that is eternal whereas other aspects of friendship are merely temporary and sometimes selfish.*

**1 Samuel 20:18-29 (Read....)**

**8 An aspect of friendship is someone who will stick their necks out for you. How is Jonathan doing this for David?**

*He is risking his physical life for David. He could be killed on the spot (eventually Saul tries to...).*

**1 Samuel 20:30-34 (Read....)**

**9 Why do you think Saul is so determined to kill David and Jonathan?**

*The Spirit leaving Saul has something to do with it but also if you look at 1 Sam. 18:7-8 Saul was very jealous of David because everyone loved David. When you get to a position of power and watch someone else take it, jealousy sets in and pretty soon bitterness controls the heart.*

**10 Jonathan's devotion to David was so fierce that Saul's actions caused Jonathan much grief. Have you ever hurt so bad because a friend of yours was suffering? Why is that? Why do we hurt when others hurt? See Romans 12:9-16.**

*When you love someone so much that you would do anything for them it almost becomes painful for you to watch them go through pain. When my best friend in the world got a divorce my heart hurt. When my wife found out her great-grandfather committed suicide my heart hurt. My pain becomes her pain and her pain becomes my pain.*

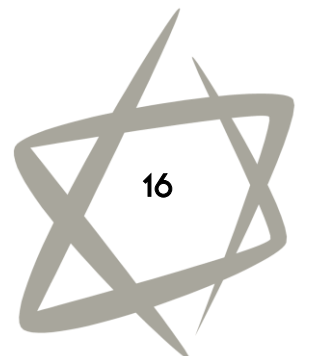
**1 Samuel 20:35-42 (Read...)**

**11 The word is confirmed! Saul means to harm David. How would you respond if you knew someone was trying to kill you? What are some emotions you would experience? What would you try to do?**

*Fear! Panic! Pain because of how close they were at one point. I would go in the opposite direction and run as fast as I possibly could.*

**12 David and Jonathan weep together and the Scriptures state, "David wept the most." Why?**

*Losing a friend is difficult and they will not have that fellowship that they once shared. David is on his own now and must, once again, rely on God!!!*





## APPLICATION

David and Jonathan remained friends throughout but when Jonathan was killed years later in battle David grieves with some of the deepest sorrow the bible ever records him expressing:

*“I grieve for you, Jonathan my brother; you were very dear to me. Your love for me was wonderful, more wonderful than that of women” (2 Sam. 1:26).*

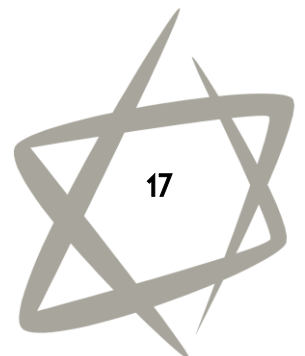
What writer says, *“What David likely meant was that Jonathan’s love for him was more wonderful than that of women in the sense that it was disinterested and platonic. Thus, Jonathan did not betray David to Saul, knowing full well that in the absence of David, he would be the one to succeed his father as king; instead, he risked death at Saul’s hands to save David, which shows his to be an unselfish love. This is what it means to love one’s neighbor as oneself, in the fulfillment of which Jonathan proves himself to be the Bible’s most perfect practitioner.”*<sup>2</sup>

**Thought Question:** In what ways are our friendships *not* like Jonathan and David’s?

**How do we develop friendships like Jonathan and David’s that are based on the Lord?**

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<sup>2</sup> Joseph Telushkin, *Biblical Literacy* (New York: HarperCollins, 1997): 211.





## MEDITATION

**God—I want to have friendships like the ones I read about in Scripture. Right now I have friends that I know are bringing me down but I am unsure how to fix it. God, I desperately want friends that help me grow closer to you so would you help me do that? Help me to make the right decisions in my friends and continue to foster friendships that will help me love you more. Show me the way God...help me to show my friends the Way. Amen!**

**Scriptures for further study: Exodus 33:11; Proverbs 16:28; 17:9, 17; 18:24; 22:24; 27:6, 17; Matthew 22:37-39; John 15:13-14; 1 Corinthians 15:33; James 4:4**



# “MAN ON THE RUN”

1 Sam. 19:1-24



## INITIATION

Divide the class into three groups and split up into different areas of the room. To introduce this lesson there are three scenarios that I want you to address as a group (1 group per scenario). You will have 5 minutes to read the scenario and pick an option and then explain your option. Be sure to elect a group spokesperson who will speak on behalf of each group. The teach will assign the scenarios to each group.

**SCENARIO #1:** A bully at school told you yesterday that he was going to give you a beating tomorrow after school. It wouldn't be that big of a deal except this bully happens to be the defensive lineman for the high-school football team. He has muscles that are layered upon his muscles. You look at your own body and the only functioning muscle in your body is your heart as you feel it pounding at what seems like a thousand beats-per-minute. So here are your options: A) Skip school either faking sick or going to a friend's house, B) Tell your parents/school administration or, C) Take the beating. What do you do and why?

**SCENARIO #2:** You are sitting in the mall food-court eating your Chick-fil-a sandwich when all of the sudden a man pushes down one of your friends and punches him in the face. You are stunned...you are frozen in a state of what to do and what not to do. He steals the guy's wallet and heads your way. Here are your options: A) Run away, B) Negotiate or C) Confront with a force only a Knight of the Roundtable would be proud of. What do you do and why?

**SCENARIO #3:** The doctors come in and what started as a weird spot on an X-Ray has turned out to be your worst nightmare: CANCER. There is a long road to recovery and the outcome does not look great. To make matters worse, this comes in the middle of prom season. Here are your options: A) Run Away, B) Fight or, C) Give up. What do you do and why?



## EXPLORATION

Not situation is easy and the first reaction to life's most difficult circumstances is to run away. Sometimes running away is the only option we have like the case where Joseph ran from Potiphar's wife who was trying to frame him for molesting her (see Genesis 39). On the other hand, sometimes running away is a bad thing like in the case of Jonah who tried to run away from going to Nineveh. King David, as we have learned, has been in a battle with King Saul. The Spirit of the Lord had departed from Saul and was clearly resting on David and all signs seem to point to David as the next man in charge. The people in the streets are shouting, "David has killed tens of thousands while Saul has only killed thousands" and this does not sit well with the King. The close of 1 Samuel 18 tells the whole story: "Then the princes of the Philistines came out to battle, and as often as they came out David had more success than all the servants of Saul, so that his name was highly esteemed" (1 Sam. 18:30).

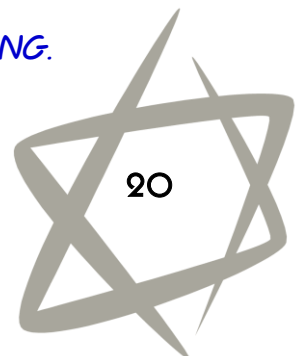
### 1 Samuel 19:1-7

**1** I am not sure how YOU would respond to this but what are some emotions and reactions you would experience if you found out someone wanted to kill you?

*Simply put: "RUN AWAY!" I have had people threaten to pound my face but never has someone threatened to kill me. The initial response by most is that they are afraid of whomever is trying to kill them. Some respond in anger: "WHY WOULD HE WANT TO DO THAT?" Some respond in performance mode where they plot how to harness all their energies to subverting the other person's evil plot. At any case, David is not in an easy situation.*

**2** With one word, how would you describe Jonathan's relationship with David in verses 1-5 (remember last lesson)?

*DEVOTED. DEDICATED. LOVING. SERVING. TRUSTING.*



**3** The Biblical writer in verse 6 said, *“Saul swore: ‘...He shall not be put to death.”* What does it mean to swear in this instance?

*People in the Old Testament made oaths that were binding almost like a contract. To breach your oath would reap dire consequences on your head and would incur penalties even from God. People make promises now and break them and we are used to that kind of thing (Nick Saban lying about talking with Alabama; Bruce Pearl lying to the NCAA, etc.) but it was not that way in the biblical times. Jephthah, in Judges 11, made a vow to God that he would offer up anything that came out of his house to God if God would give him the Ammorites in battle. As it turns out, Jephthah’s daughter came out and he was forced to offer her up. Oaths were to be taken seriously.*

**1 Samuel 19:8-10 (Read...)**

**4** In the first lesson we talked about a harmful spirit that plagued Saul (16:14) and now we see it back again in verse 8. The source of the harmful spirit is the Lord himself. In other words, David becoming king and Saul declining as king is made possible by the Lord sending an evil spirit to Saul. Do you see some difficulties with that and how do we as Christians reconcile that?

*It should be noted that Saul’s choices as king in 1 Samuel 13-15 have led God to this drastic measure. It’s not like God randomly decided to punish Saul rather it was Saul’s downward digression of choices that led God to remove His Spirit from him and send him with an evil spirit.*



**5 Saul breaks his vow and tries to kill David. David escaped and this was pretty amazing considering Saul was a great warrior in his own right (see 1 Sam. 11:7). What does Saul's desire to kill David reveal to us about the outcomes of anger and jealousy?**

*Saul's anger and jealousy led to him breaking a covenantal vow he made to not kill David. Saul's anger and jealousy led him an attempt to kill a person in front of everyone regardless of the wishes of his own son. Clearly from this passage we see that anger and jealousy can (and will) cloud our judgment when it comes to spiritual decisions. "Whoever is slow to anger has great understanding, but he who has a hasty temper exalts folly." (Proverbs 14:29, ESV).*

**6 What are some examples (either in the news, TV, movies or your own personal life) where you have seen anger and jealousy take control of a person?**

*Chris Brown, a famous music singer, was interviewed on Good Morning America by Robin Roberts on March 22, 2011 about the legal issues he was undergoing. In 2009 Chris Brown assaulted his then-girlfriend Rihanna and was charged with felony assault. Apparently he had not gotten over his anger because when Robin Roberts questioned him Brown reportedly left the scene and broke a window in his dressing room. Now that sheds an even more negative light on his character.*

## 1 Samuel 19:11-17 (Read....)

**7 So far Jonathan has helped David escape and now Michal, David's wife and Saul's daughter, helps David escape. Clearly God was at work providentially in David's life to preserve him. In what ways has God worked providentially in our lives?<sup>3</sup>**

*This is a hard task to do. Looking back in our lives it is easier to say that God did certain things to protect you or to help you in certain circumstances. In my (Robbie) life I see where I prayed earnestly to God that he would grant me marriage to a certain girl and that did not turn out the way I wanted it to. God saw it fit for me to marry someone else that would serve His purposes. There are other instances of my life where I see God's gracious (and sometimes disciplined) finger on the chapters of my life just like I can see the moments of my life where God had nothing to do with it.*

**8 Michal lies to the messengers and lies to her father Saul about David's whereabouts. God does not strike her dead for lying but it seems to be part of the plan. How is this possible?**

*The lie is still wrong it seems but ethically speaking it is serving the purposes of God (Rahab story in Joshua 2). This does not condone lying in all circumstances but sometimes there are ethical dilemmas that cause us to do something we would not, under any other circumstance, do. For example, it was wrong to bring bibles into the Soviet Union (present day Russia) in years past. Many missionaries would still do it and some would even lie about it. Is that wrong? Yes. Is it still serving God's purposes? Yes. The word gets into Russia.*

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<sup>3</sup> Tradition says that David wrote Psalm 59 at this point in his life. You may want to read that on your own.

## 1 Samuel 19:18-24 (Read....)

**9** The closing of this chapter reveals a weird story. The story is to show the power of the Spirit and the presence of God. Messengers are sent twice and, as it turns out, they can prophesy (speaks words of God when ordinarily they could not). Then Saul receives the Spirit (remember it has departed before) for a time to where he too prophesies to the point where he gets naked all day and all night. What is the point, do you think, of this story?

*The point of the story, I think, goes back to the overall theme of the book in that Israel's desire to have a king is a failure because they have always had a king in the Lord God. God is in control of Saul. God is in control of Samuel. God is in control of David. All of this is done by the Lord God. Clearly Saul is humiliated (ONCE AGAIN!!!) in front of all the people as he is naked all day and all night.*



## APPLICATION

Four times in this chapter we read of David “fleeing” from Saul and “escaping” from Saul:

- 19:2** “...Stay in a secret place and hide yourself.”  
**19:10** “...And David fled and escaped that night.”  
**19:12** “...And he fled away and escaped.”  
**19:18** “...Now David fled and escaped...”

Do you get the picture? David was running away from an evil presence in the form of Saul. He kept running away...he kept escaping...why? Because God blessed this escape—no—GOD MADE THIS ESCAPE HAPPEN!!! Psalm 54 was written by David when he was trying to flee from Saul. Read the words...

- <sup>1</sup> Come with great power, O God, and rescue me!  
Defend me with your might.  
<sup>2</sup> Listen to my prayer, O God.  
Pay attention to my plea.  
<sup>3</sup> For strangers are attacking me;  
violent people are trying to kill me.  
They care nothing for God.  
<sup>4</sup> But God is my helper.  
The Lord keeps me alive!  
<sup>5</sup> May the evil plans of my enemies be turned against them.  
Do as you promised and put an end to them.  
<sup>6</sup> I will sacrifice a voluntary offering to you;  
I will praise your name, O Lord, for it is good.  
<sup>7</sup> For you have rescued me from my troubles  
and helped me to triumph over my enemies (New Living Translation).

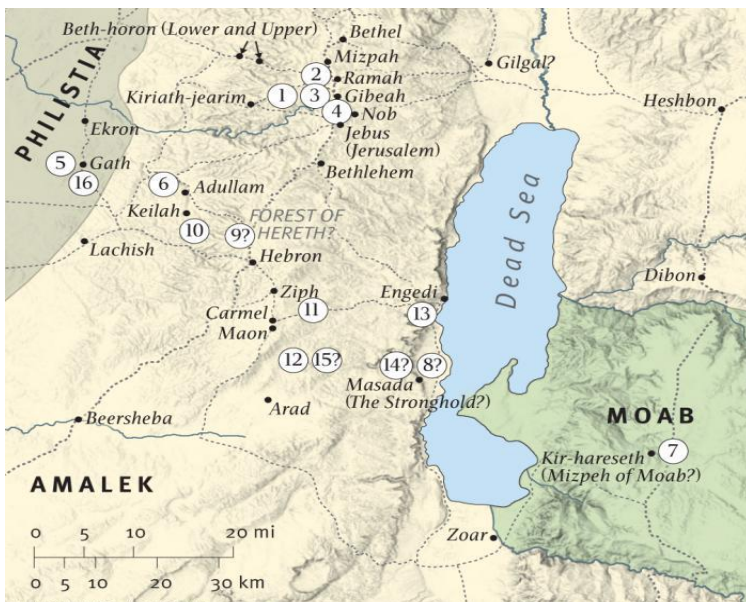
On the board list some things we need to run from. Be as specific as possible (e.g. instead of saying “temptation” say, “pornography”; instead of sin say, “gossip,” etc.).



## MEDITATION

**God—we recognize that you protected your servant David from evil and we ask that you do the same for us. There are evils and injustices all around this world that need your attention. Father we pray that you will help us to run from temptation and to secure your word deep in our hearts. Protect us from evil. Deliver us. Amen!**

**Scriptures for further study: Psalms written when David was running: 3, 18, 34, 52, 54, 56, 57, 59 and 142. Below is a map of Israel along with commentary of when and where David fled.**



**David fled from Saul in Gibeah (1) and went to Samuel at Naioth in Ramah (2), but soon Saul sought him there, and David fled back to Jonathan in Gibeah (3). After Jonathan warned David of Saul's determination to kill him, David fled to Ahimelech the priest at Nob (4), where he collected food and Goliath's sword. David briefly sought refuge in the Philistine city of Gath (5) and then set up his headquarters at the cave of Adullam (6), where the ranks of**

**his army swelled to 400 men. In order to protect his parents from harm, David left them in the care of the king of Moab at Mizpeh (7) and went to live in "the stronghold" (8). After some time, David went to the forest of Hereth (9) and then left to rescue nearby Keilah (10) from some Philistine raiding parties. When David heard that Saul was coming to Keilah, he and his growing army of 600 men relocated to the wilderness of Ziph (11). After the men of Ziph betrayed David to Saul, David and his men went to live in the wilderness of Maon (12) and narrowly escaped capture there by Saul. Fleeing the strongholds of Engedi (13), David again evaded capture by Saul and refused an opportunity to take Saul's life. David returned to "the stronghold" (14) and then to the wilderness of Paran (15). While he was there, David was again betrayed to Saul by the men of Ziph and refused another opportunity to take Saul's life. Finally, David and his men sought refuge with Achish, the king of Gath (16). Source: ESV Study Bible (p. 524).**



# “REVENGE IS...”

1 Sam. 24:1-22



## INITIATION

**We all have enemies don't we? There are certain people in our lives that have purposefully done things to harm us physically or emotionally. People who have made fun of us in front of everybody or people who have lied about us behind our backs. Perhaps you were in a relationship and someone cheated on you and lied to you about it.**

**How does all of this make you feel? Angry? Furious? Hateful?**

**If you ever have had someone do something to you/against you then the first immediate response is that you want to get them back. That is basic human nature. If someone steals something from you and you find out about it then the obvious reaction is you want to do something to them.**

**GROUP DISCUSSION: As a group talk about some times when somebody did something to you. You don't have to be specific but talk about how you felt and how you dealt with it. You can also talk about things that have happened to people you know or even things that have happened to the church or the United States.**



## EXPLORATION

**If you are keeping track here is what King Saul has done to David:**

**Tried to kill him...**

**Chasing him all over Israel...**

**Sending threats to him...**

**Tried to kill him again...**

**Split his friendship with Jonathan apart...**

**If there was ever an evil man who epitomized the nature of evil it was Saul. And if there was ever an opportunity where David could get back at Saul who would blame David for doing it?**

**Let's see...**

**1 Samuel 24:1-4 (Read...)**

**1** **How hilarious is this story so far? Last week we learned how Saul ended up naked (humiliated) and now Saul is using the restroom (to clean it up a little) in front of all his enemies. How would you respond if your enemy had seemingly been put right in front of your face and you were all alone in a room with them?**

*I know what I would do...selfishly I would give them a piece of my mind verbally and depending on what they did to me or my family I might give them a piece of my fists or boot. It just looks like revenge has been placed at the feet of David almost by God himself. David's warriors are putting the pressure on and for David there must be a flood of emotions running through his mind.*

**2 We are not told this but perhaps this is something God had done in order to test David. Do you think God tests his followers? How so? Look at Genesis 22:1, Job 23:10, 2 Corinthians 13:5 and 1 Thessalonians 2:4 for help.**

*We are not told God is doing this to test David BUT God has done this kind of thing all the time. God tested Abraham telling him to offer Isaac as a sacrifice (Gen. 22:1). Job felt like the suffering he endured (losing his family and listening to his friend's accusations) was God testing him with the purpose of refining him (Job 23:10). Paul encouraged the Corinthian brethren (2 Cor. 13:5) to test themselves to see if they were faithful and Paul told the Thessalonians that he believed God tests the hearts of believers (1 Thess. 2:4). Do you get the picture? It is not a matter of "if God is going to test us" but "when God is going to test us." The scary part about all of that is we are not sure exactly when and where God is going to test us. He may test us when we are on the internet. He may test us when we are at the ball field. He may test us when our parents are away for the weekend and we are home...alone. He may test us at any point to see if we are living a redemptive life. I (Robbie) believe this is one of those moments in David's life.*

**3** David's "men" are pushing him to kill (or let them kill) Saul and gain revenge and so David cut's off a piece of Saul's robe. The voices of David's comrades are too influential and the pressure is more than David can handle. How difficult is it to think and act when there is peer-pressure involved?

*Proverbs 14:33 says, "Wisdom reposes in the heart of the discerning and even among fools she lets herself be known." What that means is that even amongst the fiercest amount of peer-pressure, wisdom can happen. We can make the right decision in difficult times but that decision does not come easy. It is hard to say, "No" when everybody around you says, "Yes." David was among the most amount of pressure from two areas: 1) His friends, 2) His internal desire to thwart Saul. It was hard.*

### **1 Samuel 24:5-7 (Read...)**

**4** David felt remorse at what he had done because touching the "anointed" (a word used for describing the king) was offensive to God. However, David (in 1 Sam. 16) was anointed by Samuel so really David was for all intents and purposes king. So why does he feel bad?

*David did not know what God's plan was at this point. He was running, escaping and hiding. He is not 100% sure about the plan of God but he knows that taking Saul's life is not part of the plan. He is content to let God keep control of the situation and feels the need to express his remorse. The Hebrew translation could literally be that after David cut the robe of Saul off his "heart was under attack!" He felt guilty.*

## 1 Samuel 24:8-15 (Read...)

### 5 What is the purpose of this section of the story?

*Although David is in a sense beating his head against a wall he still wants to serve King Saul. He tells Saul what he could have done (imagine Saul's face) but rather all of this madness, all of this chasing and all of this chaos is completely unnecessary because David is trying to serve Saul. He bows down to Saul, he calls Saul "my father" all of which points to how much respect he has for Saul. David is trying to restore a relationship and he sees no point Saul's mayhem.*

### 6 What's interesting is that Saul tried to kill David even though David did nothing to Saul BUT David is trying to forgive Saul even though Saul is still trying to kill David. This is not so much about David being "nice" to Saul but about David yielding to God's will. How is submitting to God's will "tough" work?

*Jesus said in Matthew 6:43-44: "You have heard it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you." This is tough work and does not come easy or immediately. It takes time to love those who have done things against us, unspeakable evils we often do not want to share. Saul tried to kill David...you don't get much worse than that!!!*

**7 David put God as the judge between Saul and himself: “May the Lord be our judge and decide between us.” How is this completely different from how we normally solve our disagreements?**

*Because we normally handle disagreements in rage! We normally handle disagreements in moments where our judgment has been clouded with emotion. David removed himself and based on his covenantal relationship he refused to let a raving lunatic control his life. He confronted Saul and said the Lord was (and will) going to decide.*

**8 What it would look like if we let God handle our disagreements?**

*It's not like God is going to speak a magic word in your ear and tell you exactly what to do. We have to be involved in his word and involved with other people who are in his word. We wear bracelets that say WWJD? but so often we do not have a clue what Jesus did. Besides, it's not really about what Jesus would do but about what Jesus would have me do based on my relationship with him and others? If we approached our disagreements in this manner it would drastically help the issues come to more redemptive solutions instead of flippant, spur-of-the-moment judgments. We would all do well to learn from David's example in trying to reconcile relationships.*



## 1 Samuel 24:16-22 (Read....)

9 **What does Saul's reaction in verses 16-21 tell you about how David handled the situation?**

*Saul is completely blown away from David. Notice what he admits:*

- *You treated me well...I did not (17)*
- *God delivered me in your hands but you did not kill me (18)*

*This is important to understand because nobody did this in ancient times. If God brought you the enemy you took advantage. Saul could not even understand what David was doing but David's plan was not his own but God's. Saul is likely genuine in his confession but this is a clear indication that David's submission to peaceful reconciliation is what the Lord intends. David said, in Psalm 35:1, "Contend, O Lord, with those who contend against me. Fight against those who fight against me." David may have wanted to fight Saul but it wasn't going to happen unless God told him to.*



## APPLICATION

**If you could describe the theme of this chapter it would be Revenge is the Lord's! Sometimes God puts situations in front of us and the answer is "Right now," but sometimes situations are put in front of us and the answer is "Not yet." Perhaps you or someone close to you has experienced something negative and everything within you wants to get back at that person. Perhaps God is testing you right now to see how you will respond to these types of situations because they will come at you all the time from all over for the rest of your life. You will be wronged, oppressed, lied to, made fun of, emotionally hurt, and there will even be times that hurt causes you to think thoughts of ending it all. The only thing that keeps you alive is the desire to avenge your wrong.**

**Let it go...**

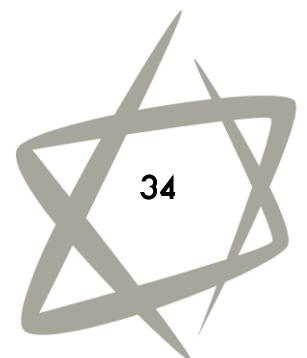
**Letting it go does not mean the person will go unpunished but letting it go means you will let God (who knows all situations) take care of what needs to be done.**

**Let it go...**

**Let it go...**

**Write the name of the person who has wronged you in the box below. Then, in some way, forgive them and let it go. You can mail them a letter, send them a message or whatever but let it go.**

**Let go...let God...please?**





## MEDITATION

**God—we have been wronged and people say, think and do things against us that are unfair. We ask that you avenge us and deliver us according to your ways, wills and intentions. Help us to accept the things that are beyond our control and have the courage to face them. Forgive us as we learn to forgive others. Amen.**

### **Scriptures for further study:**

<b>Monday:</b>	<b>Leviticus 19:18; Deuteronomy 32:41</b>
<b>Tuesday:</b>	<b>Judges 16:1-31 (Proper place for revenge)</b>
<b>Wednesday:</b>	<b>Psalm 18:1-6; 121:1-8</b>
<b>Thursday:</b>	<b>Isaiah 59:9-20</b>
<b>Friday:</b>	<b>Matthew 5:43-48; Luke 6:27-35</b>
<b>Saturday:</b>	<b>Romans 12:19</b>

# “FOOL ME ONCE...”

1 Sam. 27:1-12



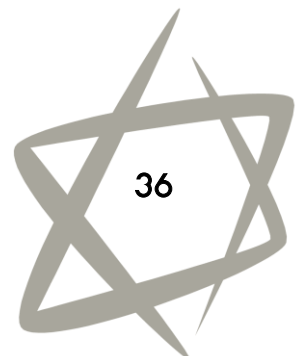
## INITIATION

Perhaps you have heard the saying, “Fool me once, shame on you. Fool me twice, shame on me.” I (Robbie) remember my father instructing me on how to field a ground ball at shortstop (a position in baseball). He told me that I had to get my tail-end down and keep my glove square with the ball and (at all costs) I should never let that ball go through my legs. Even professional athletes will make errors but I felt like messing up each time was an act of failure. I felt like I disappointed my dad and my coach and each time the ball went under my legs it bothered me. There are two possible directions I can go each time a ball is hit my way: 1) Complain... sulk... and give up or, 2) Practice my “tail-end” off to make sure I would be ready the next time. To illustrate the fool me once principle we are going to play a game called “Two truths and a lie.”

Everyone in the group has to think of three things to share about themselves - 2 must be true but one must be a lie. When a person has shared their three things, the rest of the group must decide which of the 3 is a lie. The person then indicates which one was the “lie”.<sup>4</sup> If time is running short then only have a few people share their “three” things.

**GROUP DISCUSSION:** What were some things that surprised you about the game? What does the game illustrate about truth-telling?

<sup>4</sup> Idea from [www.jubed.com](http://www.jubed.com).





## EXPLORATION

David now has now protected Nabal's land only to be mistreated (1 Sam. 25) so, in a sneaky way, he flees Nabal and acquires Abigail as a wife (his second wife). God then allows David to gain access to Saul and David again spares Saul's life (1 Sam. 26). If you were describe David's life in one word what would it be? My word would be **CHAOS!** What has gone right for David? Sure the Lord has delivered him time-and-time again (and we should never undervalue that fact) but David seems to be involved in a lot of backstabbing, overt threats and subversive plots.

Do you think though that this might be more about the nation of Israel than David himself? Maybe we are seeing David slowly taking ownership of the throne and what we see is not chaos but a smooth, calculated transition from man's king (Saul) to God's king (David).

Let's see...

1 Samuel 27:1-4 (Read...)

### 1 What is significant about David's statement in verse 1?

*Two things stick out. 1) David seems to be aware that he can only escape death so often. In WWII it is said that some 20-30,000 planes went down either in battle or in training. Every time a pilot went up and returned there must have been that feeling that their time was coming near when their plane would crash. David was trying to avoid death and his belief that the only way to do so was to flee to Philistia which brings me to my second point. 2) Philistia is the home of the perpetual enemies of Israel known as the Philistines. Goliath was a Philistine and that knowledge was fresh on their minds and they probably did not appreciate what David did. However, David knew that Saul would NEVER go to the Philistine land to find David.*

**2 We all have had disagreements with people but sometimes people can be just disagreeable. I imagine Saul was a “disagreeable” type of person and there was no reasoning with him whatsoever. At what point do we pick out battles and at what point do we just leave? Look at Romans 12:18 and James 4:1-4 for help.**

*This one is somewhat hard to answer because clearly David's physical life was in jeopardy. That is a battle you never want to pick but sometimes it is not worth it to argue in less important circumstances. A buddy of mine was talking about his son and apparently his son was supposed to carry his athletic equipment to the field he was playing on but the son refused. My buddy looked at me and said, "Robbie, you just got to pick your battles and this one is not worth fighting." Such is true in life when our parents continually fuss about our rooms, our homework, our relationships, our time on the internet, our this and our that. It can be frustrating but sometimes we need to learn which battles are worth fighting and which ones are worth letting be. The older you get the better you will become at this but sometimes it is just not worth it. Sometimes, for peace-making purposes (Romans 12:18), we just need to swallow our pride and realize that we are quarreling because of our own issues (James 4:1).*

### 3 Why do you think we get into so many arguments and disagreements? Read Proverbs 15:18; 20:3.

*Proverbs 15:18 in the Good News Translation says, "Hot tempers cause arguments, but patience brings peace." Proverbs 20:3, "Any fool can start arguments; the honorable thing is to stay out of them." Arguments and disagreements start (at the core) because both parties believe they are right in their assessment of a situation. One party is right and one party is wrong but it is possible that both parties can be wrong. I (Robbie) have noticed that sometimes when I argue with my wife there are times when I can be right...but I'm still wrong. Sometimes arguments arise because we can be so nit-picky at what we believe is right. My mother likes her clothes folded a certain way and when I do laundry I fold them a different way so there is no right or wrong way to fold clothes but because of my, how should I put this, idiosyncratic annoyances (my wife says "You're too anal!!") that tends to stir arguments.*

*The important thing to remember is, if at all possible, try to be peaceable with all people. Sometimes arguments are necessary especially with people who are ignorant.*

## 1 Samuel 27:5-7 (Read...)

4

### **Why do you think Achish, an enemy of David, accepts David to dwell in his land?**

*Earlier in 1 Samuel 21:10-15 David fled to Gath when escaping Saul the first time. David feared Achish and acted like a lunatic in front of him and escaped from him. We are not sure if Achish remembers this story but we are sure that David has no qualms about showing himself to the king so we are led to assume that he did not remember David. But...Achish sees personal gain from all of this in that he can: 1) Exploit David and Saul's bickering to find a weakness and 2) Seize opportunities to take control of the entire Judean region. I do not see this as a brotherly-love act by a king rather it is a "necessary evil" for someone who wants to use this as an advantage for his kingdom. Monarchies and control is ugly business and a little bit can be seen of this now as countries like Iran and North Korea fight to dominate other countries politically.*

5

### **Other than escaping Saul, why is David living in Philistia?**

*For the same reason Achish lets him in...to control the region in the name of the Lord. War is ugly and to be on top David sees an opportunity for a win-win. First, he can escape Saul and secondly he can defeat his enemies to strengthen his monarchy when he returns. That sounds brutal...it sounds harsh...but we live in different times.*

## 1 Samuel 27:8-12 (Read...)

### 6 Do you see a shift of David's leadership from previous lessons? How so?

*David has always been on the run, fleeing Saul. Now he takes matters into his own hands. He avoids Saul by running to Gath and then he seizes a strategic opportunity to advance the kingdom while feeding off the land and growing in power. It seems David is finally coming to grips with who he is and what God has called him to do. He is never going to be perfect but he is going to lead God's people in some of the most uncertain times in the nation's short history as a monarchy.*

### 7 David deceived Achish and it seems to be a part of God's will. Was it right for David to do this?

*We have already talked a little bit about this when Milcah lied about David's whereabouts to Saul in 1 Samuel 19:11-17. Some people see this as an ethical issue and that David should not have done this but, if we look at the text, nothing is said about the evil of David's lie. The word "lie" is not even mentioned but it is implied by the narrator of this text. So...was it right? This means that there were situations back then where deception was used as a means to an end only by divine guidance. Murdering was wrong yet slaying the Amalekites was part of God's will.*



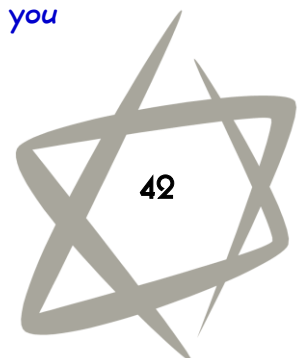
**David seems to be preparing himself for kingship by defeating his enemies. What characteristics (qualities) of leadership do you see in David?**

1. *Patient – Willing to wait for the right time to do the right thing.*
2. *Submissive – He yields to the Lord's will at all costs.*
3. *Battle-tested – He has been through the fires and has come out victorious.*
4. *Courageous – He does run from Saul but he does so with a passion that God will deliver him.*
5. *Logical – He thinks about situations from an other-worldly perspective. He uses the brain God gave him to think the way he should.*
6. *Inspirational – His courage has inspired the 600 warriors traveling with him and pretty soon he is going to inspire an entire nation.*



**God is not mentioned once in this chapter. Does that mean that the Lord was not at work?**

*Clearly God is at work with David for he delivers David from battle...from the Philistines...from Saul. Everywhere David goes he is blessed by God. David live in Philistia for 16 months and God was at work in those 16 months. Think about what has transpired in your life in 16 months yet we think God is not present because of just one chapter. God was at work all around. There was a particularly rough time in my (Robbie) life when I was struggling at what God wanted me to do. I had talked with other Christians and had diligently prayed about it and still did not get an answer from him. After a period of fret my body started showing physical signs that something was going on. I did not eat well and I could not concentrate in my office. I got a phone call one day and it seemed the direction of my life was chosen for me as plans failed and things fell through. I felt like God spoke to me loud and clear that time. Just because you can't hear God does not means he is idle.*





## APPLICATION

**Have you ever thought about what it looks like to other people when you have disagreements? Have you ever seen a couple arguing in the middle of a grocery store or restaurant? How did you feel? Awkward? If you're like me you probably felt like that if they are arguing like this in public I wonder how bad it is in private. The entire nation of Israel was split (not really in half...but you know what I mean) between Saul and David. Achish sees an opportunity to gain advantage because the people are, well, distracted. When I go deer-hunting it is hard to kill a deer that is alone but you get a group of them together it is so much easier. Why? Because they tend to distract each other from looking around and smelling me and seeing me.**

**Do you think our relationships get attacked because we are distracted by arguing?**

**Do you think our churches get attacked because we are distracted by arguing?**

**What do arguments do to our soul?**

**I want you to go home today and spend some time looking at what you argue and why you argue. Go home and reconcile between mom and dad, brother or sister. Try to not argue so much and try to live the principles of peace-making.**

**Have a good week.**



## MEDITATION

**God—we come to you now submitting to your will asking that you forgive us of our hot tempers and our quarreling nature. Help us to learn how to pick the right battles and how to just walk away. We place our hope and our trust in you and Jesus who was and is the ultimate peace-maker. Amen.**

### **Scriptures for further study:**

<b>Monday:</b>	<b>Numbers 6:24-26; Prov. 14:30</b>
<b>Tuesday:</b>	<b>Job 3:25-26; Psalm 4:8; 34:14; 35:19-21</b>
<b>Wednesday:</b>	<b>Psalm 85</b>
<b>Thursday:</b>	<b>Isaiah 54:10-13; 66:12</b>
<b>Friday:</b>	<b>Matthew 5:9; Romans 14:17-18; Eph. 2:14</b>
<b>Saturday:</b>	<b>Hebrews 12:11; Jude 2; Rev. 1:4</b>



# WATERS UP TO MY NECK

1 Sam. 30:1-30



## INITIATION

**Have you ever been in a situation where you felt nobody could help you? Maybe you were out late beyond curfew and while trying to get home your car died. To make matters worse, you left your cell phone at your girlfriend's house and you are in the middle of nowhere. What do you do? I (Robbie) was talking with my mother about something that happened when I was a little kid. We were at Stone Mountain Park just outside of Atlanta, Georgia and the laser show just ended with spectacular fireworks. I remember looking up and noticing my brother was missing. I panicked but I remember mom and dad searching with fierce intent but it was in vain. You see, once the light show is over thousands of people scatter for their vehicles and he could be just about anywhere. Mom feared the worst and I imagine the weight of the world must have been on her shoulders. The saying is true, "You don't realize what you have until you don't have it anymore." We came up to the main pavilion and I remember seeing this tall man (everybody's tall when you are a 5 year old) and on his shoulders I remember seeing my brother. I ran up to him, so my mother tells me, and told him, "Don't you ever, ever run away like that again!"**

**GROUP DISCUSSION:** If you could describe the most difficult portion of your life what would that be? It's ok to discuss this because the class is a safe place to share. Why was it a difficult time? Maybe it was when you had to go to a hospital for a long time or maybe your parents got a divorce or maybe when someone close to you passed away. Feel free to discuss.



## EXPLORATION

**David has now officially worn-out his welcome with Achish and the king (reluctantly) tells David he must leave. Apparently the women and children of David and his men were living in Ziklag but all of the forces were north away from the women and children. If there was ever a weak moment to attack David at the core now was the time.**

**What transpires would be one of the toughest moments in David's reign...in his life!**

**1 Samuel 30:1-6 (Read...)**

### **1 What are some emotions David and his men experienced?**

*The narrator of this story said David and his men cried, wept until he could weep no more. They wept because they feared the worst. When disaster strikes us so often we are quick to become paralyzed in our grief. I remember in college a friend whose sister had passed away at a very young age. We went over to see her and I could see signs of physical anguish on her body as she had apparently wept and wept and wept and wept for her sister. It was painful to watch but I imagine it was even more painful to experience. David and his men were in deep anguish. The word here for weep is a spontaneous reaction to strong emotions. For David, this is personal...his wives are gone. He joins his men in weeping.*

**2 Have you ever experienced emotion like this? Have you wept like this before? What are some things you experience when you weep like this?**

*I am not a person who cries all that often and there are only a couple of times I have wept. I remember one Sunday though I received a call from my wife's sister who was hysterical and could barely talk. She told me that her and my wife's great-grandfather had just shot himself in the chest and died. He had been through a difficult time and was on a lot of different medication and so his mental capacity was not what it once was. I hung up the phone and looked over at Heather and told her the news and she immediately lost it. She continued most of the next few days mourning and weeping on and off and I could see signs that she was physically in pain and she looked exhausted. The funeral helped bring closure and soon she willingly moved towards God for help and strength.*

**3 Why do you think David's men are so against him at this point considering in 1 Samuel 22:2 when they wept bitterly they gathered to David instead of trying to stone him?**

*They are mad and probably want revenge and the closest person to get revenge is David. Think about it. They are spent physically, emotionally and mentally. They are at their wits-end for not only David has run but also his men. They are tired of this and they view that if they kill David then all of their problems will magically go away.*

4

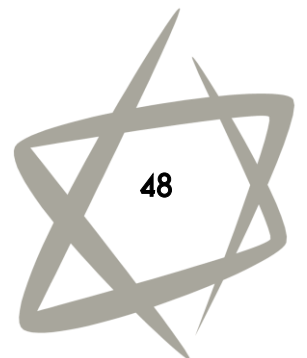
**What is so impressive, in 1 Samuel 30:6, about David's response to all of the distress?**

*David knew that when all chaos happens the only one that could deliver him was the Lord. Just like God delivered him from Saul God will deliver him from his own men. Psalm 56:3-4 in the Contemporary English Version says, "But even when I am afraid I keep on trusting you. I praise your promises! I trust you and am not afraid. No one can harm me." It is also important that the narrator said, "David strengthened himself in the Lord his God." God was personal to David. God was not an ATM when he needed some money or a hospital when he needed a band-aid but God was his Lord.*

5

**How do we find strength in the Lord in the most difficult situations of our lives?**

*That is a million-dollar question and it is not easy to answer. First, we must be reading and studying Scripture and meditating on its principles. Second we must be in a relationship with the Lord. How would you feel if you were in a relationship with someone and they only talked to you when they needed you? Sounds kind of like emotional abuse to me yet we do that with the Lord. Third, we must rely on other people to help us along the journey. Nobody said we had to do this alone and to think you must take the world of spirituality by yourself is ridiculous. Fourth, we must be convinced that God can help. Finally, it is not a step-by-step process in difficult situations because spirituality is messy stuff. There are ups, downs, lefts and rights. But like David we must trust the Lord.*



## 1 Samuel 30:7-15 (Read...)

**6** We talked a little about revenge and the dangers of it so what does David do with his revenge (Hint: Verses 7-9)?

*David wants to go to the Amalekites and lay the smack down but knows that vengeance belongs to God. So he inquires a priest who in turn inquires to the Lord whether he should pursue the men. If David was going to pursue and capture it was going to be under the blessings of God Almighty. God blessed this endeavor and allowed David to pursue and so this was not going to be a careless act of an angry husband but a careful act of a devoted child of God. There is an immense difference in the two.*

**7** What do verses 9-15 reveal to you about the passion of David?

*It's one thing to mess with a man but it is entirely different when you mess with a man's family. I am not a confrontational person at all but when it comes to my immediate family I have no issues confronting people who mess with them. David pursued so vigorously that 200 men became "too exhausted" and had to stay back. That did not faze David as he kept on the trail and discovered where the people were.*

## 1 Samuel 30:16-31 (Read...)

**8** David must have felt relieved when he discovered that everything that was missing he recovered (including his family)!!! Talk about a time when you were in deep distress and then that stress left. What was it like? How did it make you feel?

*The weight must have been tremendous as he experienced God delivering his enemies and bring his family home. For me, the stressful times that I endure are infinitesimal compared to the deliverance I receive from God. Psalm 18:2 says, "The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold."*

**9** The narrative closes on a bizarre story where some of the soldiers do not want to give the 200 soldiers who stayed back any of the spoil. Perhaps they were a little bitter against them for being "too weak" and lazy. David makes a decision that all should get some regardless of status. What does this story illustrate about how we deal with one another?

*Two things: 1) Grace. These 200 men might not have deserved any of the spoil but David would have none of that. Grace is getting what you do not deserve and we might add, what you cannot earn. Paul said in Ephesians 2:8, "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God." 2) Sharing. My children struggle at sharing their possessions and I also see grown adults who turn their nose at the collection plate who struggle at sharing their possessions. When it comes to our money we want to know every single cent of where it goes and what it is allocated to and if it goes to an item where we think it shouldn't go then we fuss, fight and withdraw our funds. David shared with everybody because everybody has an important job to do. We are all equal in the kingdom of God!!!*



## APPLICATION

**In Psalm 69:1-3 David said these sobering words: “Save me, O God! For the waters have come up to my neck. I sink in deep mire, where there is no foothold; I have come into deep waters, and the flood sweeps over me. I am weary with my crying out; my throat is parched. My eyes grow dim with waiting for my God.” That is a tough situation to be in. Look at the questions below and see if you can answer them.**

**Nobody knows what to do when disaster strikes but who would you turn to if something serious were to happen?**

**Are you and God in a relationship with each other? If not, why not?**

**What are you suffering from right now that nobody else knows about that is wreaking havoc on your soul? Alcohol? Sex? Drugs? Rebellion? Violence? Emotional Trauma? Abuse?**

**Will this be the week you finally tell someone and get help or will you continue to let the waters float up to your head until you finally drown?**





## MEDITATION

**God—we are in distress and we need your help. Save us and deliver us God for your sake! Please, God...we need you now like we need you forever.**

**Amen.**

### **Scriptures for further study:**

<b>Monday:</b>	<b>Psalm 35</b>
<b>Tuesday:</b>	<b>Psalm 69</b>
<b>Wednesday:</b>	<b>Psalm 83</b>
<b>Thursday:</b>	<b>Psalm 88</b>
<b>Friday:</b>	<b>Psalm 109</b>
<b>Saturday:</b>	<b>Psalm 137</b>



