

DISCUSSION NOTES

MAY 17, 2020

Start by praying and asking for God's help as you seek to grow as authentic followers of Jesus.

LISTENING TO GOD'S WORD

1. Read 1 Samuel 27:1-28:2. Make several observations. What is surprising here? What tensions do you feel? What do we learn about David?
2. When you read 1 Samuel 27:1, why should we have sympathy for how David feels and what David does? Consider what has transpired in his life to bring him to this point.
3. What makes David's action seem "reasonable" from a human vantage point? What makes David's action seem "unreasonable" from God's point of view?
4. In verses 5-11, describe David's strategic thinking about how to navigate this situation. What steps does he take to try and ensure his success?
5. What do you make of the fact that God is not mentioned once in this entire chapter? What do we learn about God from this?

LIVING IT OUT

6. In the sermon, we looked at eight things that happen when we drift away from the Lord (listed below). Which of the following most caught your attention? Do you see some progression in these things?

When We Venture off God's Path of Promise:

1. Dangerous Self-talk
 2. Despair
 3. Escape
 4. Collateral Damage
 5. False Relief of the Pressure
 6. Compromise
 7. Wasted Opportunities
 8. Duplicity
7. Have you gone through times when you drifted away from walking with the Lord or ignored him for a long time? Describe one of those seasons — what it looked like, and what brought you back to healthy relationship with the Lord.
 8. What can we learn about God's grace through times when we do not walk with God? What can they teach us about God and his love for us?
- [If you want to know more, read John 6:37, Romans 8:31-39, Philippians 1:6, Philippians 3:12-14.]
9. Read Galatians 6:1-2. What do we learn here about how Christian friends should help one another in seasons of falling away?
 10. What is one thing you want to remember to practice this week in light of this study?