

DISCUSSION NOTES

SEPT 27, 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 2 Samuel 2:1-11. Make 3-5 observations. What happens? What stands out to you? Where is God seen?
2. 2 Samuel 2:8 begins, "But Abner..." The verse is highlighting the fact that the Lord had spoken clearly that David was to be king over Israel, but Abner would choose to fly in the face of the will of God. How much damage is caused by Abner's rebellion against God's plan (consider chapters 2-4)?
3. What do you make of all the violence in these chapters? How does justice factor into these events? Would you agree with the statement that "these actions are described by the Bible but not prescribed by the Bible"?
4. Read 2 Samuel 3:8-11. These verses are pivotal to understanding all the transpires in these chapters. What does Abner get right about God's plans for David? What does Abner get wrong?
5. After waiting 12 long years to be free of Saul's attacks, David must now wait another 7 1/2 years before he will become King over all Israel. How might David have been discouraged by the "small victory" of being made king of only one tribe? Do you ever become discouraged at the seeming insignificance of the "small victories" of your life?

LIVING IT OUT

6. In 2 Samuel 2:1, we see that David would not make a move before seeking direction from the Lord. How well do you humbly seek the Lord's guidance for clarity in your decisions? Are you ever tempted to live more like Saul, Abner, Joab and others who try to accomplish things in their own way and in their own timing?

What does this reveal about where our trust really lies?
7. Why is it so common for people to be in the vicinity of God and his Word without committing to trust and obey the Lord?
8. How do you keep your eyes on the plans and promises of God during times of turmoil and trial? How might the good news about Jesus' kingdom give you peace, confidence, and strength this week?
9. Who do you know that is living in the way of Saul, either fearful about life or fighting to build a life apart from God? Would you pray for them and ask the Lord to provide an opportunity to talk to them about the grace and truth of Christ?
10. Read 1 Chronicles 12:38-40. Imagine a film capturing the joy of this scene. Consider the joy of David after all the long years of waiting. How does the celebration of David's kingdom foreshadow the celebration of Christ's kingdom, which we will one day see with our own eyes?