

# DISCUSSION NOTES

**MARCH 8, 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 19:1-24. Make 5-7 observations. What is surprising? What is confusing? What do we learn about God? What action takes place? What stands out most to you?
2. Jonathan is a great example of how we should respond to those who are choosing to act sinfully. Jonathan didn't get angry or respond with condescension. Instead, he was forthright and direct but respectful. How is this a good example of what it means to speak the truth in love (Ephesians 4:15)?
3. How would you describe the emotionally unhealthy interactions and manipulative behavior on the part of Saul? What effect do these have on his family relationships?
4. In verses 18-24, how would you describe God's intervention to protect David? What is confusing or surprising to you in these verses? Where do you see God's sovereign power clearly on display?
5. Read Psalm 59, which David wrote during these episodes in his life. What can you learn from this as you consider how David processed his personal experiences? Where do you see him expressing the emotions he was feeling when Saul and his men were attacking him? In what specific ways do you see David finding spiritual truth to depend on in these moments?
6. Read 1 Peter 2:18-25. What instruction do these verses give for dealing with people who are unfair and unjust? How does the life of Jesus challenge us here? Where do we find hope in these situations?

## LIVING IT OUT

7. Have you ever seen God intervene to provide for you or to protect you? Describe the scenario and how thankful you were for God's help.
8. When someone close to you is making bad choices, how do you typically handle the situation? When you handle it poorly, are you more likely to (1) avoid the conflict or (2) act in a harsh and critical way (if you have to pick one)? Why?
9. How do you process your emotions and experiences? What can you apply from David's example (in Psalm 59 and elsewhere) about how to express your feelings and your faith in healthy ways? How does this challenge you to pursue a deeper relationship with God?
10. Reread David's words in Psalm 59:16-17. What would it look like for you to live with this kind of confidence in God? How does God's steadfast love and grace give you strength and security to face hard times?
11. What is one lesson from this study that you want to remember and incorporate into your life?