

STUDENT DISCUSSION NOTES

APRIL 05, 2020

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

GETTING STARTED

1. What is one high point and one low point from your last week?

LISTENING TO GOD'S WORD

2. Read 1 Samuel 23. Make 5-7 observations. Who are the key characters? What is the general story? What stands out to you most? What are you unsure about?
3. In verses 1-5, after David learns that the Philistines are fighting against Keilah, what is the first thing he does? What is the first thing you usually do when something goes wrong?
4. In verses 15-18, who comes to encourage David? What does he say? Do you have an example of when a friend encouraged you at an important time?
5. Read Psalm 54 (you might want to read from The Message version). Remember that David wrote this Psalm when the Ziphites told Saul that David was hiding among them (1 Samuel 23:19-22). What stands out to you from this Psalm about who God is or what he does?

LIVING IT OUT

6. Pastor Jeff said that all of us wage a daily battle over where we will place our trust. What things do you go to for comfort, safety, escape, or significance? How can those things fail you?
7. When David was afraid, his friend Jonathan came and encouraged him by pointing David back to who God is. Even though we can't get together physically right now, how can we be a source of encouragement to our friends?
8. As David is fleeing from Saul, the Philistines attack and Saul must stop pursuing David in order to fight the Philistines. On the surface, it looks like David got lucky. But remember what David said after this event in Psalm 18, "The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer..." David understood that God intervened to rescue him from Saul. Do you have any examples of past trials where it seemed like you would never make it but God saw you through? Did those trials strengthen your character or deepen your dependence upon God?
9. God rescued David from Saul but there are plenty of examples in the Bible where God does not rescue his people from difficult circumstances (i.e. John the Baptist's beheading, Paul's thorn in the flesh, Stephen's stoning). But if we are followers of Jesus, we will spend eternity with God no matter what happens in this life. Why is that such good news?
10. In the sermon, we looked at *Three Ways to Persevere in Daily Battles*:
 1. Seek Direction from the Word of God
 2. Seek Strength in the Encouragement of Friends
 3. Seek Hope in the Rescue of the Lord

In our current season, which of these are you doing best? Which of these are you not doing well? What steps can you take to put these three principles into practice this week?