

DISCUSSION NOTES

APRIL 05, 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 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?
2. Throughout chapter 23, we see the phrase repeated, "David and his men." Take a moment to review who David's men were and how it came about that they joined David.
3. In verses 1-5, after David learns that the Philistines are fighting against Keilah, what is the first thing he does? Why is this significant?
4. In verses 15-18, who comes to encourage David? How does he do it?
5. Read Psalm 54. Remember that David wrote this Psalm when the Ziphites told Saul that David was hiding among them (1 Samuel 23:19-22). What does this Psalm say about God?

LIVING IT OUT

6. Pastor Jeff said that all of us wage a daily battle over where we will place our trust. Especially in light of the current crisis, how have you seen things like finances, health, or other people fail to provide comfort and security? What practices can you put into place to seek to trust God for comfort and security?
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? How 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). Especially in light of Easter this week, how does the gospel provide hope even if we aren't delivered from difficult circumstances?
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?