

DISCUSSION NOTES

APRIL 26, 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 25:1-13. Make 5-7 observations. What is the story about? Who do we learn about Nabal and Abigail? What emotions are shown?
2. In their business partnership, what service did David and his men offer to Nabal's shepherding business? How well had they fulfilled their responsibility (read the report of Nabal's servants in verses 14-17)?
3. Why is Nabal's response to David's ten your men so offensive to David? How do we know it was both disingenuous and disrespectful?
4. Review David's response to Saul in 1 Samuel 24:4-15. How would you describe the difference in David's action in 1 Samuel 24 and 1 Samuel 25? What do you think changed? Where do you see (or not see) God in David's responses?

LIVING IT OUT

5. Nabal is identified more for his wealth than anything else. What is the problem when "who we are" becomes too closely identified with some aspect of our life like our wealth, our health, our influence, our success, our pleasure, our being the life-of-the-party, or something else?
6. The Bible says, "Be angry, and do not sin." How are we to think about our anger — is it good or bad? Do you find it hard to be honest about your feelings without being controlled by your feelings?
7. When we consider the different responses that David made to Saul (Chap. 24) and to Nabal (Chap. 25), it is clear that our wisdom does not always transfer from one situation to the next — we can see clearly one moment and be blind the next. What does this say about the necessity of moment-by-moment dependence on God in our walk of faith? Why does "more information" from the Bible not automatically solve our sin problem?
8. What would it look like for you to "go to God" this week with whatever you are facing in life and with your weaknesses (your anger, your worry, your impatience, your stress, etc)? How well are you currently living with daily rhythms or practices that help you *go to God* each day?
9. Read Psalm 4:6-8, which was written by David. Spend the last 5-10 minutes of your time praying these verses for the people in your group. Lift one another up specifically, and let these verses guide and direct how you pray for one another:
 - Ask God to make his presence known to you (Lift up the light of your face upon us, O Lord!)
 - Ask the Lord to put real *joy* in your hearts (rather than anger).
 - Pray you would *believe* that joy in the Lord is *greater* than riches (when grain and wine abound).
 - Pray that the people in your group would know *peace* that let's them *both* lie down and sleep, even in seasons of trial and hardship.
 - Pray that each person would know that the Lord *alone* is their safety.