

## **DISCUSSION NOTES**

**MAY 24, 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. Consider what happens in 1 Samuel 28-31. What stood out to you from this wild section of the Bible? What surprised you?
2. Read 1 Samuel 28:15-18. What do we learn about God from these verses? What do we learn about Saul? Why might verse 15 be called one of the saddest verses in the Bible?
3. Read 1 Samuel 29:6-9, and then read 1 Samuel 16:7. Compare and contrast what God sees and what Achish sees. What does this reveal about how David has lost his way and our desire to "look good" even when it's inauthentic?
4. As you consider the trials David endured in 1 Samuel 30, how do you see David change, beginning in verse 6? Throughout the remaining verses in this chapter, where do we see him acknowledge God's provision and grace in this life?
5. In 1 Samuel 31, we see the men of Jabesh-Gilead retrieve the bodies of Saul and his sons. This was a daring act of gratitude on their part. Read 1 Samuel 11:6-15 to see how God used Saul to rescue them from the Ammonites. How would you explain the beginning of Saul's kingship compared to the the ending of his kingship?

### **LIVING IT OUT**

6. As you reflect on our study of 1 Samuel, what have you learned about God? What have you learned about yourself? What has stuck with you the most?
7. In his sermon, Jeff said, "Sometimes, you are brought down so that you learn to look up." How have your low points brought humility that allowed you to better recognize God's grace in your life?
8. 1 Samuel 30:6 says that David strengthened himself in the Lord his God. For you personally, do you feel strong or weak in the Lord right now? What does it practically look like for you to strengthen yourself in the Lord?
9. As a group, read aloud Psalm 23. When you consider all that we've seen thus far in the life of David, how does this experience deepen your appreciation of this wonderful psalm and what it meant for David to write it?
10. What is one thing you've learned in 1 Samuel that you want to incorporate into your life?