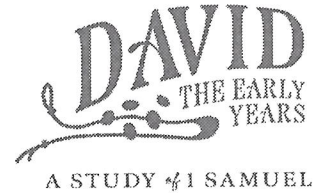


1 SAMUEL 26-27

April 6-7, 2022



1. Recall a time when your circumstances tempted you to begin doubting God's faithfulness. Describe how doubt often leads to feeling disheartened.

What type of circumstances cause us to feel disheartened?

2. Read 1 Samuel 26:1-4. By this point, David has been running from Saul for several years. Where do we find David in verse 1 and why is he there?

According to verses 2-4, how does Saul respond to the report of David's whereabouts?

What does Saul know to be true about David that is revealed in this response? Look at 1 Samuel 16:18 for insight.

3. Read again 1 Samuel 26:4. Consider the spies that David sent out when he learned Saul was in the wilderness. What might have been some of the helpful information the spies reported to David?

How do you think David felt upon hearing Saul was coming for him?

4. Read 1 Samuel 24:1-6 along with 1 Samuel 26:5-12 and record the similarities and differences.

5. David is given a second chance to kill Saul. In 1 Samuel 26:9-11, what are the reasons he gives for again sparing Saul's life?
6. 1 Samuel 26:12 records the Lord caused a deep sleep to fall on Saul and his entire army. Although not recorded, what are some possible reasons for God giving David another opportunity to kill Saul?
7. Continue by reading 1 Samuel 26:13-25. How does David defend himself before Saul in verse 18?

Saul had been pursuing David for over five years. What emotions do you think David would be feeling as he pleads his case before Saul?

David is still confused over Saul's relentless pursuit of him. What is David trying to understand in verse 19?

Saul confesses his wrongdoing and promises to never again harm David. David then sends his servant to return Saul's spear. What does this action reveal about David's confidence in Saul's promise?

8. The last recorded words spoken between David and Saul are recorded in 1 Samuel 26:24-25. How do David's words in verse 24 differ from Saul's words recorded in verse 25?

What does this reveal about David?

What does it reveal about Saul?

9. Read 1 Samuel 27:1-4. What words describe David's state of mind in verse 1?

What decision does David make in verses 1-4 and why?

10. Continue by reading 1 Samuel 27:5-7. Upon arriving at Gath, a Philistine city, what did David request of Achish, king of Gath? What did Achish do in response?

Why might Achish be so quick to grant this request to David, Saul's mortal enemy?

11. Read 1 Samuel 27:8-12. Describe what David did while living in Ziklag.

According to verse 12, what did David's action lead Achish to believe?

12. Count the number of times the word God or Lord is used in chapter 26. How many times do you see the word God or Lord in chapter 27? What conclusion can you draw from this comparison?

How could this have led to David's actions in chapter 27?

13. Recall a time when you were under great distress for a prolonged period of time. How were you tempted to act on plans not approved by God?

What lessons can we learn from David in 1 Samuel 26-27 to prevent making questionable decisions when we are struggling with doubt and self-pity?

14. Write out a personal prayer request in one or two sentences to share with your small group.

The Journey from Determined to Disheartened

1 Samuel 26-27

DETERMINED

1 Samuel 26:1-25

- * The Ziphites inform Saul that David is hiding in the wilderness near the hill at Hachilah.
- * David sends out spies to assess the situation and learns that Saul is camped nearby.
- * David and Abishai make their way to the center of the camp where Saul is sleeping.
- * Abishai attempts to discern God's will in light of his _____.
- * David's learned to interpret his circumstances in light of God's _____.
- * In front of Saul's men, David questions Saul's _____ for pursuing David.
- * Unlike David, Saul's words are self-focused and lack any acknowledgment of God.
- * David's determination to honor God helped him thrive in his difficult circumstances.

Our faith is strengthened when we determine to see our circumstances through the lens of God's truth.

DISHEARTENED

1 Samuel 27:1-12

- * In his disheartened state, David makes the _____ decision to move into Philistine territory.
- * David requests that Achish, the king of Gath, give him the city of Ziklag.
- * David deceives Achish and raids Philistine strongholds who were Judah's neighbors.
- * Instead of _____, David takes Achish the spoils from the raids.
- * Achish trusts David and wrongly assumes that he has become an _____ of Israel.

Walking closely with God allows us to see His character and avoid making decisions based on our fears and hopelessness.

David – The Early Years – 1 Samuel 26-27

April 6-7, 2022

1 CHRONICLES 16:11 Seek the LORD and his strength; seek his presence continually!

1 SAMUEL 15:22 And Samuel said, “Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to listen than the fat of rams.”

PSALM 1:1-3 Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.

2 CHRONICLES 30:9b “For the LORD your God is gracious and merciful and will not turn away his face from you, if you return to him.”

PROVERBS 28:13 Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy.

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.