



LIFE GROUPS STUDY GUIDE

1 Samuel 27-30

In this passage, we find David at an interesting time of his life. David was anointed by Samuel as the next king of Israel in chapter 16. In chapter 17, he stood up against Goliath, the Philistine champion from Gath, and killed him. By chapter 18, Saul began to get nervous about David's popularity with the people and set out to have David die. At first, he wanted to make it look like an accident, but eventually he gave orders for David to be put to death. David was forced to flee for his life and live as a fugitive for nearly 7 years.

Despite the continual confirmations that God would make David king of Israel by Samuel, Abigail, Jonathan and even Saul, David refused to believe the promise of God and fled to the Philistines.

READ 1 SAMUEL 27:1-4

- David is living his life based on his own plans rather than God's direction. Verse 1 states that "But David thought to himself...". Instead of seeking God's direction, David made decisions based on his own thoughts.
- When in your life have you made decisions based on your own wants and desires without seeking the direction of God?
- What circumstances bring you to make decisions on your own rather than seeking God's leading?

READ 1 SAMUEL 27:5-28:2

- David has forgotten about God's past faithfulness when he chooses to flee from the land of Israel and seek protection and safety in the land of the Philistines. David has forgotten the words the Lord spoke to him through Samuel and others. He has forgotten how the Lord saved him time and time again from Saul. He has forgotten the instruction of the prophet Gad to leave his stronghold (outside the land) and return to Judah (1 Samuel 22:5). He has forgotten his own words (spoken not that long ago) about the blessedness of being in the land, and the curse of being forced to leave it (1 Samuel 26). David even appears to have forgotten the disaster it was when he fled to king Achish in Gath (1 Samuel 21:10-15). Forgetfulness is often the starting point for serious failure.

- When in your life have you forgotten God's promises and what did it cost you?
- What can you do in your life to remember the promises of God and position yourself to be obedient in all that you do?

READ 1 SAMUEL 29:1-11

- We find David in the midst of a dark time. David is facing the consequences of his disobedience to God. Instead of being treated as a foreign exile, David becomes the bodyguard of a Philistine king and a leader of 600 soldiers in the Philistine army. David finds himself caught in the middle of his loyalties. The time for him to make good on all of his claims of loyalty to the Philistines has come, but now he is obligated to wage war against the Lord's anointed, Saul, and with Jonathan, David's beloved friend.
- It has been said that every decision has a consequence. Has there ever been a time in your life when you suffered later unfavorable consequences for the decisions you made earlier?
- God makes the consequences of sin very clear: "the wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23). How does it make you feel to know that God has removed the punishment you deserve through Jesus' sacrifice on the cross? How should this change the way you live?

READ GENESIS 30:1-8

- We find a very pivotal verse in this passage that explains how David can be a man after God's heart despite his repeated disobedience. In verse 6, we see that David "found strength in the Lord his God." David turned to God in the midst of his difficulties and found strength in God alone and God responded to David!
- What stops us from turning to God in our times of need?
- What can you do to remind yourself to depend fully on and receive encouragement from God when things are going wrong in your life?