



## Lifegroup Study Guide 2 Samuel 21 and 1 Chronicles 21

### Read 2 Samuel 21:1-6

David recognized this famine as divine chastening and asked God for the reason. By killing many Gibeonites in his zeal to exterminate the heathens from Israel, Saul had sinned against them and broken the treaty Israel had made with them (Josh. 9:3-27).

Does God chasten people for their sins now? Any examples?

How did David recognize that the chastening was from God?

Why do you think that it took three years for David to ask God the reason for the famine? Do you think the famine could have been ended sooner?

### Read 2 Samuel 21:7-14

The Gibeonites demanded justice in keeping with the Israelite law which demanded a life for a life (Numbers 35:31). David complied and, in due time, God restored the land to prosperity.

God's vengeance ceased when justice was done on earth. Do you see God's vengeance evident in the U.S. or anywhere else because of people's sin?

There is no statute of limitations of God's justice. Should the Gibeonites have gone to David and appealed their cause earlier? Why or why not?

What does David's reaction towards Rizpah (v.11) say about David?

### Read 2 Samuel 21:15-22

The Israelites no longer feared the giants like they did before David defeated Goliath.

Why do you think the Israelites were now able to face the giants without fear?

David had faithful men who he went to battle with. Why do we often try to fight our battles alone and in our own strength? Who can you ask to help you fight your battles? When David was weary (v.15), the enemy was ready to take advantage of him (v.16). It seems like whenever we are tired, vulnerable, or weary the enemy shows up. How can we prepare for those times?

### **Read 1 Chronicles 21:1-8**

Ever since the Garden of Eden, Satan has been tempting people to sin (see John 13:2, Acts 5:3).

Can Satan force people to sin? Can Satan tempt people to sin? Do you think that we could or should blame him for the sins that we commit? What could David have done to prevent himself from being tempted like he did? What can we do to prevent ourselves from sinning when tempted? (read 2 Cor. 10:3-5).

### **Read 1 Chronicles 21:14-18**

Our actions always affect other people, whether we want them to or not.

In what things, other than God, do people place their trust? What are some examples of God's judgment when people chose to rely on their own strength, intelligence, experience instead of Him? We sometimes walk a fine line of trusting in God to meet our needs and planning for our future. What are your thoughts on planning for the future (retirement funds, investments, buying bigger houses, and accumulating things) versus trusting God to meet your needs? How can you balance your trust in God and your responsibility to plan for our future? Out of this tragic mistake came the purchase of a plot of land that would become the site of God's temple. What are some examples of God has used your sins/failures for future good?

**5) Read 2 Samuel 18:31-19:4**

Absalom had killed his half-brother trying to avenge the rape of his sister Tamar. He consistently listened to and followed bad advice. Later, Absalom tried to kill his own father and take over the throne.

How can David's love for his son, shown by his inconsolable weeping and mourning, compare to God's abundant grace and mercy for us who are also sinners? Do we deserve the love that God has for us? How can this picture help us forgive someone in our family or circle of friends this week?

Is there someone in your life who needs your forgiveness? Pray that God will place them on your heart and allow you to experience His reconciliation with that relationship.