

Reedy Fork Baptist Church

Wednesday, January 7, 2026

BIBLE STUDY

Theme: “What To Do In Times Of Trouble”

SCRIPTURE IN RESPONSE: 1 Samuel 30:1-10

¹ David and his men reached Ziklag on the third day. Now the Amalekites had raided the Negev and Ziklag. They had attacked Ziklag and burned it,

² and had taken captive the women and everyone else in it, both young and old. They killed none of them, but carried them off as they went on their way.

³ When David and his men reached Ziklag, they found it destroyed by fire and their wives and sons and daughters taken captive.

⁴ So David and his men wept aloud until they had no strength left to weep.

⁵ David’s two wives had been captured—Ahinoam of Jezreel and Abigail, the widow of Nabal of Carmel.

⁶ David was greatly distressed because the men were talking of stoning him; each one was bitter in spirit because of his sons and daughters. But David found strength in the LORD his God.

⁷ Then David said to Abiathar the priest, the son of Ahimelek, “Bring me the ephod.” Abiathar brought it to him,

⁸ and David inquired of the LORD, “Shall I pursue this raiding party? Will I overtake them?” “Pursue them,” he answered. “You will certainly overtake them and succeed in the rescue.”

⁹ David and the six hundred men with him came to the Besor Valley, where some stayed behind.

¹⁰ Two hundred of them were too exhausted to cross the valley, but David and the other four hundred continued the pursuit.

I. Key Words:

- Trouble
- Ephod

II. People, Places, & Time:

- David
- Ziklag
- Amalekites
- Abiathar

III. Background:

1 Samuel 30 describes David's refuge city, Ziklag, being raided and burned by Amalekites while he and his men were away, resulting in the capture of their wives (including David's wives Ahinoam and Abigail) and children, prompting David to seek God's guidance, pursue the attackers, and successfully recover all that was lost, demonstrating his reliance on God during intense personal crisis.

David was a fugitive from King Saul, living among the Philistines and raiding enemies, including the Amalekites, as a bandit, leaving no one alive in his attacks (1 Samuel 27:8-11).

The Amalekite raid on Ziklag was likely revenge for David's prior raids on their territory.

While David and his 600 men were away, the Amalekites attacked Ziklag, burning it and taking all the women and children captive, but killing no one.

Upon returning, David and his men wept until they had no strength left, and his men became so bitter they spoke of stoning him.

IV. In Depth:

1. Lesson Emphasis #1: David Consults God:

David found strength in the Lord, asked Abiathar the priest to bring the ephod (for Urim and Thummim), and inquired if he should pursue the attackers.

2. Lesson Emphasis #2: David Receives Assurance:

God told David to pursue, assuring him he would overtake them.

3. Lesson Emphasis #3: The Pursuit:

David, with 400 men (200 were too exhausted to continue), followed the Amalekites, finding an abandoned Egyptian who led them to the enemy.

4. Lesson Emphasis #4: The Victory:

David's forces attacked the reveling Amalekites from dusk until the next evening, recovering everything, including their families, with only 400 young men escaping on camels.

V. Make It Happen

- What caused David's distress and trouble?
- What did David's men do that demonstrated their distress?
- What actions of David's men caused him greater stress?
- What was David's response to their actions?
- What did God tell him to do?
- What were some of the signs that the Lord was guiding David's way?

VI. Follow the Spirit:

What will you do as a result of this lesson?
