

Reflecting on 1 Samuel 20:1-23:18
February 16, 2020

Introduction: In this text, David discovers in earnest that Saul is out for his life. This sends David on the run from the court of Saul. But through this period in David's life, God is building David's faith through the difficulties he is experiencing. You see, *God uses difficult times to produce distinguished faith.* (See Heb. 11:32-34 and James 1:2-4.) From the events in this chapter we identified two principles for difficult times:

1. Difficult times call for loyal friends.
(1 Sam. 20; 23:14-18)
2. Difficult times require God's direction.
(1 Sam. 21:1-23:14)

Questions:

1. Take a moment to write out your biggest take-away from the message this morning. Take a few minutes to share and discuss?

2. Has God ever used a difficult set of circumstances to build your faith? If you would be comfortable, share your story with the group.

3. What was so unusual about Jonathan and David's friendship? (Hint: make a list of reasons why they shouldn't have been friends!)

4. As a good friend, Jonathan was both selfless and loyal to his friend David. What does it mean for you to be a good Christian friend to the people sitting at this table? How might God use you to build the faith of these brothers and sisters?

5. Young people often struggle to find good, godly friends. What can we, as a church, do to encourage godly friendships among the young people of our church?

6. Why is seeking God's direction so important for believers?

7. Believers, like all people, often go to other people for advice and insight. Below is a list of several possible (and admittedly flawed) sources that people turn to for direction and influence. Look through this list and choose three of the worst options in your opinion. Discuss your answers with the group.

- Social media crowdsourcing
(Ex: "Hey guys, I had this really bad thing happen to me...what do you think I should do?")
- Consulting with unsaved coworkers
- Using dreams and waking-moment impressions as authoritative direction from God
- Seeing a medium or mystic/spiritual advisor
- Going to the web to "Google" your situation
- Thinking hard about how you really feel about the circumstance.

8. Instead of turning to the sources listed above, how should a believer seek God's direction for his/her life, especially in difficult situations? Provide texts of Scripture to support your answers.