

SERMON GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Check out your notes from this week's sermon. What stood out?
Were you challenged? Anything you found difficult or disagreed with?

INTRO QUESTION

Have you ever had one of those weeks where you barely made it through one challenge, only to have another one immediately follow?

DIGGING INTO THE TEXT - 1 Samuel 30:1:-31

- What is so profound about verse 7? Did suffering and trials inevitably drive David to God or away from Him?
- How does the grief of David's men ("until they had no strength left to weep") compared to the way Paul describes Christian grief in 1 Thessalonians 4:13?
- Often times, the impression is given that all your troubles will be over when someone becomes a Christian. Do you ever give people this wrong impression in your personal witness?
- What does it mean that David "found strength in the LORD his God"? How is this different from when he "listened to his heart" in 27:1? (Bonus: Read and discuss Jeremiah 17:9 & Proverbs 3:5-6)
- Why is the abandoned Egyptian servant such a pivotal figure in the story? What does this teach us about God's providence in "little" events?
- How does David handle the dispute between the 200 who stayed behind and the 400 who fought? What does this show about his heart as a leader?
- How does this chapter reveal God's providence working through disaster, despair, and even small details to accomplish His purposes?
- In what ways does David foreshadow Christ in this passage?

TAKEAWAYS

STRENGTHEN YOURSELF IN THE LORD

Nahum 1:7; Hebrews 4:14-16

- The Word of God and prayer are two great means of strengthening ourselves in the Lord. Do you understand the importance of each?
- Do you recognize that not inquiring of the Lord, for any reason, is pretty much the dumbest thing ever?
- Are you experiencing any obstacles that keep you from reading and praying? What are you going to do about it right now?

JESUS IS THE KING WHO GIVES

Matthew 20:1-16; John 1:16; Romans 1:16; 1 Corinthians 4:7

- Have you ever been tempted to feel like you deserve more of God's blessing because of your effort, background, or faithfulness? How does the parable in Matthew challenge the lie of this supposed "Christian superiority" and remind us that grace is the King's gift, not something He owes us?
- Since no one has a greater claim to the gospel than another, how should this truth change the way we see people who are far from God or very different from us?
- Do you tend to think of grace as being mostly connected to the beginning of your life in Christ and not through the whole course of it? Is that wrong?