

# 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

Ever had a plan totally backfire, but somehow it worked out better for you in the end?

## DIGGING INTO THE TEXT - 1 Samuel 29:1-11

What is significant about Aphek as the site of this gathering (compare 1 Sam. 4:1 and 9:16)? How does this deepen the tension in the narrative?

In verses 2–3, what are the commanders of the Philistines upset about? Are their concerns reasonable (refer to 27:8–12)?

Is there anything ironic about Achish's defense of David in verses 6–7? Is his praise justified?

Notice that the only mentions of the Lord in this chapter come from Achish, not David. What is the significance of this silence?

Why does David argue with Achish in verse 8? How is God at work here?

## TAKEAWAYS

### WHERE IS OUR GOD?

*John 8:18-19; Romans 8:28; 11:33*

When have you felt like God was absent, only to look back later and see He was at work?

Does the reality of God's presence in suffering change the way we face present trials? If not, why?

If God can turn even David's compromise into a surprising rescue, how might He already be working through your own messes in ways you can't yet trace?

### WHAT ABOUT US CHRISTIANS?

*1 Corinthians 6:11; John 15:18-20; Romans 12:1-2*

If unbelievers looked closely at your daily life, would they be surprised that you follow Jesus?

When have you found yourself in places or with people you thought you'd never align with because of fear or discouragement? How has God used those moments to reveal His purposes?

Sometimes outsiders see our true identity better than we do. When have unbelievers recognized your Christian identity, positively or negatively, even when you tried to downplay it?