

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



*These discussion questions are designed to extend the impact of the Sunday message. You can use them for your personal Bible study, family study, and/or small group study.*

### Overview

Sermon: *Unstoppable Faith*

*In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. - Ephesians 6:16*

A Roman soldier's shield was four feet tall and two-and-a-half feet wide. A shield was used for protection against artillery such as their enemy's arrows. The shield of faith that Paul describes is the only piece of the armor of God that is given a specific purpose. Without faith we are most vulnerable to the evil one's attacks. Paul says that with the shield of faith we "can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one."

At the end of 1 Samuel, Saul and his sons died in combat against the Philistines. In 2 Samuel, King David completes a long fight for the throne of Israel against the house of Saul. He rightfully claims the throne as God's anointed. He rules for several years expanding Israel's kingdom. He is a skilled military tactician and political leader, but we find that he is vulnerable with his family.

His son Absalom takes advantage of this and works a four-year plan to successfully overthrow his father from the throne. Many of the people close to David betray him or appear to betray him. This drama makes the reader ask, who will remain faithful to David? And, will David remain faithful to God?

### Discussion

1. Describe a time when you felt betrayed. Did you see it coming? Why or why not? Where was God in this?
2. In 2 Samuel 15 David is forced to flee from Absalom but he chooses to send the ark of the covenant back into Jerusalem. Read 2 Samuel 15:23-26. With all the chaos surrounding David how does this action demonstrate his faithfulness to God?
3. Describe a time when you felt overwhelmed. How was God faithful to you during this time?
4. Absalom manipulated his father and the people of Israel for many years. In 2 Samuel 15 it says that Absalom "stole their hearts." (Read about his plan in 2 Samuel 15:1-12). How does faith in God protect us against manipulation from the evil one? In times of trouble how can faith help us not try and manipulate God and others?
5. David trusted in God during a very difficult situation. He may have lost the kingdom for good but he eventually wins back the throne when Absalom's army loses, and he is killed in battle. How does

**June 9, 2019**

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

God use our problems to deepen our faith in him? How are challenging and fearful situations an opportunity to rely on God's strength?

### Application

6. "This is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith" (1 John 5:4). Read Psalm 3. Which words or phrases most connect with you. Use the words of David to offer prayers to God to strengthen your faith.