

Small Group Discussion Questions

Series: Plot Twist

Speaker: Matt Mackie

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Memory Verse: 1 Peter 5:5b-6 NIV

“God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.” Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.

Read 1 Samuel 18:1-16

- How does David’s character and virtue influence his relationship with Jonathan and others around him? What character traits should we seek to develop to build meaningful and lasting connections with others?
- Previously in 1 Samuel 14:1-14, Jonathan shows extraordinary faith that is similar to what David exhibited by going one-on-one with Goliath. Why do you think these two form such a strong bond of friendship? Do you have a friendship like this with anyone? If not, what does it take to cultivate one?
- If you were Saul, how would you have felt about the song the women sang? Have you ever been in a similar situation when one of your coworkers or friends received greater praise than you? How did you handle your emotions and actions during that time? If you did not handle it well, what would you do differently if given a second chance?
- Saul was consumed with jealousy towards David. Describe a time in your life when you were jealous of someone. What does it feel like to be jealous? What were the consequences of your jealousy? What do you think motivates us to be jealous?
- Because of the jealousy Saul was harboring, he lashed out at David by trying to kill him and put him in situations that would lead to his death. When you are jealous, how does that come forth in your life? What impact does that behavior have on you



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and those around you?

- When we are jealous of another, what does it reveal about our beliefs about God? What do you think Jesus would say to a jealous person? How does the Gospel provide an answer for the problem of jealousy?
- How can we cultivate a spirit of celebration for the successes and blessings of others, just like Jonathan celebrated David's victories? Share ways to express gratitude to God and others for their positive influence in your life. Specifically, how can you remind yourself of the goodness of God in your life this week in order to build a heart of gratitude?
- David received great praise and admiration from the people. How can we humbly handle compliments and recognition in our own lives? How do we balance accepting credit and giving God the glory? Discuss the dangers of seeking validation solely from external sources and the importance of finding our worth in God.
- Scripture affirms that David had success in what he did because the Lord was with him. Does this mean that since we have the Holy Spirit, whatever we do will be successful? Is being successful a sign that the Lord is with you? What do you think it would look like in your life to say, "In everything (your name) did, he/she had great success, because the Lord was with him/her."



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