

Called Out of Hiding
Growth Group Discussion Guide
2 Samuel 9

Intro questions

- Pastor Josh posed a question on Sunday morning. Invite everyone to share their answer with the group: if you “made it”—you amassed all the wealth you could ever need, reached the peak of your profession, and had time on your hands, what would you set out to do next?
- Take a moment to pray, asking for God’s Spirit to lead your discussion.

1. Read 2 Samuel 9:1, then discuss the following.

- Given the nature of Saul’s disposition toward David, what is startling about David’s question?
- What is the motivation behind David’s question?
- Review the covenant that was at the heart of David and Jonathan’s friendship, since it plays a significant role in today’s passage. Read the following:
 - 1 Samuel 18:1-4
 - 1 Samuel 20:12-17

2. Read 2 Samuel 9:2-5, then discuss the following.

- Why do you think that Ziba leads with this description, “he is lame in both feet,” for the son of Jonathan?
- Read 2 Samuel 4:4, for a review of how Mephibosheth became disabled.
 - Why was Mephibosheth’s nurse fleeing on this occasion?
 - What did these actions reflect about the family’s perception of David?
- Back in chapter 9, what do you think Mephibosheth would have been thinking and/or feeling when he was summoned to the palace to see David?

3. Read 2 Samuel 9:6-13, then discuss the following.

- What is significant about the way that David first addresses Mephibosheth?
- There are several words or phrases that the narrator repeats in a redundant way here. What are they, and why are they significant? What are we to notice?
- What benefits does David bestow on Mephibosheth?
- In what ways does David honor his covenant with Jonathan here?
- Pastor Josh talked on Sunday about how this whole scene is a picture of the gospel. Summarize that picture once again.
 - Do you agree that this interaction between David and Mephibosheth is a picture of the gospel? Why or why not?

4. Application

- Of the characters in the story, with whom do you most identify, and why?
- Is there anyone in your life who would be for you like a descendant of Saul was for David—i.e., someone who feels like an enemy, or is at least hostile toward you? (If they are in your growth group, be tactful here!)
 - How might God be prompting you to proactively show them his kindness? What would it look like?
 - In what way does the gospel of Jesus enable you to do this?
- Pastor Josh mentioned a few possible ways that this story could touch our lives. They are re-stated below. Which of these most speaks to your situation? Or is there some other way that God is speaking to you through this story? Please share.
 - Like Mephibosheth, you need to hear God calling you his royal child, giving you tremendous dignity and status.
 - Perhaps you need to be humbled by the realization that God has given you this dignity and status in spite of you, rather than because of your greatness.
 - You are invited to the banqueting table of God, every day. What would it look like for you to come?
 - Other?

5. Prayer

- Pray for the ability to act on what God has shown you today.
- Pray for one another about any other needs that have been mentioned.