

Discussion Opener:

What part of Sunday's message hit home for you the most?

The Pause Before the Promise

- David was anointed to be king... then sent back to the sheep.
- Think about a season in your own life when you felt like God had called you to more, but your reality felt *ordinary* or *insignificant*, or that God was taking too long:
 1. How did you respond to that gap between promise and fulfillment?
 2. What emotions surface in that kind of waiting?
- Pastor Daniel said: *"The pause before the promise is preparation."*
 3. Why do you think God so often does His best work in hidden, waiting seasons?
- Read **Psalm 23** together.
 4. What in this Psalm strikes you the most in your season of waiting or private?

Read: 1 Samuel 17:34–37

- David's confidence when he faced Goliath came from his private victories trusting God.
 1. What are some personal examples where you have trusted God and found victory?
- David's battles in obscurity were preparation for God's future purposes: Before David fought Goliath, he **cleared private battlefields**.
 2. What are some "lions" or "bears" people often allow to roam free in their private lives?
 3. Why is it easier to focus on public victories (success, image, platform, promotion) than on private character?
- Pastor Daniel told the story: "Sometimes God isn't waiting on our competence, He's waiting on our character."
 4. How does that truth challenge you and apply to your current season?

Get Practical

- What's one private battlefield in your life right now where God may be calling you to face a "lion" or "bear"? (You don't have to give details, but name the area: integrity, bitterness, lust, control, fear, etc.)
 5. What's a concrete first step you can take this week to face that private battle with God's help?
 1. Example: daily prayer of surrender, accountability with a trusted friend, journaling, counseling, Scripture memorization, joining a

group specifically for it, or finally getting honest and serious about your battle?

6. READ Luke 16:10 what "smaller" areas of private trust is God wanting you to surrender or fight against right now?
- David's courage grew because of daily trust, not overnight heroics.
 7. What daily habit or spiritual rhythm could help build that kind of faith in your life?
- Dry Erase: How have you used this in your life to focus your mirror time as a reminder to surrender to God and seek Him?
 8. Share some ideas of how this works most effectively

Take time to pray— breaking up men and women if applicable, or in pairs, or as a group if appropriate: pray for one another in the area of private battlefields.