

Small Groups Study Guide: Read the entire Passage first

- Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

Other passages to look at: — Isaiah 57:11, Mark 2:25

READ THE PASSAGE

What does this passage tell us about God? Who He is and what He does.

¹ Then David came to Nob, to Ahimelech the priest. And Ahimelech came to meet David, trembling, and said to him, "Why are you alone, and no one with you?"

It is a good thing to come to the house of God when things are not good (vs 1)

² And David said to Ahimelech the priest, "The king has charged me with a matter and said to me, 'Let no one know anything of the matter about which I send you, and with which I have charged you.' I have made an appointment with the young men for such and such a place.

There is never a situation that justifies situational lying. (vs 2)

The text is recalling what took place, not recommending what happened. (vs 2)

The remedy for fear is to fear God (vs 2, Isaiah 57:11)

³ Now then, what do you have on hand? Give me five loaves of bread, or whatever is here."

When you are feeling tempted, it is time to H.A.L.T. think and pray. (vs 1-6)
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⁴ And the priest answered David, "I have no common bread on hand, but there is holy bread—if the young men have kept themselves from women." ⁵ And David answered the priest, "Truly women have been kept from us as always when I go on an expedition. The vessels of the young men are holy even when it is an ordinary journey. How much more today will their vessels be holy?"

God desires us to be holy in our hearts, not just our hands (vs 5)

All big sins start with covering over little sins. (vs 5)

⁶ So the priest gave him the holy bread, for there was no bread there but the bread of the Presence, which is removed from before the Lord, to be replaced by hot bread on the day it is taken away.

Our trial in the present is training for the future (vs 6)

⁷ Now a certain man of the servants of Saul was there that day, detained before the Lord. His name was Doeg the Edomite, the chief of Saul's herdsmen. Then David said to Ahimelech, "Then have you not here a spear or a sword at hand? For I have brought neither my sword nor my weapons with me, because the king's business required haste." ⁸ And the priest said, "The sword of Goliath the Philistine, whom you struck down in the Valley of Elah, behold, it is here wrapped in a cloth behind the ephod. If you will take that, take it, for there is none but that here." And David said, "There is none like that; give it to me."

Put into Practice:

Step 1 ☐ Recognize your trial as training.

Step 2 ☐ H.A.L.T.

Step 3 ☐ Confess your fear.

Small Group Discussion Questions

1. From 1 Samuel 21:1

Why did David run to the house of the Lord, and what does that teach us about trials?

2. From 1 Samuel 21:1-9

What does David's lying reveal about fear and faith?

3. From 1 Samuel 19-21 (specifically with Mical, and Johnathan)

What does the sermon teach about "small sins" and spiritual compromise?

4. How does the H.A.L.T. principle help believers resist temptation?

5. What was the significance of the "Bread of the Presence" in David's story?

6. How should believers view seasons of wilderness and hardship according to this sermon?

PURPOSE OF SMALL GROUPS

sharing, caring, praying, serving, and mobilizing each other.

SHARING – We come together each week to share a meal, God’s Word, and how His story impacts our daily walk.

CARING – We gather together each week to ask great questions, listen to understand each other, and what God is doing in and through our lives.

PRAYING – We meet together to pray with each other. Not just to speak to God, but to hear from Him each week in community, and daily individually.

SERVING - We work together, using our unique gifts, to serve one another by God's grace and build the body in love each week.

MOBILIZING – We are praying for our neighbors by name and pray through “Good Events” once a quarter.

Leaders Guide (WITH SUGGESTED AND HELPFUL ANSWERS)

Understanding the Questions

1. From 1 Samuel 21:1

Why did David run to the house of the Lord, and what does that teach us about trials?

Biblical Answer: David had nowhere else to go—he could not go home, the palace, or the army—so he went to Nob, where the tabernacle was located. The sermon emphasized that when life becomes heavy, believers often isolate themselves, but David’s example shows that we most need God’s presence and God’s people during hardship. Trials should push us toward worship, fellowship, and dependence on God rather than away from Him.

2. From 1 Samuel 21:1-9

What does David’s lying reveal about fear and faith?

Biblical Answer: David lied because he was afraid for his life. The sermon explained that fear was driving his decisions instead of trust in God. David had defeated Goliath by faith, yet now he was relying on his own instincts and “situational ethics.” The lesson is that fear often tempts us to compromise, but faith calls us to trust God even when circumstances feel dangerous or uncertain.

3. From 1 Samuel 19-21 (specifically with Mical, and Johnathan)

What does the sermon teach about “small sins” and spiritual compromise?

Biblical Answer: The sermon showed that David’s compromise started with “small” lies that eventually led to devastating consequences, including the death of the priests later in the story. Sin grows when it is hidden instead of confessed. The preacher connected this to David’s future failures, showing that major falls often begin with smaller compromises that go unchecked.

4. How does the H.A.L.T. principle help believers resist temptation?

Biblical Answer: H.A.L.T. stands for Hungry, Angry, Lonely, and Tired. The sermon pointed out that David was at least hungry, lonely, and tired, making him vulnerable to compromise. The principle teaches believers to pause, pray, and recognize when physical or emotional weakness is affecting spiritual judgment. Instead of reacting impulsively, Christians should seek God through prayer and Scripture when they are vulnerable.

5. What was the significance of the “Bread of the Presence” in David’s story?

Biblical Answer: The Bread of the Presence symbolized fellowship with God. The sermon emphasized that God already knew David would come to Nob and had provided bread there for him. More than physical food, the bread reminded David that God desired communion and fellowship with His people. In seasons of wilderness and desperation, God's presence is the believer's true nourishment.

6. How should believers view seasons of wilderness and hardship according to this sermon?

Biblical Answer: The sermon described trials as "training grounds" where God forms His people into the likeness of Christ. David thought he was simply running for his life, but God was preparing him to become king. Likewise, believers should see hardships not as meaningless suffering or bad luck, but as God's sovereign work shaping maturity, dependence, and faithfulness in them.