

king's chapel

Community Group Discussion Guide

Week of July 1, 2018

This Week's Focus: Jesus is the better and greater David who willingly suffered rejection by his own people and experienced the heat of God's just judgement that we deserved so that we can have eternal, intimate relationship with God.

This Week's Text: 1 Samuel 23

"We best encourage not by being cuddly with people but by reminding them of the promises of God. Encouragement from God for the people of God comes from the word of God. Solid encouragement comes not from emotional closeness but from God's speech." **Ralph Davis**

Observations and Questions for Discussion:

- What has the Holy Spirit impressed on your heart and mind from this week's sermon/text?
- What is the "threshing floor" and why would the Philistines attack this particular place in Keilah? As a man of the Spirit, how did David respond to the news? How did he address the fears of his men's fears?
- When confronted with fear, trouble, anxiety, or confusion where do you typically turn for help? If we truly believe that God is good, that he delights in our dependence on him, and that he desires to guide his people, why do we often neglect praying to him?
- What's significant about how David addresses God in his pleas (verses 10-11)?
- Discuss how God guides his people with answers to prayer (1 Samuel 23:2,4), sovereignly appointed circumstances (Acts 16:24-34), Spirit-illuminated discernment (Romans 12:2), and the clear revelation of divinely inspired Scripture (Exodus 20:1-17, Matthew 5:43, Ephesians 5:18-21).
- What had effectively blinded Saul to God's salvation of Keilah? Why do you think Saul credited God with having "given David into my hand" (verse 7)? As a man of the flesh, from where is Saul receiving his directives?
- What clues in the text indicate that God is forming a new Israel with David as king (1 Samuel 22:5; 23:5; 23:9)?
- Who does God send to help David during his wilderness wandering? In what specific ways did he encourage and strengthen David? Why is it important to have friends with a common faith

(Hebrews 3:12-13)? Do you have a friend(s) who lovingly directs you to the gospel? Are you a friend like that?

- How did God use the Philistines, Israel's enemy, to protect his anointed? Read Psalm 54 and reflect on David's response to God's sovereignty, faithfulness, and protection. Share some examples from your life when God has been your "helper, the Lord is the upholder of my life."
- Discuss how Jesus is the better and greater David who willingly suffered rejection by his own people and experienced the heat of God's just judgement that we deserved so that we can have eternal, intimate relationship with God.
- How does this passage propel you to live on mission to demonstrate and declare the gospel to those within your spheres of influence?