

# king's chapel

Community Group Discussion Guide

Week of September 23, 2018

**This Week's Focus:** Selfish ambition and the lust for power is lethal to individuals and communities, but Jesus has established an eternal Kingdom by his blood; and he grants eternal life, certain hope, and lasting joy to all who trust in his atoning work.

**This Week's Text:** 2 Samuel 2:8-3:1

"God, grant me the serenity to accept the things that I cannot change; courage to change the things I can; and wisdom to know the difference. Living one day at a time; enjoying one moment at a time; accepting hardships as the pathway to peace; taking, as He did, this sinful world as it is, not as I would have it; trusting that He will make all things right if I surrender to His Will; that I may be reasonably happy in this life and supremely happy with Him forever in the next. Amen." **The Serenity Prayer, Paul Reinhold Niebuhr**

## **Observations and Questions for Discussion:**

- What has the Holy Spirit impressed on your heart and mind from this week's sermon/text? What have you learned more clearly about yourself and about God?
- What monumental event took place at the beginning of chapter 2? What blessing and invitation did David present to the people of Jabesh-Gilead and why?
- Where have we previously heard of Abner? Why do you think he challenged David's leadership by establishing Ish-bosheth as king? What effect did his opposition have on God's people, Israel? Discuss how pride, selfish ambition, and lust for power is lethal to the church.
- Like Abner, are you trusting in your own strength or cunning rather than surrendering to God's will and authority? What's driving your self-reliance? Share an example from your life when self-reliance caused unnecessary pain for yourself and others.
- What was the tragic outcome at the pool of Gibeah? Have you justified using any worldly strategies or methods in order to control the direction of your life? What did Jesus do when he was tempted to abandon the cross (Luke 4:5-8) and when faced with its agonies (Mark 14:36)? Do you trust that God is good and that he is sovereignly working all things for his glory and your good (Romans 8:28)?

- Discuss the importance of wisdom and humility in tempering ambition and teaching us to wait on the Lord (Romans 12:3).
- Why do you think was the motivation behind Abner's rhetorical questions (verse 26)? What was Joab's response?
- Why are all human governments and communities inevitably destined to fail? Is the Kingdom of God and Jesus Christ, the King of kings, your ultimate hope? What does it mean to pray, as Jesus taught us, "Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven" (Matthew 6:10)?
- How does this passage encourage you to live on mission to demonstrate and declare the gospel in your community and spheres of influence?