

king's chapel

Community Group Discussion Guide

Week of September 30, 2018

This Week's Focus: Jesus Christ is the praiseworthy King of kings who is perfectly good, innocent, gracious, and gentle who gives rest to weary sinners who trust in him.

This Week's Text: 2 Samuel 3

"If you are a poor, distressed sinner, whose heart is ready to sink for fear that God never will have mercy on you, you need not be afraid to go to Christ, for fear that he is either unable or unwilling to help you. Here is a strong foundation, and an inexhaustible treasure, to answer the necessities of your poor soul. Here is infinite grace and gentleness to invite and embolden a poor, unworthy, fearful soul to come to it. If Christ accepts you, you need not fear but that you will be safe, for he is a strong Lion for your defense. And if you come, you need not fear but that you shall be accepted, for he is like a Lamb to all who come to him, and receives with infinite grace and tenderness." **Jonathan Edwards**

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 triggered the domestic conflict between Israel (the 11 tribes to the north) and Judah? Who are the players in this civil war?
- Who is responsible for David's increase in strength and the weakening of Saul's house? Is David right in taking multiple wives (Genesis 2:18-24, Deuteronomy 17:17)? What is the principle of Description and Prescription, and why is it important when reading Scripture?
- What custom does Abner adopt from the pagan nations as a way of "making himself strong in the house of Saul"? How does Abner respond to Ishbosheth's challenge? What's behind the attitude God needs you in order to accomplish his will?
- Do you think Abner had a genuine change of heart in verses 9-11, or did he have other motives? Is it a pattern in your life that you wait until you are backed into a corner before you humble yourself before God and his will?
- Why did David demand that his first wife Michal be returned to him as part of his covenant with Ishbosheth?
- Although with improper motivations, what is the gospel or "good news" that Abner is declaring in verse 18 (Philippians 1:15-18)?

- What does Abner's peaceful trek to and from Hebron reveal about David's character? Are you known as trustworthy and a man or woman of your word?
- Why did Joab kill Abner and how is it similar to Peter's violence in the Garden of Gethsemane (John 18:10-11)? How do you respond when you don't get your way or when injustice occurs?
- What was David teaching the people of Israel by mourning for Abner and by forcing Joab to join the public lament?
- How is Jesus Christ reflected in King David's goodness, innocence, graciousness, and gentleness as expressed in this passage (Titus 3:4, Romans 3:22-25, Matthew 11:28)?
- How does this passage encourage you to live on mission to demonstrate and declare the gospel in your community and spheres of influence?