

Running with the Big Dogs

Experiencing success in life by following God's lead from 1 & 2 Samuel

“Run, David, Run”

Introduction to 1 Samuel 21-24

The 5 Purposes of the Purpose Driven Life

- **Worship**—You were planned for God's pleasure
- **Fellowship**—You were formed for God's family
- **Discipleship**—You were created to become like Christ
- **Ministry**—You were shaped for serving God
- **Evangelism**—You were made for a mission

Just as Forest Gump ran from the bullies when his girl friend, Jenny, said to him, “run, Forest, run”, so in this week’s study, the soon to be king, David, begins to run from the current king, Saul. There are times that it is wiser to run than it is to stay and fight, and this was the situation in which David found himself. However, the way we run often reveals our faith in God. David began running by himself, going to the Ahimelech, the priest, and asking for consecrated bread and Goliath’s sword. When this was later reported to Saul, it cost Ahimelech and his priests their lives. Then David ran by himself to Achish, king of Gath, and ultimately had to feign insanity to save his life. He then hid out in the cave of Adullam, and sent his parents

away to Moab. All four of these decisions were made independently of God, and indicated David’s lack of faith in Him. At this point, though, David began to turn a corner. When God told him to leave his cave and go back to his homeland, he obeyed, and went to the forest of Hereth. From that base he was able to conduct a military campaign against the Philistines on Keilah’s behalf, but this time he consulted with God. The result was an overwhelming victory, acquisition of the spoils of war, and deliverance for Keilah. After this incident, David clearly began to run with God, as Saul began to pursue him relentlessly. As he and his men were shut up inside of Keilah, he sought God’s guidance—not



When you run with God and follow His lead, you will have success in life.

once, but twice—and God delivered him from Saul’s plan to capture him. Later God used Jonathan to encourage him, delivered him from Saul on the mountain near Maon, and even gave David the opportunity to capture Saul. In the last instance, though, David committed Saul into God’s hands, and Saul promised to stop pursuing him. David had learned the value of running—with God.

Study/Discussion Questions for 1 Samuel 21-24

(For answers to questions attend an ABF or go to www.celebrationnet.com/resources/leader resources)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1. Read 21:1-9. Where did David go first (v1), what was the reaction (v1), and why? What lie did David tell (v2), and what did he ask for (v3-6, 8-9)? What did he overlook (v7)?</p> | |
| <p>2. From 21:10-15 what was David’s next stop (v10), and what problem arose there (v11)? How did David react (v12), and how did he deal with it (v13-15)? Evaluate his “solution”.</p> | |
| <p>3. In 22:1-5 where did David go (v1), who joined him there (v1-3), and what did they have in common? Where did David send his parents (v3-4)? Where did God send David (v5)?</p> | |

(Continued on Next Page)

I Samuel 21-24 Study Questions (cont)

4. According to 22:6-16 what was Saul's concern (v7-8), who helped him (v9), and what did he tell him (v9-10)? To what did this lead (v11-13), what was the answer (v14-15), and Saul's response (v16)?

5. Looking at 22:17-23 what did Saul command (v17), what was the response (v17), and who did the "dirty work" (v18-19)? Who did God spare from Doeg (v20-21), and how did David respond (v22-23)? What do you think he was learning?

6. From 23:1-5 what situation presented itself to David (v1), and how did he get involved (v2)? How did his men feel (v3), how was David sure (v4), and what was the result (v5)? How does this story illustrate David's progress?

7. Based on 23:6-18 what problem did David encounter (v6-8), and how did he deal with it (v9-11, 12)? What did he then do (v13-14), and what 2 ways did God take care of him (v14, 16-18)?

8. Using 23:19-29 who helped Saul (v19-20), and how did Saul respond (v21-23)? How did God help David when Saul pursued him (v25-28)? What do you think David learned from this?

9. Read 24:1-15. What opportunity did David have (v1-3), how did David initially respond (v4), and later (v5-7)? Describe David's attitude as he tells Saul about this (v8-15). How does this show his commitment to rely on God?

10. In 24:16-22 how did Saul respond to David's words (v16-19), what did this confirm for Saul (v20), and what was his request (v21)? What did David do (v22)?

11. Consider David's progress in facing problems in 1 Samuel 21-24. When did he begin to turn things over to God, and what advice do you think he would give you today about dealing with problems?

Scripture to Remember

"I will not stretch out my hand against my lord, for he is the Lord's anointed."

1 Samuel 24:10

Celebration Fellowship

*Reaching—
Restoring—Raising Up*

We're on the web

www.celebrationnet.com

Life Group Questions

(Using questions based on today's message, Life Groups meet in homes to build supportive relationships with others at Celebration Fellowship that enable us to grow in Christ.)

1. Share with the group your pattern of prayer—how often, how long, where, how, when it is most meaningful, and why.
2. Why must God be our priority in prayer? Talk about some practical ways to make His fatherhood, His holiness, and His will the basis for our prayer.
3. Discuss some of the needs that we should ask God for. Why is it important to ask God for these things—what does it do for him, and for us?
4. Share what it means to you to ask in faith, expectantly? Think about some ways that we know if we are really asking this way.
5. What does it mean "to whom little is not enough, nothing is enough"? How can prayer help us learn to enjoy what God consistently gives to us?
6. Discuss anything else that impressed you from the worship service if you have time.