

Promised Land 2 Study and Discussion Questions

Lesson Two: David's Rise from Obscurity and Saul's Death – 1 Samuel 16-31; 1 Chronicles 1-10

Read 1 Samuel 16; Skim 1 Chronicles 1-3.

- 1) Who was David? Answer this question by:
 - a) Recording the names of a few of the key figures in the genealogy in 1 Chronicles 1:1-4, 17, 27-28, 34; 2:1-5, 9-15.
 - b) Glancing at the genealogy in Matthew 1:1-17 and telling (from verse 17) why the Holy Spirit inspired the Bible writers to carefully record David's genealogy.
- 2) What lessons can you glean from 1 Samuel 16 about people God chooses?
- 3) Give example of how David and Saul are contrasted in this chapter.
- 4) How might you use music this week to soothe and encourage yourself or someone close to you?

Read 1 Samuel 17-18.

- 5) From a human point of view, what does chapter 17 indicate that David had going *for* him and *against* him in considering a contest with Goliath?

- 6) Contrast David's leadership qualities and view of God with Saul's leadership qualities and (implied) view of God, as described in chapter 17.
- 7) 1 Samuel 18 reveals the fallout of David's success, contrasting the attitudes and actions of those who loved David with Saul's jealous attempts on his life.
- a) Which verses in chapter 18 identify the emotion behind Saul's anger and jealousy?
 - b) Is there anyone in your life whom you fear? (You will not be asked to answer this in your group discussion unless you choose.) Read Matthew 5:43-44, Romans 8:28-39, and Philippians 4:6-8. What do you need to begin doing today with regard to this fear?

Skim 1 Samuel 19-23 with Psalm 52, 54, 56, 57, 59.

- 8) Name the people in chapters 19-23 who knowingly or unknowingly aided David, along with a word or short phrase that summarizes how each one helped him.
- 9) What connection did David's family have with Moab (See Ruth 1:1-5, 4:13-17)?

10) The Psalms listed above are a few of those written by David during the years he fled from Saul (according to tradition, as reflected in the titles).

a) What do you learn about David from them?

b) What aspect of David's prayer life could you emulate in order to improve your own prayer life?

Skim 1 Samuel 24-26.

11) 1 Samuel 24 and 26 record two instances in which David stumbled upon Saul and refused to harm him.

a) How did David's men view the opportunities David had to avenge himself against Saul, according to 1 Samuel 24:4 and 26:8?

b) Why did David refuse to avenge himself, according to 1 Samuel 24:10 and 26:9-11?

c) How might you apply David's reasoning to a situation you currently face?

- 12)** Re-read Abigail's wise words to David in 1 Samuel 25:30-31. From what temptation did Abigail protect David in 1 Samuel 25 (a temptation that he had resisted without any human encouragement in chapters 24 and 26)? Read 1 Corinthians 10:11-13. What temptation, that have you successfully resisted in the past, might ensnare you this very week if you think you are standing firm?

Skim 1 Samuel 27-31 and 1 Chronicles 10.

- 13)** Chapters 27, 29 and 30 describe the period of time in which David lived in Philistine territory in order to escape Saul. In what ways did God protect David during this stage of his life?
- 14)** How does 1 Samuel 28 reveal the depths to which Saul had fallen mentally, emotionally, and spiritually (include verse numbers)?
- 15)** 1 Samuel 28-31 contrasts the manner in which David and Saul each fought a battle during the same period of time.
- a)** What contrasts do you find?
 - b)** How do these two battles resolve the conflict that has been building throughout 1 Samuel 16-31?
 - c)** What conflict (or situation) do you need to wait patiently for God to resolve in His time and way (see Psalm 37:7, 40:1, Romans 8:25)?