



IN SEARCH OF THE KING

Community Group Questions

1 Samuel 21 & 22
Evil Unleashed

FOCUS

Saul's evil has forced David to have to flee into the 'wilderness' on the run for his life. In the Bible, the wilderness is filled with trials and tragedy, but God provides for and protects His anointed ones who have to journey through suffering on the path to glory.

OPENING QUESTION

Reflect on the last time you felt afraid. What other emotions were connected to that fear? What did you think about yourself? About life? About God?

READ

1 Samuel 21 & 22

SOME QUESTIONS FOR STUDY AND REFLECTION

In what ways is the beginning of David's wilderness experience in 21:1-8 similar to Israel's wilderness experience when they came out of Egypt? (see Exodus 14:1-31; 16:1-21; Numbers 20:14-21)

Verse 12 tells us that David is much afraid. Why did David have good reason to be much afraid?

How do Psalms 56 and 34 help you to better understand what's really going on in David's heart and mind when he's in Gath?

In what way does Saul represent the antichrist? (see 1 John 2:18)

Chapter 22 provides a contrast between two very different kings. Note the contrasts between David and Saul. Consider: which of the two would you rather have as your king and why?



CLOSING REFLECTION AND APPLICATION

Sunday's sermon focused on the biblical pattern of suffering first and then glory.

- In what way is this true of David?
- In what way is this especially true of Jesus?
- In what way is this true of all those who would follow Jesus?

Do you need to reset your expectations of the Christian life in any way?

How will you remember the reality of present suffering and future glory that are yours in Christ?

What are some practical ways Christians should be on guard for evil – both in this world and in our own hearts?

God works to deliver through some surprising ways in this chapter, and yet it's still God's deliverance. How can you become better attentive to God's work even when it seems on the surface that you have no refuge available to you? (You might like to consider how David responds when he's in the cave in Psalms 57 and 142.)

Read Psalm 34. What convictions about God does David demonstrate in that Psalm? How is each of them relevant to his situation in Gath? How is each of them relevant to your life?

What kinds of people were attracted to David in chapter 22? How is it similar to the kinds of people who were attracted to Jesus?

How do you see yourself? Do you recognize yourself as someone in distress, in debt, and discontent?

If so, what kind of gospel promises does Jesus offer to people like you?