



IN SEARCH OF THE KING

Community Group Questions

1 Samuel 25 & 26
The Marks of a Godly Leader, Part II

READ

1 Samuel 25 & 26

SOME QUESTIONS FOR STUDY AND REFLECTION

What historical note are we told in 25:1? What significance might it have to the narratives of these chapters?

What makes Nabal and Abigail such an odd couple?

Good and evil are repeatedly mentioned in chapters 24-26. Compare the two intriguing scenes in which David engages Nabal and Saul.

- In what way are both Nabal and Saul fools?
- In what way has David been good to them both?
- In what way have they both repaid David with evil?
- In what way does David respond to their unfair treatment of him?
- Why does David ultimately respond the way he does?

What points does Abigail make in her speech to David?

What are the similarities and differences between David's encounter with Saul as described for us in chapters 24 and 26?

What do you think David's reasons might have been for sneaking into Saul's camp with Abishai?

How might David's statement to Saul at the beginning of 26:23 be an apt summary of what's being displayed and taught to us in these chapters?

FOCUS

David is once again being tested in the wilderness – will he be a man of righteousness and faithfulness or will he simply take matters into his own hands by usurping the Lord's authority to execute vengeance? The goal is for us to trust Jesus as our righteous and faithful Savior and then follow His example to entrust ourselves to God who judges justly.

OPENING QUESTION

What temptations might people face when life seems particularly difficult, or unfair, or to be going wrong?



CLOSING REFLECTION AND APPLICATION

Do you see David growing as a leader in these two chapters? If so, how?

What are some of the leadership lessons you see here that you can apply to your own life?

Have you ever felt like you have been treated unfairly? What emotion tends to most frequently rise up within you when you are treated that way?

With both Nabal and Saul, David leaves vengeance with the Lord instead of getting back at those who have mistreated him. The New Testament repeatedly picks up on this theme – showing how it is true of Jesus and should be true of us. Read the following passages and think through some of the implications for your life: 1 Peter 2:20-23 and Romans 12:14-21.

Share about some of the times you are tempted to take justice out of God's hands and into your own. How can you let both David's and Jesus' example and words help you let God be Judge?

Reflect on 1 Samuel 25:29. Though a potentially awkward verse in English, it is conveying wonderful truth to those who entrust themselves to God. What encouragement can you find from this verse when you are struggling with being mistreated?

In what way is David preaching the gospel to Saul in 26:24? How might the truth of this verse equip you to not *give that person what they deserve* for hurting you?