



Community Group Questions

2 Samuel - In Search of the King, Part II

A Royal Lament – 2 Samuel 1:1-27

Focus

Saul's death and David's victory mean that a new era has begun in Israel in which God's plan to establish His king is being worked out – even in the midst of tragedy and grief.

Opening Questions

In addition to there being many psalms of praise in the Bible, there are also a number of psalms of lament (for example, Psalms 12, 44, 86). Why do you think that is?

What place does formal lament have in your life?

Read

2 Samuel 1:1-27

You might also consider reviewing 1 Samuel

Some Questions for Study and Reflection

What key information does verse 1 provide us with?

What's wrong with the messengers' story (see 1 Samuel 31:4-5)? What did he hope to gain, do you think?

What might be significant about the reference to and presence of Amalekites throughout this passage in the context of Saul's death (see 1 Samuel 15:17-23)?

Are you surprised that David responds with mourning, weeping, and lamentation – not just for Jonathan and the house of Israel, but also for Saul? Why do you think he laments the death of Saul?

What do you notice about what David does and does not mention about Saul in his poem of lament?



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In what ways is David's response to the report of Saul's death a Christ-like response?

Read 2 Samuel 23:1-4. How do we see David exhibiting that kind of leadership here in chapter 1?

One of the key passages in the books of Samuel is Hannah's prayer back in 1 Samuel 2:1-10. Reread that. How do you see some of what was foreshadowed there now being carried out?

Closing Reflection and Application

One of the things this passage shows us – both with the young Amalekite and with Saul – is that sin is dangerous and destructive. Do you feel like you have a healthy appreciation for how serious sin really is?

John Owen has written that, "He that hath slight thoughts of sin never had great thoughts of God." What's the connection between what we think about sin and what we think about God?

How does this chapter show us that even on bad days God is in control of history?

Why is it important to remember that when we are walking through times of grief?

What are some ways we can help each other to have our hearts prepared in such a way so that even when bad news comes we still praise God?

Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13. What do you think Paul means by grieving, but not grieving as those who have no hope? What might a hopeful grief look like in your own life?

As you reflect on this chapter, how does it point you to Jesus and help you to love and worship Him?