

LIFEGROUP LEADER NOTES

20251019

Opening Prayer: Leader (or volunteer):

“Heavenly Father,

Thank You for bringing us together today. We invite Your presence into this time and space. Open our hearts and minds as we reflect on Your Word and the life of David. Help us to listen well, speak honestly, and encourage one another with grace and truth.

Lord, we know that Your Spirit guides us into wisdom, conviction, and healing. So we ask that You speak clearly to each of us—through Scripture, through shared stories, and through the quiet moments. Where there is hurt, bring comfort. Where there is confusion, bring clarity. And where there is pride or fear, bring humility and courage.

May this discussion draw us closer to You and to each other. Shape us to be people after Your own heart—just like David. Teach us to trust Your timing, to show mercy as Jesus taught us, and to walk in integrity no matter the cost.

We give You this time. Be glorified in it.

In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

Sermon Video Recap – Watch the sermon video recap together.

Discussion Guide

1. What insights, comments, or questions do you have about this week's sermon?

Leader Guidance:

- Start with open-ended listening. Encourage each person to share without interruption.
 - Use follow-up prompts like:
 - “What stood out to you most?”
 - “Did anything challenge your thinking or encourage you?”
 - Allow silence — give time for reflection.
 - Affirm all contributions and look for common threads to explore deeper.
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2. Think about a time when someone pursued or wronged you unfairly, or out of jealousy, like Saul did to David. How did you respond?

Leader Guidance:

- Acknowledge that this is a vulnerable topic. Create a safe space.
 - Ask:
 - “How did that experience shape your view of justice or trust in God?”
 - “What would you do differently now?”
 - Look for moments where God showed up in the story, even if the outcome was painful.
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3. David chose not to take revenge on Saul... Share a situation in your life where holding back led to growth or resolution.

Leader Guidance:

- Highlight David’s trust in God's justice over personal retaliation.
 - Ask:
 - “What was the hardest part about holding back?”
 - “How did God work in the situation or in your heart through that?”
 - Reinforce the spiritual maturity that comes through restraint and grace.
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4. When David's conscience bothered him... can you recall a moment when your conscience guided you away from a hasty decision?

Leader Guidance:

- Emphasize sensitivity to the Holy Spirit.
 - Ask:
 - “What prompted you to pause or change direction?”
 - “Looking back, how did God use that decision?”
 - Highlight how listening to our conscience reflects a heart tuned to God’s will.
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5. David gathered a group of outcasts... How has community helped you in tough times?

Leader Guidance:

- Help people reflect on the value of supportive relationships.
- Ask:
 - “Who has been your ‘band of brothers/sisters’ in hard times?”
 - “How did their presence help you see God’s care?”

- Encourage the group to be that community for one another now.
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6. David trusted God’s timing... Where in your life are you tempted to ‘help God along’ instead of waiting?

Leader Guidance:

- This touches deep fears—approach with compassion.
 - Ask:
 - “What makes waiting so difficult in this area?”
 - “What truths about God’s character can give you peace?”
 - Point to God’s sovereignty and faithfulness. Encourage surrender over striving.
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7. David’s psalms reflect crying out to God... How has turning to prayer strengthened your faith in isolation?

Leader Guidance:

- Encourage honesty about times of loneliness or discouragement.
 - Ask:
 - “Were there prayers or scriptures that helped you in those moments?”
 - “How did God meet you in that space?”
 - Consider reading Psalm 142 together and praying through it as a group.
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8. Jesus teaches, “love your enemies...” What can we learn from David’s story and Jesus’ teaching about showing mercy?

Leader Guidance:

- Tie Old and New Testament themes of mercy together.
- Ask:
 - “How do we practically show mercy in our modern relationships?”
 - “What does forgiveness look like when the other person isn’t sorry?”
- Discuss how showing mercy reflects God’s grace and brings freedom to the giver.