

# LifeGroup Study

## David: Fugitive

### SERMON SUMMARY

In 1 Samuel 24, David spares Saul's life in a cave at En Gedi, cutting only a corner of his robe as proof of his mercy while refusing to harm God's anointed king. This passage illustrates the power of restraint, trust in God's timing, and loving enemies amid persecution, foreshadowing themes of divine justice and forgiveness.

### KEY VERSE

1 Samuel 24:15

"May the Lord be our judge and decide between us. May he consider my cause and uphold it; may he vindicate me by delivering me from your hand."

### DISCUSSION GUIDE

1. What insights, comments, or questions do you have about this week's sermon?
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?
3. David chose not to take revenge on Saul, even when it seemed justified; share a situation in your life where holding back from retaliation led to unexpected growth or resolution.
4. When David's conscience bothered him after cutting Saul's robe, it showed the importance of inner conviction—can you recall a moment when your conscience guided you away from a hasty decision, and how did that play out?
5. During his time on the run, David gathered a group of outcasts who became loyal followers (1 Samuel 22:1-5). How has surrounding yourself with supportive people during tough times helped you, and what role could community play in your current challenges?
6. David trusted God's timing rather than forcing his own kingship by killing Saul—where in your life are you tempted to "help God along" instead of waiting, and what fears drive that impulse?
7. David's psalms from this period (like Psalm 142) reflect crying out to God in isolation; how has turning to prayer during seasons of feeling hunted or alone strengthened your faith, and what specific prayers have helped?
8. In Matthew 5:44 Jesus teaches about mercy saying, "love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you". What can we learn from David's story and Jesus' teaching about showing mercy in our relational conflicts today?

### CLOSING PRAYER

Dim the lights to simulate a cave (like the ones David hid in).

Psalm 142 is about when David was in a cave.

Read through Psalm 142 slowly three full times.

Take a minute of silence between each reading.

End by inviting group members to pray whatever comes to mind from the reading of Psalm 142 or from your time together as a group.