

# Group Discussion Guide for Week of 5/30/2021

Riverside Home Group Discussion Guide

Scripture Text to accompany the themes of the Sunday Sermon; **1 Samuel 24:1-22 (NIV)**

**24** After Saul returned from pursuing the Philistines, he was told, "David is in the Desert of En Gedi."<sup>2</sup> So Saul took three thousand able young men from all Israel and set out to look for David and his men near the Crag of the Wild Goats.<sup>3</sup> He came to the sheep pens along the way; a cave was there, and Saul went in to relieve himself. David and his men were far back in the cave.<sup>4</sup> The men said, "This is the day the Lord spoke of when he said to you, 'I will give your enemy into your hands for you to deal with as you wish.'" Then David crept up unnoticed and cut off a corner of Saul's robe.<sup>5</sup> Afterward, David was conscience-stricken for having cut off a corner of his robe.<sup>6</sup> He said to his men, "The Lord forbid that I should do such a thing to my master, the Lord's anointed, or lay my hand on him; for he is the anointed of the Lord."<sup>7</sup> With these words David sharply rebuked his men and did not allow them to attack Saul. And Saul left the cave and went his way.<sup>8</sup> Then David went out of the cave and called out to Saul, "My lord the king!" When Saul looked behind him, David bowed down and prostrated himself with his face to the ground.<sup>9</sup> He said to Saul, "Why do you listen when men say, 'David is bent on harming you'?"<sup>10</sup> This day you have seen with your own eyes how the Lord delivered you into my hands in the cave. Some urged me to kill you, but I spared you; I said, 'I will not lay my hand on my lord, because he is the Lord's anointed.'<sup>11</sup> See, my father, look at this piece of your robe in my hand! I cut off the corner of your robe but did not kill you. See that there is nothing in my hand to indicate that I am guilty of wrongdoing or rebellion. I have not wronged you, but you are hunting me down to take my life.<sup>12</sup> May the Lord judge between you and me. And may the Lord avenge the wrongs you have done to me, but my hand will not touch you.<sup>13</sup> As the old saying goes, 'From evildoers come evil deeds,' so my hand will not touch you.<sup>14</sup> "Against whom has the king of Israel come out? Who are you pursuing? A dead dog? A flea?"<sup>15</sup> 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."<sup>16</sup> When David finished saying this, Saul asked, "Is that your voice, David my son?" And he wept aloud.<sup>17</sup> "You are more righteous than I," he said. "You have treated me well, but I have treated you badly."<sup>18</sup> You have just now told me about the good you did to me; the Lord delivered me into your hands, but you did not kill me.<sup>19</sup> When a man finds his enemy, does he let him get away unharmed? May the Lord reward you well for the way you treated me today.<sup>20</sup> I know that you will surely be king and that the kingdom of Israel will be established in your hands.<sup>21</sup> Now swear to me by the Lord that you will not kill off my descendants or wipe out my name from my father's family."<sup>22</sup> So David gave his oath to Saul. Then Saul returned home, but David and his men went up to the stronghold.

## General Question Bank

**Observation** (what does the text say?) **Interpretation** (what does it mean?) **Application** (what does it mean to me/us?)

**Know** (what does the text say about God?) **Be** (what does it say about us?) **Do** (what does it call us to do?)

**Together** (What is our communal identity/response according to the passage/Holy Spirit?)

## Discussion/Topic Starter (Ice Breaker)

- When was the most discouraging season of your life? Looking back on it, how can you see God working in the midst of it?

### 1 Samuel 24:1-22

O: What things in the text strike you or jump out at you? Why?

*\*\*\*Another way to ask: "Choose one verse or phrase from the passage that stands out to you. This could be something you're intrigued by, something that makes you uncomfortable, something that puzzles you, something that resonates with you, or just something you want to examine further." Now share it with the group*

O: Why was it tempting for David to kill Saul in this circumstance? Why didn't he seize the opportunity? What does this say about David's relationship with God?

O: What did David's men encourage him to do? How did David react to their suggestion? To what extent are they reliable guides? (note other scriptures like Prov.12:15)

I: Note David's attitude of doing no violence to "the Lord's anointed one" (24:6,10). Can you relate to this struggle? Is there an authority figure in your life that you struggle to submit to? How might this passage guide you?

I: Read vs. 8-15. What did David say to Saul to explain his refusal to seek revenge?

A: David's response softened Saul. (See Prov. 15:1 for why). Read vs. 16-22 and discuss how God has softened those bent on harming you because of your "gentle answer".

A: Are you as content as David seems to be to simply let God effect his will, his way, in his time? Or are you likely to "help God out" in some way? Give an example.

A: Close out this time praying for those you work or live with who have perhaps made life hard on you. Then, consider how your response to them could bring about a change!

-How WILL you respond this week? What one question do you want us to ask of you next week in regard to this?

## Recommended Follow-up:

- **Pray:** Pray together, and really focus in on that we are meeting with God, He's in the room, and He wants us to KNOW Him. Pray together, spend some time being silent (so we can listen, aka, "Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches." Then pray in response to the content from this letter in Revelation as well as to what the H.S. reveals to us.
- **Respond:** Spend this week responding to God's word as fleshed out in the group time, as well as journey through this week's devotional guide.

## **An explanation on how Riverside structures these discussion guides\*:**

Riverside defines a disciple of Jesus as a **“Know, Be, Do”** person. And since Jesus told us to “make disciples” we use the “Know, Be, Do” framework in our discussion guides. We believe the process for this transformation happens in community, hence the **“Together”** part of the Riverside mission as well.

Riverside leadership regularly asks questions around these areas:

- “What do we need to **know** about God?”
- “Who do we need to **be**?”
- “What do we need to **do**?”
- **“Together**, what is our communal identity/response according to the passage/Holy Spirit?

Here is what we mean by “Know, Be, Do” (based on [Colossians 1:9-10](#), see below)

**Know** – *“to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives..., growing in the knowledge of God.”* Not just knowing about Jesus, but knowing Him personally, intimately, and deeply. This is also about knowing the scriptures, knowing the voice of the Holy Spirit, even knowing yourself.

**Be** – *“so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way.”* Becoming more like Jesus (sanctification). This is about our character and our heart and our motivations, our passions and convictions change the more we get to Know Jesus (and others).

**Do** – *“bearing fruit in every good work, ...”* Knowing Jesus and Becoming like Jesus practically will change our actions. As we grow in these areas we will naturally DO the things that Jesus did while in the flesh on earth (living and loving like Jesus). Some broad categories around DO are evangelism and justice and service.

Notice *“bearing fruit in every good work”* then yields more *“growing in the knowledge of God.”* In other words, while “Know, Be, Do” are three distinct words, they are deeply interconnected.

As a side note, the next chapter states: *<sup>6</sup> So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, <sup>7</sup> rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. <sup>8</sup> See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ. (Col. 2:6-8)*  
To aid in this process Riverside also has a **daily devotional guide available each week**.

### **Colossians 1:9-10, NIV**

*For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God,...*

---

\* As discussed in Riverside’s HGLT (Home Group Leader Training), these guides are to be starting points for home group leaders to develop their own guides and approaches to leading group discussions. This is a resource tool, not a rigid “go through this guide word-for-word.” There are intentionally too many questions for a single home group time. This guides rely heavily on a few other study guides; including: This guide relies heavily upon *1Sam discussion guides by Holman Reference (ISBN# 9780805490633), Johnson (9780687062263), Alexander (9781572930636), Wiersbe (9781434705051), NavPress (9781615217342), Arthur (9780736908078), Serendipity Bible (Littleton, CO 1989)*