Opening
Gathering: Share a time that you gave a difficult situation over to God. How did He respond?
Today's Focus: Despite Sauls' obsessive pursuit, David trusted God for protection and justice.
Key Verses: *Because of His great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions - it is by grace you have been saved.* Ephesians 2:4-5
*Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you.* Luke 6:27
Opening Prayer

Lesson
Saul's Jealousy *(1 Samuel 18)*

- How did Saul feel about David when he first met him?
  1 Samuel 16:21-22
- How did God bless David after he joined Saul's army?
  1 Samuel 18:2, 5
- How did Saul feel about David's success?
  1 Samuel 18:6-9
- How serious was Saul's jealousy?
  1 Samuel 18:10-11
- What did Saul do to try to get rid of this kid who was receiving more praise than he?
  1 Samuel 18:13, 17, 21, 25
- Did Saul's attempt to have David fall at the hands of the Philistines meet success?
  1 Samuel 18:30

Jonathan Stands up for David *(1 Samuel 19)*

- How did Saul take a more direct effort in eliminating this perceived threat?
  1 Samuel 19:1-2
- What did Saul do after his son explained that David had helped Saul, not threatened him?
  1 Samuel 19:6, 11
- To whom did David turn when faced with this new threat?
  Psalm 59:1-3, 17
- How did God protect David when Saul pursued him when he hid in Ramah with Samuel?
  1 Samuel 19:23-24

Dad Threatens Jonathan's Friend *(1 Samuel 20)*

- How did Jonathan respond when his best friend asked why Saul was trying to kill him?
  1 Samuel 20:1-2
- Did Jonathan get clear proof of his father's intentions after following a test David suggested?
  1 Samuel 20:32-33
- Why did Saul feel that Jonathan should also want David dead?
  1 Samuel 20:31
- Did Jonathan agree with his father's concern for his future?
  1 Samuel 23:17
David Gets Supplies  
*(1 Samuel 21:1-6)*

- Did David run north to Samuel at Ramah again?  
  1 Samuel 21:1-3, 8
- Was Ahimelech able to give David any food?  
  1 Samuel 21:6 (4-6)
- How does this tell us what day this was?  
  Leviticus 24:8
- How did Jesus later use this story to explain God’s intentions of rest on the Sabbath day?  
  Matthew 12:1-4, 12b

Not Just Moldy Bread  
*(1 Samuel 21:7-10)*

- Was Ahimelech any help with a weapon?  
  1 Samuel 21:9
- What is interesting about where David went after leaving Nod?  
  1 Samuel 21:10
- Had anyone seen David get these supplies?  
  1 Samuel 21:7
- Was David concerned that Saul would learn what he had done and pursue him?  
  Psalm 43:1-3

David in Gath  
*(1 Samuel 21:10-15)*

- How did the Philistines feel about David coming to their town?  
  1 Samuel 21:11-12
- How did David respond when the Philistines seized him to take him before King Achish?  
  Psalm 56:1, 11
- How did David protect himself from this danger?  
  1 Samuel 21:13-15
- How could David have the guts to try something so risky?  
  Psalm 34:4, 22

David Seeks Refuge  
*(1 Samuel 22:1-5)*

- Where did David go now that he saw it was not safe in Philistia?  
  1 Samuel 22:1
- To whom did he turn before his family joined him?  
  Psalm 57:1-2
- Did anyone else come to David's support besides his family?  
  1 Samuel 22:2

**Note:** See 1 Chronicles 11 & 12 for information and stories on some of the men who joined David

- Realizing Saul would likely track down his family, what did David do to protect them?  
  1 Samuel 22:3-5
- Why might David have felt that Moab would be safe for his family?  
  Ruth 1:22a; 4:13, 17
Saul Punishes Nob  
*(1 Samuel 22:6-23)*

Did word of Ahimelech’s aid to David get to Saul?  
1 Samuel 22:9-10  (6-10)

Did Ahimelech feel like he had done anything wrong?  
1 Samuel 22:13-15  (11-15)

Did this explanation satisfy Saul?  
1 Samuel 22:16-17

Was Saul able to get rid of these “evil” priests?  
1 Samuel 22:18-19

How did David learn of what had happened?  
1 Samuel 22:20-21

How did David respond to what he learned?  
1 Samuel 22:22-23

What other response did David have for this incident?  
Psalm 52:7-9

Still a Caveman  
*(1 Samuel 23:1-18)*

Were David and his men entirely focused on hiding from Saul?  
1 Samuel 23:1-2, 5  (1-6)

How did Saul respond when he heard about David’s rescue of Keilah?  
1 Samuel 23:7-8

Did Saul catch David in Keilah?  
1 Samuel 23:13-14  (9-14)

Another dumb question: To whom did David turn during this time of hiding and trouble?  
Psalm 63:1, 7-8  
Psalm 142:1-2, 5-6

Who consoled David while he was in the stronghold and why?  
1 Samuel 23:15-18

Ziphites Don’t Make the Best Neighbors  
*(1 Samuel 23:19-29)*

Who helped Saul in his effort to pursue David?  
1 Samuel 23:19-20

Did Saul accept this help?  
1 Samuel 23:23  (21-23)

How did David feel about these men who were helping Saul?  
Psalm 54:3-5

How did God deliver David when Saul’s forces were closing in?  
1 Samuel 23:26-29  (24-29)

The En Gedi Encounter  
*(1 Samuel 24)*

How close did Saul get to David when searching for him in the desert of En Gedi?  
1 Samuel 24:3-4  (1-4)

Why didn’t David take this opportunity to kill the man who was trying to kill him?  
1 Samuel 24:5-7

How did Saul respond when David announced to Saul what had happened?  
1 Samuel 24:16-20  (8-22)
For Home Study  *(1 Samuel 25)*

Read 1 Samuel 25 and look for parallels between Nabal *(fool)* and Saul, also David and Abigail.

The Missing Spear and Canteen  *(1 Samuel 26)*

Who encouraged Saul to go after David again?
1 Samuel 26:1-2

What did David do when Saul and his troops camped near where David was hiding?
1 Samuel 26:7-12 *(3-12)*

What complaint did David make to Abner, the commander of Saul’s army?
1 Samuel 26:13-16

How did Saul respond to this lesson by David?
1 Samuel 26:21, 25 *(17-25)*

David in Philistia, Again  *(1 Samuel 27, 29-30)*

Where did David decide to go that would cause Saul to give up his search and act like a king?
1 Samuel 27:1, 4 *(1-4)*

Did David have to act insane to be accepted this time?
1 Samuel 27:12

How did David reinforce this impression?
1 Samuel 27:8-10 *(8-11)*

How did Achish show his acceptance of David and his men?
1 Samuel 27:6-7; 28:1-2

Was Achish really comfortable with the idea of David joining the battle against the Israelites?
1 Samuel 29:2-4

Closing Prayer

Response - Consider and meditate on one each day this week

1. What rules have I made for myself that get in the way of doing God’s good?
2. Do I turn to God whenever I am in need?
3. Do I turn to God in praise and thanksgiving when He rescues me?
   *(2 Samuel 22; Psalm 68:17-20; Isaiah 12; Philippians 4:4-7; Psalm 150)*
4. Do I turn to God and inquire of His will in times of decision?
   *(1 Samuel 23:1-6, 9-13; Isaiah 8:19; Romans 12:1-2; James 4:13-17)*
5. When have I left vengeance to the Lord and when have I taken it in my own hands?
   *(1 Samuel 24; 26:9-10; Proverbs 20:22; Romans 12:17-21)*

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