

Bible Stories for Adults

David Flees Saul

1 Samuel 21 - 27

Opening

Gathering: Share a time that you gave a difficult situation over to God. How did He respond?

Today's Focus: Despite Saul's 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?

Psalms 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

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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?

Psalms 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?

Psalms 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?

Psalms 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?

Psalms 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

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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?

Psalms 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?

Psalms 63:1, 7-8

Psalms 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?

Psalms 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)

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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?
(*1 Samuel 21:1-6; Isaiah 1:11-17; Matthew 12:1-13; 23:23; Mark 3:1-5; Luke 10:25-37*)
2. Do I turn to God whenever I am in need?
(*1 Samuel 19:18; 21:1; 23:9-13; Psalm 56; Mark 11:22-25; Luke 11:9-13; James 1:13-18*)
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*)