

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

5/6/2018 · Week 16

1. Open your group discussion with prayer asking God to prepare your hearts to receive His Word. Then read Samuel 24.
2. First, ask yourself: Do you agree with David's commitment to "raise no hand," or do you find this course too passive? How can we know when God wants us to take action and when he wants us to accept the action taken against us?
3. King Saul pursued David with 3,000 of his finest soldiers, which gave him a five-to-one advantage over David, who had only 600 men. When Saul is left alone in a vulnerable position, David's men take this as evidence that God has miraculously given Saul into David's hand (vs. 4). What is David's response to the seemingly pious counsel of his close friends? What can we learn from his example?
4. What titles does David use to address Saul in verses 8 and 11? Keep in mind that Saul has already tried to kill David multiple times and has been spreading lies about him. What do David's words say about the moral state of his heart? What do they teach us about how we ought to treat those who try to cause harm us (particularly those in higher authority)?
5. The author of 1 Samuel gives us a few insights into what is motivating King Saul. What can we tell is motivating Saul in verse 9? In verse 21? (Note that it was customary in that time for a new ruler to kill all the descendants of the king he replaced.)
6. David claims God for his "avenger," "judge," "defender," and "deliver" (vs. 12, 15). How does Christ fulfill each of these roles for us (both presently and in the future)?
7. In light of verse 17, read Romans 12:14-21. In what ways do you see 1 Sam. 24 as a practical application of Romans 12? How can we say Christ's example is the perfect application of these verses?
8. The example of 1 Sam. 24 and the commands of Rom. 12 are difficult truths, maybe especially for us who are children of the Protestant Reformation and the American Revolution. What would you say differentiates dissenters or reformers from schismatics and those who would take vengeance into their own hands? How does the example of Christ help us to properly balance between standing for what's right and submitting to authority even when it means suffering?
9. Close by reading Psalm 57 with a prayer partner, which David wrote while he was hiding in the cave from King Saul's army. Pray with your partner that God would strengthen you against the common temptation of getting even, instead of trusting in Him and not retaliating. Pray that God would give you a faith like David's that trusts that what we have promised in Christ is secure no matter what enemies we face in this world.