

The King & The Kingdom
1 Samuel 23-24 Discussion Questions

God's King patiently trusts God is in control even when it doesn't seem like it.

1. From David's perspective, why might it not seem like God is in control?
2. Have you ever wrestled with this question: is God really good and in control? What were some of the factors that led you to believe that He is?
3. Are there any passages or songs you turn to when you need to be reminded God is good and in control?

God's King patiently follows God's revealed will before following desires, circumstances, or opinions.

4. Explain how David's desires, circumstances, and advice he was getting might have led him to kill Saul in the cave (see v.4 for the advice he received).
5. Why does David not follow his desires, circumstances, or advice? What is the clearly revealed will of God that David follows?
6. It was mentioned that we often go with our desires over God's clearly revealed will. We use the excuse that surely God would want us to be happy. Can you think of examples of this? Why is this line of thinking unhealthy?
7. Should our desires, circumstances, or opinions factor in to our decisions? Explain.

God's King patiently rejects any shortcut to glory.

8. David has an opportunity to kill Saul, but he rejects this shortcut to glory. It was mentioned that in the Christian faith, the ends don't justify the means. Explain what this means.
9. Can you think of some examples of ways that Christians try to take shortcuts that we shouldn't?
10. It was mentioned that becoming more like Christ is a long process. What are some of the key disciplines for this "long obedience in the same direction?"

God's King patiently absorbs instead of retaliating.

11. What are some of the ways David honors Saul in vv.8-11. Why does he do this? How does Saul respond in vv.17-22?
12. We learn from David what it looks like to absorb and forgive instead of retaliate. Has anyone ever forgiven you in a significant way? Have you ever forgiven someone? Explain.
13. How would you encourage someone to forgive who struggles with this? What is some practical advice you would use to help them?
14. How do we see Jesus following these four principles (in bold above)? Why should Jesus' example of patience compel us to develop patience?