

## **The King & The Kingdom**

### **1 Samuel 29-31**

#### **Learn how to strengthen yourself in the Lord.**

1. What are some reasons it might seem from David's perspective that God is not in control in 1 Samuel 29-30? What are some clear indications God is in control in this story?
2. According to 1 Sam 30:6 David strengthened himself in the Lord even though his whole world seemed to be falling apart. Have you ever been through a difficult situation where you either ran toward God or away from God?
3. What does it mean to strengthen yourself in the Lord? What does this involve? How do we do this?
4. Why is it important that we learn to strengthen ourselves in the Lord both individually and corporately?
5. *Praying the Bible* by Donald Whitney talks about praying biblically and reading the Bible prayerfully. Why is this an important discipline? Do you know how to do this?

#### **Use God-ordained methods for making decisions.**

6. In 1 Sam 30:7-8 we see David using God-ordained methods for making decisions while we see Saul using methods God clearly forbids (1 Sam 28). Have you ever wrestled with this question of how to make a big decision in a way that pleases God? Explain.
7. Why is it important that we start with the question of whether the Bible clearly speaks to an issue? Do you think we recognize the freedom we have if we are within God's clearly revealed will?
8. The second factor for making a good decision is wisdom. Can you think of a decision you have made in your life where you were within God's clearly revealed will but your decision wasn't the wisest?
9. The third factor we should consider when making a decision is our desires. Why is it important that we factor our desires when making big decisions?

#### **Be quick to bless others.**

10. In 1 Sam 30:11-12, David comes across an Egyptian man who is in need and David meets his need. In 1 Sam 30:23-25, we see David taking care of the needs of his men who were weaker and in need. What are examples of other passages that reveal we should be quick to bless others, especially those in need?
11. What are examples of ways others have blessed you in your need? What are examples of ways you have blessed others who were in need? Why does this way of living lead to life?

#### **Live so that you leave a great legacy.**

12. In 1 Sam 31 we see Saul's tragic death. What is Saul's legacy? What is David's legacy?
13. What are some practical ways we can make sure we are leaving a good legacy?
14. What are ways we see these same characteristics (in bold above) in the life of Christ? Why should this motivate us to follow Him?