

Bible Challenge 2014
Going Deeper – Questions for Readings
Week 16

How does Abigail save David from himself in 1 Samuel 25? Who has acted like an Abigail for you in your life? How?

How are the stories of David and Saul in 1 Samuel 24 & 26 similar? Why does David refuse to lay a finger on Saul? How is this an act of faith?

What does David do after his encounter with Saul in the wilderness of Ziph? Why? Who does he begin to serve? Why? (1 Samuel 27)

What does the Psalmist (David) promise God he will do even though he is being surrounded and attacked by his enemies (Psalm 17:15; 35:28; 54:6-7; 63)? What do these promises say about David's character and values?

What does the story in 1 Samuel 28 tell us about the state of Saul's relationship with God? What was Saul looking for from the woman of Endor? What did he find?

How does David divide up the spoils from the defeat of the Amalekites in 1 Samuel 30? Why were some upset about this? What does this story teach us about God's grace and how it is to be shared?

How does Saul's earthly life come to an end? What do the people of Jabesh Gilead do as a last act for Saul? Why? Is this an act of redemption by God? Why or why not?

In *The Message* translation of the Bible, the Psalmists words in Psalm 18:18-19 are paraphrased as follows: “They hit me when I was down, but God stuck by me. God stood me up on a wide-open field; I stood there saved – surprised to be loved!” Has there ever been a time in your life when you have been “surprised to be loved” by God? When? How did you respond to God in this time?

What does Psalm 124 tell us about when and where in our lives we are sure (if we are actively searching) to encounter God?

What does it mean for someone to *fear* God? How would one demonstrate this *fear*? Why are those who fear the Lord said to be rewarded with such a good life? (Psalm 128)

How do you feel about God after reading Psalm 130? Why? How do you feel about yourself? Why?

What is a lament? How does David’s song in 2 Samuel 1 fit this genre of literature? What is David lamenting in this chapter and why?

What does David’s judgment upon Joab, Abishai, Recab, and Baanah reveal about his character as a leader and his faith in God? How does David eventually become the sole King of Israel?

How do you respond to the Psalmists question in Psalm 8:4: “What are human beings that you [God] are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?” Do you believe, as the Psalmist does, that human beings hold a special place in God’s heart? Why or why not?

What kind of a judge is God? How do we know? (Psalm 9) What does the Psalmist say is the reward of fully trusting and finding our security in God? (Psalm 16) In what things are God’s glory most fully revealed according to Psalm 19?