



Northland Christian Church Group Discussion Guide For the Week of July 11, 2021

Use the questions below as a springboard for discussion. You do not have to answer every question. These are intended to help spark discussion. Refer to as needed. Ultimately we want God's answers, not man's opinions. Always land where God lands. (ex: Where do we see that in the Bible?) Give grace. Give time for growth. Don't force it.

Connect

- If you were guaranteed success, what is one thing you would do?

Engage the Bible - Read **1 Samuel 24**.

The Context - Real Darkness - Part 2

Have you ever been in a dark place? Think about the darkest place you've ever been. Get a picture of that in your head. A place so dark you literally cannot see your hand right in front of your face. Typically we can be in this place against our desires. We wonder, how can I get out of here asap? I don't want to be here. David was there in **1 Samuel 22:1**. We pick back up on David's life inside a dark, damp, discouraging cave. Yet we will continue to see that: **God uses the journey through the darkness to bring you to the light.**

Like us, David had to learn to let go of the fear of death, let go of the red zone decisions he was making for acceptance, survival, competence, or even control. He had to fully surrender to God and fully give over the pain, the heartache and the feeling of being alone. We see that prayer in multiple psalms like **Psalms 34, Psalm 57 and Psalm 142**.

It's in these moments and psalms that we see the beauty of being led through the darkness. The idea that you can be set free by the God of the universe. God uses this freedom for his own purpose and for our ultimate good. **God uses the journey through the darkness to bring you to the light.**

This is what happened while David was on the run from Saul. David had to say and do things he would likely regret. Yet he reaches the end of himself and his own efforts and turns to God in faith and trust. God meets him in those moments and we see has been working for David and the whole nation all along. We learn that: **God uses the journey through the darkness to bring others to the light.** (Read **1 Samuel 22:1-2**)

This is such encouraging news. The darkness you've gone through may have a purpose beyond yourself. It may end up completing a special project and purpose for God. Yes, even the things that happened to you, that you did not cause and that God did not cause, He will use. Though even if you caused it, it can still be utilized by God. God uses your pain (& everything

else) for His purpose. God always uses our journey for good.

Discuss & Apply

1. How did David's men interpret this situation (reread **1 Samuel 24:4-7**)?
2. How does David respond to his men's encouragement? Why do you think he responded this way? What was his motivation in keeping his men from harming Saul?
3. How can you relate to the temptation to seize opportunities prematurely & take matters into your own hands instead of waiting for God?
4. In what ways does David express trust in the Lord in his actions and his words (see especially 1 Samuel 24:8-15).
5. How can you tell the difference between the Lord's opportunity for you and a temptation?
6. Read **Philippians 1:9-11, Romans 12:19, 1 Peter 5:6, Matthew 4:1-10** as a group. What can we learn from these passages about dealing with dark times, temptation, revenge, and waiting on God? How did David reflect these passages?
7. What attributes or character traits of God can help motivate you to wait on Him?
8. How can affirming the God-given and created worth & value a person has help see beyond the hurt or pain someone is causing you?
9. Why are we often so reluctant to do good to those that have harmed us or opposed us? How can we overcome this?
10. What is one thing that you need to hand over to God & trust Him to care for? How can we help?

End your group time in prayer.