

PEFC Weekly Family & Small Group Study Guide

July 17, 2022

Paynesville Evangelical Free Church
God Uses Ordinary People to Build His Kingdom
The Rise and Fall of King Saul
I Samuel 18:5-30



Big Idea

Our Availability and Usability to Build God's Kingdom is Fully Dependent on Surrendering Our Heart/Spirit and Being Willing to Engage God's Heart and Spirit for My Life!

1. When we choose wrong responses like envy and jealousy it will stifle the Holy Spirit's activity/freedom in our soul.
2. God's Providence is unlimited. He rules over everything and everyone. Can you trust him with that?
3. As a believer in Jesus Christ, how do I obtain and keep God's balance in my life so that I really am usable to him in building the Kingdom of God?

Introduction

Think of a time when you became angry with someone. How did you react? How did they respond back? What was the outcome on the relationship?

Bible Study Questions

Have someone read I Samuel 18:5-30.

How would you characterize Saul's heart in this story? Compare and contrast this with our first introduction to Saul in chapters 9 and 10. What may have changed in Saul's life? In what ways might we relate to Saul?

Contrast David's actions with Saul's in this story. What does this say about David's heart? What is the key distinction between David and Saul (see verse 12)?

What important distinction did Pastor Rich make about how God's Spirit worked in the Old Testament (Old Covenant) and the New Testament (New Covenant)? How does this help us understand this story?

What does verse 10 teach us about God's providence? Why might God have allowed an evil spirit to come on Saul? Does God enact judgement on New Testament (New Covenant) people today (give specific Scripture)? What lesson should we learn from this?

What was Saul's scheme in verses 17-27? Why did Saul react this way (see verses 12,15,29)? What might be a contemporary example of this behavior?

What does this story credit as David's success? Of Saul's downfall? How might we apply this to our lives today if we desire God to use us to build his Kingdom?

Next Steps

Examine how you relate and react to those you may have conflict with. Do you reflect more Saul or David? Ask God for a right heart and seek God's good for the other individual.

Make a list of some of the ways you have experienced God's providence at work in your life.

Ask Jesus to allow the Holy Spirit to work powerfully in you as you interact with others this week.

Prayer

Thank God for his providence and Spirit at work in your life. Share life needs within your group and pray for one another. Remember that prayer requests need to remain confidential and not be repeated outside your group without permission.