

Discussion Questions:

Life of David: Part 4 – Forged in Fire [1 Sam. 18-20]

1. What would you say is the hardest thing you've gone through? What made it particularly difficult?

2. What were some of David's gifts / qualities / achievements?
(see also 1 Sam. 18:5, 14, 16, etc.)
 - a. Pastor Kent mentioned that God's blessing does not necessarily preclude one from facing adversity. In fact, God's blessing and favor on your life may even *increase* the possibility of facing adversity. Why is that?

[Consider John 16:33 and 2Timothy 3:12]

- b. What would you say are 1 or 2 of your primary gifts from God? Think both of Spiritual Gifts (1 Cor. 12; Rom. 12; Eph. 4; etc.), and other blessings / giftings from God that might not be found in those inventories. [David for example was gifted as a musician, a warrior, strategist, a people-person, etc.; none of which are found in the above passages]

 - c. What are some specific ways you can use your Spiritual Gifts, and perhaps your blessings / gifts from God that might not be found in 1 Corinthians, in a way that glorifies the God who gave you those gifts? (1 Cor. 4:7)

3. Pastor Kent emphasized that much of David's adversity was due plainly to Saul's insecurity (see especially 1Sam. 18:6-9). Can you think of any other examples of sinful behavior flowing directly from personal insecurity in Scripture, or in the world today?

4. One of the sermon points was that **adversity can be used to build character and deepen one's relationship with God**. How have you observed this to be true in either yourself or someone you know?

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5. Another point from the sermon was that **there are consequences to sin**. Pastor Kent said, “Even if we may find forgiveness, there are still spiritual ripples in our lives with all our sins.”

Ask someone in the group who heard the sermon to rehearse the story about the lady and her tiger. What is the warning we should take from that story, as applied to the passage from the sermon?

What are sins you think we’re playing around with and cuddling in our culture today? (Think “the world” culture, but also think “the Church” culture)

6. A third sermon point was that Saul’s adversity toward David serves as a picture of **Satan’s enmity toward God, and us**.
 - a. On a scale of 1-10, how awake do you think we are to the spiritual battle going on all around us, right now?
 - b. What are practical ways we can heighten our awareness of spiritual warfare (without becoming unhealthily obsessive about it)?
 - c. What are some truths / Scripture passages that should give us confidence in the face of spiritual battle? [some examples; Job 42:2; John 16:33 again; Romans 8]
7. The second half of the sermon was focused on Jonathan’s friendship to David. Pastor Kent gave three qualities of special friends:

Friends....

 - a. honor their friends before themselves. (1 Sam. 20:31)
 - b. advocate for their friends. (1 Sam. 19:4-6; 20:32)
 - c. are more concerned about their friends than about themselves. (1 Sam. 20:34)
8. Read and enjoy Philippians 2:4-8; 1 John 2:1-2; John 15:13 about Jesus, the ultimate friend of sinners.