

A HEART FOR GOD

LEARNING FROM THE LIFE AND POETRY OF DAVID, part 1

Read 1 Samuel 18-19

1. Who is Jonathan? How does Jonathan seal his friendship/love for David? (18:4) What does Jonathan realize about David, and what does this mean to Jonathan as crown prince? (For help peek ahead to 1 Samuel 20:30-31.)
2. What is Saul's attitude toward David? Explain why he feels this way. (18:6-11)
3. What is Saul's root sin (18:8-9)? Describe how this root sin leads to his other sins.
4. What two things does Jonathan do after hearing of his father's plans? (19:2-5) How is Jonathan an example for us as we seek to be peacemakers?
5. How does Jonathan convince his father not to kill David? How can we use this strategy when anger against others stirs in our hearts?
6. What causes Saul to break his oath (19:6) not to kill David?
7. Who is Michal? (18:20-28). Like Jonathan, where do her loyalties lie? What does this tell us about Saul? Explain.

8. Who does Saul remind us of in his determination to kill David? (John 11:53; Luke 22:1–3) Who does the anointed and innocent David remind us of in this account of his escape and his protection? (John 10:39; John 11:54) How do we make our escape from the evils of the world that seek to destroy us? (2 Peter 1:3–4)

9. In this week's passage, we see God using ordinary (the actions of others) and extraordinary (prophesying through the Holy Spirit) means to protect his anointed, David. Share a time when God protected you from danger or from evil through others or through the Holy Spirit.

Read Psalm 59

10. David wrote this psalm in response to the events of 1 Samuel 19. In the middle of trouble what does he ask God for?

11. What makes this attack on David especially difficult? (vs. 4) Who also suffered like this? (1 Peter 2:23) How was David and Jesus' suffering similar? How was it different? (Luke 23:34; Hebrews 4:15)

12. Who or what does David compare his enemies to? (vss. 6, 14) Who or what are the "snarling dogs" in your life?

13. How did David silence or "drown out" his snarling dogs? (vs. 16) How much more of God's love do we know compared to David? (Romans 8:31–39) How do you silence your snarling dogs?