

A HEART FOR GOD

LEARNING FROM THE LIFE AND POETRY OF DAVID, part 1

1. Read 1 Samuel 30:1–8. How have David and his army come to live in Ziklag? (See 1 Samuel 27:5–7.)
2. What do David and his men find upon their return home from fighting with the Philistines? (vs. 3)
What is their initial response? (vs. 4)
3. Have you ever wept for so long that you had no more strength to weep? What was your next step?
4. After their tears, what strategy do David’s men adopt? (vs. 6) What strategy does David adopt? (vss. 7–8) How would you explain the difference in these two plans?
5. In whom does David find strength? (vs. 6b) How, practically speaking, does one go about “finding strength in God”?
6. Read 1 Samuel 30:9–20. When David finds the Egyptian slave in the field how does he treat him?
What information does he need from him? (vs. 15)
7. What happens as a result of the Egyptian’s information? (vss. 16–20)

8. Read 1 Samuel 30:21–25 with Matthew 20:1–16. Some of David’s soldiers, too exhausted to continue, stay behind at a place, Besor, which means “good news” or “gospel.” Consider David’s decision about their share in the plunder and explain why the ravine is so appropriately named. Explain how this story and the Matthew 20 parable are similar.

9. What good news (gospel) is in this story and the parable for you? How about for those you know?

10. In the end, what did David and his men lose from the raid of the Amalekites (vss. 18–20)? What do you think God was teaching David and his men through this story? What is he teaching you?

11. David shares plunder with the elders of Judah who showed him hospitality when he was fleeing from Saul. Do you remember those who have helped you on your spiritual journey? Consider sending a note of gratitude to someone who has encouraged you in your faith.