

the **תּוֹשֶׁבֵי כַּיִלָּה**

DAVID SAVES KEILAH



LESSON 3

DAVID'S PRAYER LIFE

The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.

1 Samuel 16:7



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LEADER PREPARATION

Dear Small Group Leader:

Our culture celebrates independence and its own ideal of success. We like to make our own decisions to get us where we want to be, because after all we think we know what's best for us. The growing desire for instant gratification, and the false idea to follow our own feelings will make us believe we're doing the right thing. It may sound nice in the moment, but we know the implications can hurt. We are left with emptiness in our hearts and quite possibly the disappointment and shame can crush us when we fall short. Thankfully, when we choose to follow God's wisdom instead of our own, he's able to guide us into the right direction. He alleviates the pressures from having to figure it all out on our own. He will help us with our daily decisions, and he will shift our focus from achieving individual gain to following the will of God. In this lesson, you and your students will examine the story of how David saved Keilah. This story gives us a glimpse into David's persistent prayer life. Not only did he pray constantly, but he was obedient and followed God's leadership at all costs. In every situation, especially in moments of fear and uncertainty, He chose to ask God for wisdom. It teaches us that before we do anything else, before we make a decision for sure, we are to inquire of the Lord and come to him in prayer. But it doesn't end there. We don't just watch from a distance what God will do, we get to play a part in following his leadership and accomplishing his will. Just like David we can live in constant communion with God, so that we are always looking for him for guidance in every facet of our lives. We look to be in tune with his voice and obey his response.

Scripture References

- Samuel 23:1-18
- Psalm 4:1

Lesson Objectives

1. Students will examine their decision-making process and learn to seek God in prayer.
2. Students will gain patience and learn to follow God's will according to his Spirit and his Word.



Main Point

We can grow in patience and wisdom when we come to God in prayer.

Requirements

- Bible
- PC or Laptop with Anointed DSK
- Handout

Download DSK



Opening Prayer

Start the lesson in prayer with the group.

Discussion

Say: In today's culture we tend to make our decisions based on what we think is best for us or whatever feels good in the moment. "Just do whatever you want!" "Follow your gut." I'm sure you've heard someone say that before. But does that actually work? So often we don't think twice about our daily choices. We go through life trying to figure it all out on our own. But what happens when you go through a difficult time? Fear and pressure will make you question your next move. In tough moments are you someone who likes to take control of the situation, or do you look for help elsewhere?

Ask: Consider the following questions while they play the game.

Question 1: How does David respond to God's call?

Question 2: How is David able to make the right decision?

Question 3: What did God show David after he prayed?

Activity

- Play through David saves Keilah.
- Complete and take notes on chapter objectives:
 - Dialogue
 - Quiz
 - Prayer Beacon
 - Vases

Let's Play DSK





Game Discussion

Question 1: As you were thinking about the questions before playing the game, what stood out to you?

Question 2: How did David handle the threat of the Philistines?

Question 3: What did the videos after the Prayer Beacon tell you?

Question 4: Reflect on your own life, how does your decision-making process look like? How do you discern what's right from wrong?

Say: God wants his will to be accomplished in our life more than we do. Prayer allows us to not only make requests, but to align ourselves with his will. David knew this and he prayed persistently and constantly. You may not always get what you want, but God will provide for you and give you what you need. His answers may look different than you imagined, but we can trust in his good and perfect will to be accomplished. God knows better than any one of us. So then to follow his leadership we must inquire of his leadership. And when we get a response or an open door, first we need to recognize it, then it's time for us to move in obedience. So often we go through life not paying attention to God's work around us, but a frequent prayer life will keep you in tune with God's voice and it'll allow you to recognize his response. If you watched the videos after the prayer beacon, they showed glimpses of what's to come. That's how prayer is a lot of times. The Holy Spirit can guide you in many different ways. We won't always get the whole picture of God's plan but when we pray he's stirring our heart and giving us hints of what he wants us to do.

Question 5: Share your own personal experience. Have you received a response to a prayer, and how did you respond?

Scripture Context

From shepherd boy to the hero who defeated the Philistine giant Goliath, David follows God's plan patiently. He has been chosen by God to replace the king, Saul, but decides to serve the king faithfully and becomes a successful soldier. However, David's success is a threat to Saul and the king becomes angry and jealous of David's popularity. So Saul sends his soldiers to find and kill David. David chooses to run instead of fighting. David, now on the run, is hiding with hundreds of others that fear Saul and the Philistine army. Now the Philistines are fighting against Keilah and are looting the threshing floors. The Lord tells David, "Go, attack the Philistines and save Keilah."



Read Scripture

1 SAMUEL 23:1-18

David Saves Keilah

23 When David was told, “Look, the Philistines are fighting against Keilah and are looting the threshing floors,” 2 he inquired of the Lord, saying, “Shall I go and attack these Philistines?”

The Lord answered him, “Go, attack the Philistines and save Keilah.” **Game Intro**

3 But David’s men said to him, “Here in Judah we are afraid. How much more, then, if we go to Keilah against the Philistine forces!” **Basar Dialogue**

4 Once again David inquired of the Lord, and the Lord answered him, “Go down to Keilah, for I am going to give the Philistines into your hand.” **Prayer Beacon**

5 So David and his men went to Keilah, fought the Philistines and carried off their livestock. He inflicted heavy losses on the Philistines and saved the people of Keilah. **Game Play**

6 (Now Abiathar son of Ahimelek had brought the ephod down with him when he fled to David at Keilah.) **Dialogue/Cutscene**

Saul Pursues David

7 Saul was told that David had gone to Keilah, and he said, “God has delivered him into my hands, for David has imprisoned himself by entering a town with gates and bars.” 8 And Saul called up all his forces for battle, to go down to Keilah to besiege David and his men.

Dialogue/Cutscene

9 When David learned that Saul was plotting against him, he said to Abiathar the priest, “Bring the ephod.” 10 David said, “Lord, God of Israel, your servant has heard definitely that Saul plans to come to Keilah and destroy the town on account of me. Will the citizens of Keilah surrender me to him? 11 Will Saul come down, as your servant has heard? Lord, God of Israel, tell your servant. “And the Lord said, “He will.” 12 Again David asked, “Will the citizens of Keilah surrender me and my men to Saul?” And the Lord said, “They will.”

13 So David and his men, about six hundred in number, left Keilah and kept moving from place to place. When Saul was told that David had escaped from Keilah, he did not go there.

14 David stayed in the wilderness strongholds and in the hills of the Desert of Ziph. Day after day Saul searched for him, but God did not give David into his hands. 15 While David was at Horesh in the Desert of Ziph, he learned that Saul had come out to take his life.



16 And Saul's son Jonathan went to David at Horesh and helped him find strength in God. 17 "Don't be afraid," he said. "My father Saul will not lay a hand on you. You will be king over Israel, and I will be second to you. Even my father Saul knows this." 18 The two of them made a covenant before the Lord. Then Jonathan went home, but David remained at Horesh.

Closing/Cutscene

PSALM 4:1

Answer me when I call to you, my righteous God. Give me relief from my distress; have mercy on me and hear my prayer. **Scripture Vase**

Scripture Discussion

Question 1: What is something that stood out to you in these verses?

Question 2: How can God help you in your decision making?

Question 3: What is something that you can apply to your own life?

Question 4: How can we approach God daily and how can we include him in every moment?

Say: David was a man after God's own heart. A man of prayer. All throughout the Psalms we can see his raw and honest prayers and praises towards God. Through the good and the bad, David always chose to come to the Lord for guidance. And he was obedient to God's instruction. As we can see in this short excerpt, four times David sought the Lord's guidance before he took action. He listened to God's directions and then proceeded accordingly. Rather than trying to find God's will after the fact or having to ask God to undo the results of our hasty decisions, we should take time to discern God's will beforehand. We can hear Him speak through the counsel of others, His Word, and the leading of his Spirit in our hearts, as well as through circumstances. David relies on his relationship with God through prayer. In everything he does, he prays first and again for reassurance.



In the New Testament we have Jesus' example of prayer that shows us he was always talking and pleading to the father. Even better yet, through faith in Jesus we have an advocate who also prays for us to the father (1John 2:1). Meaning he pleads for us on our behalf. And because we have an intercessor we now have access to the father ourselves. Jesus empathizes with our weakness and with our problems. He was tempted, yet he did not sin. Everything we put before him he's aware of. Despite what we may face in life, we can be assured that when we belong to Jesus, he is always praying for us, and we can confidently come to the Father in prayer because of what Jesus has done for us.

Reflect: Give students time to reflect and respond on their own. Talk about any questions they may have and feel free to share relatable stories that reflect the lesson.

Closing Prayer

End this together by setting the example for prayer and praying over your students.

IMD Interactive
Church Resources:

