



Community Group Discussion Guide

Week of June 24, 2018

This Week's Focus: In all circumstances, we can trust in the steadfast love of Jesus Christ; his triumph over sin, Satan, and death; and in his sovereign power over the universe as he works all things for his glory and our good.

This Week's Text: 1 Samuel 22:5-23

"In order to trust God, we must always view our adverse circumstances through the eyes of faith, not of sense. We must shape our vision of God by the Bible, not by our experiences. God never wastes pain. He always uses it to accomplish his purpose. And his purpose is for his glory and our good. Therefore we can trust him when our hearts are aching and our bodies are racked with pain." **Jerry Bridges, *God's Sovereignty, Our Suffering***

Observations and Questions for Discussion:

- What has the Holy Spirit impressed on your heart and mind from this week's sermon/text?
- What does Saul's speech under the tamarisk tree reveal about his mental and spiritual condition? What's his strategy? How do his words prove the fulfillment of God's prophetic word (1 Samuel 8:10-18)?
- Read Psalm 52. What insights does this psalm give us about Doeg and his testimony to Saul? Who is the real enemy behind the conspiracy against God's anointed and his people (John 8:44)?
- Have you forgotten that we are constantly involved in spiritual warfare and that we should expect hostility from our adversary? How can we fight well, and what weapons do we have at our disposal (1 Peter 5:6-11; Ephesians 6:10-20)?
- Why didn't Saul's servants obey his command to murder the priests? When they didn't obey, who took up the brutal task? How was this slaughter a clear fulfillment of God's prophetic judgment (1 Samuel 2:30-36)? Does this exonerate Saul and Doeg for their great sin?
- What do this passage and the rest of Scripture teach us about human responsibility and the sovereignty of God (Acts 2:23, 4:27-28)?

- When you are in the midst of suffering, do you seek comfort in the sovereign God of the universe who fulfills all his good plans and purposes for his glory and our good (Romans 8:18-39)?
- Who is the only survivor of Saul's massacre? What does this teach us about God?
- How does David respond to the news? How does David make sense of the evil that surrounds him (Psalm 52:6-8)? Are you relying on your own strength or cleverness to cope with the fear, anxiety, and hurt that comes with living in a sin-broken world?
- What is the gospel, and how does it provide the rescue and safekeeping that we need from our greatest enemies (Colossians 1:13, 2:13)?