

FLAWED HERO

THE LIFE OF DAVID

WEEK 4

June 13/14, 2015

Sparing Saul



This sermon study is designed to be used the week after the sermon it supplements. Before using the study in your life group, it might be helpful to work through the questions on your own before your group meets. The purpose of this guide is to help facilitate discussion and to help your group, collectively and individually, grow closer to Jesus.

SERIES OVERVIEW

Every hero has flaws, even the ones we read about in the Bible. In the life of David—a king of Israel and a man after God’s own heart—we see a hero with glimpses of greatness and wounds of pride. Through David’s failures, challenges, and triumphs, we see a greater Hero. The hero was not David, but God Himself. God humbled David and pointed people back to the one, true, King.

MAIN TEXT

1 Samuel 24, ESV

GETTING STARTED

Describe a time when it was very difficult for you to be patient. What was the result?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Read 1 Samuel 24 out loud as a group. What opportunity did David have in this passage? Why do you think he decided not to take advantage of it?
2. David was anointed as king, but then had to sit under Saul’s leadership, all while Saul tried to murder him. In David’s position, how difficult would it have been to remain patient? How do you think you would’ve handled the situation in the cave?
3. This weekend, we learned that sometimes it’s completely illogical to follow the Lord. What are you doing as a result of your faith that a non-Christian might think is crazy? What is your motivation to continue doing this?

4. David honors Saul despite the difficult circumstances. Have you ever had to honor someone who was not treating you properly? If so, what made it difficult? How were you able to do it?
5. David honoring those who persecuted him was a foreshadowing of Jesus honoring those who persecuted Him. Jesus says in Luke 6:27 – “But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you.” How do you actively love your enemies? Do you bless those who do wrong to you? Do you pray for those who condemn you? If you don’t, why not?
6. David had a chance to take a shortcut to the throne, but he ultimately trusted in the Lord’s timing. Have you ever tried to take a shortcut to something that ended up not being God’s timing? What did you learn from that experience?
7. Read Lamentations 3:22-26 out loud as a group. What situation are you in that is requiring patience right now? Are you willing to wait on the Lord?

NEXT STEPS

Mercy can be shown when mercy is experienced. If you have experienced the mercy of Jesus Christ, then you have to be willing to extend that same mercy to others.

Examine yourself: Are you showing mercy in your speech, conduct, and thoughts?

Discuss with a partner: Which of these is most difficult for you (showing mercy in your speech, conduct, or thoughts)? How have you been tested in this area recently? What do you want to improve on regarding mercy and patience? Is there someone in your life from whom you are withholding mercy?

Pray together as a group for patience and continued mercy towards others.