

Study 3



Warm Up

1. Greeting / Refreshments / Get Acquainted
2. Prayer & Praise List / Group Fund
3. Testimony Sharing



Overview of Today's Study

Text: 1 Samuel 18:5-9

Lesson Title: *Deepening a Close Connection*

Lesson Main Idea: David was a man after God's own heart. He was hand picked by God to be the next King of Israel. He was officially anointed by the Prophet Samuel. God put His Spirit upon him. God granted David a tremendous victory over Goliath and the Philistines. David was a submissive, faithful believer with a passion for the things of God: ***and God wanted him closer.*** Today we will discuss how God's activity in our lives does not always mean we are being ***re***-paired, but that sometimes it means we are being ***pre***-pared. Because God knows what is in our future, He faithfully develops what He needs in us for the working of His plan.

🔑 Today's Key Question 🔑

How do Christians learn to work ***with*** God as He prepares us for our next assignment?



Connecting the Study

Last week we studied David's passion for God and how others defying God motivated David to fight. David fought because of godly principle and he fought with the confidence that God would deliver him as He had done in the past for David. Although the odds were against David he participated in what God was doing in eliminating the threat to Israel.

This victory over the Philistines was the beginning of a closer connection between David and the LORD. Saul promotes David and makes him the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff – the head over all the military. And David performs very wisely in this role. It is this excellent performance that drives a wedge between David and Saul. It is this excellent performance that also becomes a chisel in the hand of a loving God as He sculpts David's life.

A clue to what God would be developing in David can be found by looking at the Nation of Israel's spiritual condition during King Saul's reign. For generations Israel had been in a state of spiritual decline. But God desperately wants relationship with people. Israel as a whole was not responding to God's desire for relationship with them. Israel needed a leader who didn't just believe in God but who would stay connected to Him. So God took a man who already desired closeness with Him and used life events to bring him closer.



Bible Study

Read 1 Samuel 18:5-9

A. What do these verses tell us? (What happened? What was taught?)

18:5 And David went out whithersoever Saul sent him, and behaved himself wisely: and Saul set him over the men of war, and he was accepted in the sight of all the people, and also in the sight of Saul's servants. **Saul promotes**

Studying the Life of David

David's life shows that close connection with God can carry us through the most painful times in our lives.

David as head over the military and David performs wisely. David performed so shrewdly in this position that the military, the civilians, and the hired staff surrounding Saul all approved of David.

18:6-7 And it came to pass as they came, when David was returned from the slaughter of the Philistine, that the women came out of all cities of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet king Saul, with tabrets, with joy, and with instruments of musick. And the women answered one another as they played, and said, Saul hath slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands. So after David defeats the Philistines in a large slaughter and the victory paraders are singing a new song: *"Saul has killed his thousands and David his TENS of thousands!"*

18:8-9 And Saul was very wroth, and the saying displeased him; and he said, They have ascribed unto David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed but thousands: and what can he have more but the kingdom? And Saul eyed David from that day and forward. Political reality sinks into Saul's thinking. David is the head of the military in Israel and they like David. The civilian population elevates David above Saul. Even Saul's personal staff prefers David. What's next, a military coup?

From that point in time and onward Saul's fear of losing the kingdom causes him to watch David with suspicion. The insanity of Saul's paranoia drives him to attempted murder, not once, not twice, but **7** times!

1 Sam. 18:11 – Saul tries to kill David with a javelin

1 Sam. 18:17 – Saul conspires to get David killed by the Philistines

1 Sam. 19:1 – Saul tries have David killed by his son and his servants

1 Sam. 19:8-10 – Saul again tries to kill David with a javelin

1 Sam. 19:11 – Saul sends "messengers" to kill David at his house

1 Sam. 19:18-24 – Saul sends "messengers" to Samuel's house to kill David

T Bible Baptist Church

Our Purpose is to lead people into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ. 2 Cor. 5:18

1 Sam. 20:31 – Saul tells his son Jonathan to bring David to be killed

Seven times. Seven times Saul tries to **kill** David. There is nothing minor about this type of adversity in life. Many of us have never faced life threatening circumstances and so we can't really relate to the intensity of the fear that David was confronted with. But through all of it, David maintains his close connection with God and chooses to trust in God's care for him despite the valid fear he experienced.

When believers trust God's aggressive development in their life, their words and actions are different from the world's ways of "doing life."

First off, David's confidence in God is so concrete that he states it as a matter of fact to the unbelieving King of Moab.

22:3 And David went thence to Mizpeh of Moab: and he said unto the king of Moab, Let my father and my mother, I pray thee, come forth, and be with you, till I know what God will do for me. **David was confident he could approach the non-allied King of Moab for help and wasn't worried for his family's safety.** The reason he could be confident of their safety is because he had been maintaining his close connection with God. The result of closeness with God allowed David to **KNOW** that he was not being punished by God but that God was working out His plan in Israel and David was just a part of it. Because David was choosing to stay submissive to God's lead in his life, he knew that God would clearly show David what to do next. So sure was David of God's activity in his life that he even stated it in his request to a non-believer.

Secondly, when confidence in God quiets our fear, we can look beyond ourselves and help someone else.

In 1 Sam. 22, Saul foolishly murdered the priests that aided David in the City of Nob. Saul had 85 priests killed as traitors. Abiathar, one of the murdered priests sons, escaped and came to tell David what Saul had done. The normal reaction of someone who had a contract out on their lives would

Studying the Life of David

David's life shows that close connection with God can carry us through the most painful times in our lives.

be to travel light and to not be looking to offer help to someone else. But look at what David did:

22:23 Abide thou with me, fear not: for he that seeketh my life seeketh thy life: but with me thou shalt be in safeguard. **David was so assured that he was in the center of God's will that the same safety net that surrounded him could be extended to Abiathar.**

Because God had repeatedly performed in David's behalf throughout the external circumstances, the internal relationship grew deeper with each event.

B. What do these verses mean? (What was one or more principles/lessons the writer or God was trying to communicate?)



Handout Questions

1. Sometimes the opposition we face when we are obeying God **feels** the same as the **discipline** we feel when we are disobeying God (18:1-20:42).
2. Trusted **relationships** with other **mature** believers are invaluable during times of testing and adversity (19:18; 20:4).
3. When we are facing intense **opposition** in life, our absolute trust in God's ability to care for us must be a **reflex** (22:3).
4. When our trust is secure in **God's** ability to take care of us, we can think beyond our own **situation** and offer His help to others (22:23).
5. How do Christians learn to work **with** God as He prepares us for our next assignment? Christians must be able to distinguish **discipline** from **development** through a close walk with God and grow relationships with **mature** believers who will **reinforce** their faith.

C. How should these verses impact my life? (marriage, family, work, ministry, social life, friendships)

Studying the Life of David

David's life shows that close connection with God can carry us through the most painful times in our lives.

- ✓ How am I interpreting God's activity in my life right now? Is He "*re-pairing*" me or "*pre-paring*" me? If I am being disciplined by God right now, what can I do to restore fellowship with Him?
- ✓ How well do I handle opposition? How long does it take for me to see God's hand of care in my life? Do I often misread God's activity in my life? How easy is it for Satan to get me to quit?
- ✓ What "assignment" do I think God is preparing me for next?
- ✓ Who is God using in my life as a "spiritual confident" during times of trouble? Is God using me as a spiritual confident in someone else's life? If not, why not?



Group Discussion Questions

(Try to facilitate the group's discussion and not do most of the talking during this time.)

Group Question

How can Christians today tell if God is "*re-pairing*" or "*pre-paring*" them?

Opposition	Discipline	Development
How do you know it's happening?	Pain	Pain
Why is it happening?	You're doing something wrong.	You're doing something right.
What needs to go?	Sin.	Self.
How should you feel?	Guilty, sad.	Relief, trust.
What is the right response?	Repentance (stop sinning).	Release (give God your permission).
When does it stop?	When we stop sinning.	When God is finished.