

Small Group Discussion Questions

Series: Plot Twist

Speaker: Jay Haugh

Message: Trusting God's Guidance

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Memory Verse: 1 Peter 5:5b-6 NIV

"God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble."
Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand,
that he may lift you up in due time.

The goal of these questions is to foster meaningful discussion and to encourage participants to reflect on God's Word with the goal of leading to heart transformation. Feel free to modify or expand upon these questions based on the dynamics and needs of your Small Group.

Read 1 Samuel 23

- We see numerous times that David's habit before making a decision is to consult the Lord. In difficult circumstances, where do you turn for guidance and wisdom? Why have you selected that as your primary means of direction? If not the Lord, what is keeping Him from being your first choice?
- Have you ever put your trust in your strength like Samson, your power like Saul, or your knowledge like Ahithophel? Do you find that you rely more on your own giftings or skills in big things, small things, or all things? When you consistently lean on these things instead of receiving direction from the Lord, how does this impact your daily walk with God?
- After we have sought the Lord for wisdom or guidance, how can we expect to hear from Him? Does the Lord still speak directly to His people? What are some other ways the Lord actively speaks to us today? How is discernment needed when listening to the Lord's voice?
- David's men are afraid to go where God is calling them. Have you ever been afraid to follow the Lord's direction? What caused you to be fearful or resistant to follow? Reflect for a moment on the fear of following where the Lord is leading. What does this reveal about what is in your heart?
- Saul asserts that God is doing things on his behalf, revealing that he believes that God is on his side. Where do we see wicked people in our culture using religion as a means of manipulation, self-justification, or influence? These poor examples of what it means to be a



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follower of Christ are elevated and can become the unbeliever's perspective of what it looks like to be a Christian. Is there anything we can do to separate ourselves and prevent being painted with the same brush?

- Jonathan serves as an encourager to David and strengthens him. To whom have you been a Jonathan, and who has been a Jonathan to you? Share an experience where someone's words of encouragement helped you during a difficult time. How can we be intentional about offering support and encouragement found in God and His Word?
- David's life and the lives of his followers were in danger as Saul pursued him. Saul was close to capturing David when he was called away because of a Philistine raid. Why is Saul never successful in capturing David? Share an instance from your life when you've experienced God's protection or deliverance. Has God's previous provision in your life helped you become more trusting and expectant that He will act in similar ways again? Why or why not?
- Engedi is an oasis in an otherwise barren landscape where David and his followers flee to. Do you feel like you are in a metaphorical wilderness? Do you feel anxious about something? Can you also identify a place of refuge like Engedi that God has provided?



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