

THE COMFORT OF

GOD'S

WARRIOR



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GOD'S
WARRIOR**

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Psalms 46:10 Be still, and know that I am
God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I
will be exalted in the earth.

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Forward

Often, we look at biblical characters and for some reason think they were different than we are. We view them as somewhere between God and man when in fact they were just as much man as we are. They dealt with the temptation of sin, they went to war, they had to make tough family decisions, and they made life altering mistakes.

God could have made biblical characters perfect beings and filled the Bible with stories of how they made perfect decisions and never failed in any situation as a gleaming example for us to follow. He didn't do that because He knew that we are not perfect beings, and we needed an example pertinent to the life that we would live, with examples of situations that we would encounter in our lives.

In God's perfect way He gave veterans King David as a shining example of how to deal with our life experiences. David was a volunteer, a warrior, a veteran, a father, a husband, a king, and a spiritual leader. At times he failed God and at times he was victorious for God. King David was a human being who experienced many of the same experiences every veteran since King David has experienced.

The promise that God gives every veteran in history, since King David, is that through all David's failures, triumphs, waring, and betrayal, God referred to David as **“a man after mine own heart”** Acts 13:22.

God is so good to not only comfort David as he dealt with the struggles of waring, but to provide veterans today with the promise and evidence of the comfort He gave David in the magnificent Psalms of David.

The goal of the lessons contained in this book are to show the similarities of David's life and the life of veterans today, to give examples of how God protected and led in David's life because he had a relationship with God, and to show the immense comfort David had in his life as the result of his dependence on God. It is my prayer that every veteran would recognize that the promises God gave David, the greatest warrior, are available to you, if you simply depend on Him.

To assist group leaders in future lessons at the end of the lessons on King David's life we have included a lesson template and a few additional veteran specific lessons to help you get started. Please contact us for any assistance you may need.

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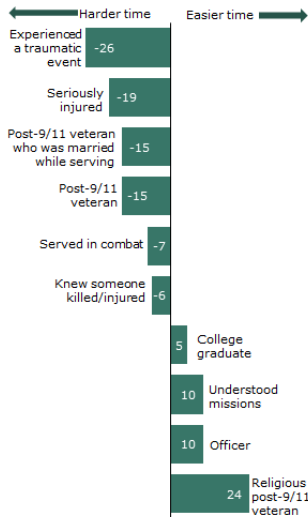
Purpose of The Disciplined Veterans Ministry

Difficulty re-entering civilian life after military service is tough and is at the core of every negative statistic concerning veterans. We treat homelessness by providing vets with shelter, we treat hungry vets with food banks, give them clothes when they need them and drug treatment when they are addicted but these are all side effects of the actual issue. If we could get them born again so they have God leading their life, homelessness, hunger, and addiction would no longer be a problem. This is a point that Christians and the secular world agree upon according to the PEW Research Group. So, the question becomes how does the church help veterans who are used to living military lives re-enter civilian life? The answer is we don't. We teach them to apply the principles of their physical war training into the spiritual war against Satan. The reason the PEW Research Groups study indicates the more often a veteran goes to church the better they readjust is twofold, one, the veteran has a relationship with God who comforts and directs him through the struggles brought on by military service and two, the Christian veteran isn't trying to dismantle his military life and become a civilian he has enlisted in God's Army and is able to utilize the tactics and principles of physical war in the spiritual war against Satan. Veterans need an enemy; transition from military life to civilian life often causes them to be

their own enemy. The purpose of Discipled Veteran is to build comradery between Christian veterans, find and lead lost veterans to God, and give veterans purpose by repurposing their training for service in the spiritual war against Satan.

Factors that Predict an Easy or Hard Re-entry into Civilian Life

Percentage-point change in the likelihood that a veteran with each characteristic had an easy time re-entering civilian life

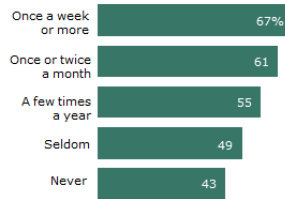


Notes: For percentages based on full sample of veterans, n=1,842; for post-9/11 veterans, n=710. Unless otherwise noted, subsequent charts are based on all veterans.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Religiosity, Re-entry and the Post-9/11 Veteran

Chances that post-9/11 veterans had an easy re-entry experience by how often they attend religious services



Notes: Probabilities based on logistical regression analysis. Based on post-9/11 veterans, n=710.

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Discipled Veteran - Ministry Essentials

- 1. Make veterans active participants of the church body. Give a veteran purpose.** Veterans often feel as if their lives have no further purpose. After the immense responsibility of lives, equipment, and mission they had as a young service member, most veterans return home to the feeling of uselessness, unvalued, and nothing in their future will ever compare to their past. Give them a job in the church and get them serving.
- 2. Veterans are trained to be “ok”.** Have you ever asked a veteran how they are doing and heard them reply in the negative? They will usually answer something like “I’m good” or “doing great”. That’s because they are trained to not complain, to adapt to situations, ruck up. They are trained to understand that negative doesn’t increase the possibility of completing a mission and that attitude carries over into every aspect of their life. Therapist treating PTSD affected veterans report that when treating even the worst affected veterans the response is always positive when asked how they are doing.

3. **Veterans minimize experiences.** When normally exposed to life and death, the experiences of civilian life are often mundane. To the outside world a veteran may seem immune to emotion while inwardly they are in turmoil processing the situation while on the outside maintaining composure so they can manage it. Just because you don't see their concern for a situation doesn't mean they aren't concerned.

4. **The church needs veterans.** In many cases a veteran best understands the seriousness of the war being waged by Satan and the attitude it takes to fight it. If a pastor could advertise for new church members it would be something like this: Must follow the chain of command, leadership experience, experienced in conflict resolution, dedication to duty, experienced at giving and accepting criticism. Veterans have these attributes and wish they could use them again. They just need someone to help them apply their skills in the spiritual war. Allow the group to develop these resources for service in God's Army and you will soon recognize you are leading a Special Forces unit for God in your own church.

5. **Veterans will not get excited about church picnics.** If while in the military you flew jets, jumped from planes, patrolled on submarines, operated tanks, or nearly any other duty, it's going to take a lot to excite you. Plan veteran outings that will excite your vets and will help encourage others to join the group. Don't be afraid to take them Skydiving, rock climbing, hiking, or some other competition events, it will excite them and help bring others in.

6. **Give them a space to call their own.** It is important if the church has space, to set aside a space for the group to call their own. Once comradery is built among your veterans they will discuss some intense topics. It will help them to be in a comfortable environment and often what's comfortable to the average member doesn't make a veteran comfortable. Think of it in the same way you do your youth group. Generally, they have their own setting that appeals to that group specifically, it doesn't usually appeal to the church in general. The same philosophy applies to veterans. Branch service seals, US Flag, Christian flag, a chair reserved for POW/MIAs, and scripture will go a long way in setting up their space.

7. **Comradery is essential to veterans.** In most churches, you can point to individual veterans in each congregation who serve in the church. While in the military these veterans served most effectively in teams, divisions, and platoons with other members with similar training and experiences. They trust and depend on each other to ensure their mission is accomplished. You will note a greater sense of comradery among these Christian veterans through Discipled Veterans. Not only is their comradery laid in their history of service but it is strengthened by their Christian service.

8. **Make it a round table.** It's important to make the setting as comfortable as possible for the men and women of your class to be able to speak freely about things. Many veterans are most comfortable when they can see the room and their backs are against the wall. If possible a round table setting is best with the leader seated at the head of the table.

9. **Veteran families are different.** Just like every other family, they take on the attributes of the leader. If a family's father is a godly man chances are the family will follow. The same applies to attributes of the veteran

family. For instance, studies indicate that veterans who suffer from service connected PTSD have families who deal with the same side effects because that is the way their family is taught to manage situations. Additionally, military families have different experiences than the average church family. Sacrifice, deployments, frequent moves, leaving friends, and fearing the loss of a parent are some of the constants veteran families have dealt with during their time in the military. It is important to recognize these when ministering to them and the comradery cultivated through a successful Discipled Veterans Group goes a long way in this.

10. **Let them lead.** If possible, it is important that the group be led by a veteran for obvious reasons. However, keep in mind that the president, although not in the military, is the Commander in Chief and the same applies to the church pastor in a Discipled Veteran Group. Veterans respect chain of command and here on earth it begins with the Pastor.

11. **We owe this to the veterans of our country.** The thought of a special Discipled Veterans Group may at times seem complicated, like

additional work, or you think you lack the resources. Let me put it into perspective, take a minute and imagine what your ministry would be like if the men and women of this potential group hadn't made the sacrifices they did. Imagine what American churches would look like if they hadn't stepped up when the likes of Adolph Hitler, Joseph Stalin, Ho Chi Minh, or Osama Bin Laden were unopposed when they attempted to impose their religious philosophy on the United States. We owe this to our veterans and you will soon understand what a blessing it will be to your ministry to utilize them.

12. **Keep away from veteran benefits as a group.** The world, and quite frankly, worldly churches focus tremendous amounts of time on the needs of veterans and unfortunately, they concentrate on the side effects not the cause. There are plenty of organizations to handle the issues of food, clothes, and giving homes to vets, not that we shouldn't be concerned. But if we allow topics like the Veterans Administration and VA benefits to become the group topic we defeat the purpose and often allow the unfortunate disdain for the failures of other organizations to take center stage. The focus of Discipled Veterans

is to introduce veterans to Jesus because we know that He solves the core problem and when those are solved the side effects go away. Keep focus on the mission of serving God, by lifting each other up, dragging wounded souls off the battle field, and applying tactical expertise to the spiritual war against Satan. If a veteran in the group needs individual help otherwise handle it individually to maintain focus on the mission.

13. Veterans might not want to go to church.

The first person saved in the original Discipled Veterans Group denied the invitation to church but jumped at the chance to go to a veterans group. Unfortunately, this is the feeling of many veterans because they feel like they somehow can't meet the standard of church people but have instinctive comradery with veterans. Get them in through the group and once they meet the group invite them to regular church services.

14. Don't be afraid of battle scars. Remember where they have been. When you drag a wounded man off the battle field you shouldn't expect them to be in their dress uniform. They are victims of war and they

have been in battle. They are going to be bloody and have the stench of war on them until they get cleaned up. The same applies to this war, when you drag a wounded soul off Satan's battlefield they are going to stink of sin and have some wounds. They won't look, act, or sound like seasoned Christians.

15. Unfortunate US Veteran statistics.

According to the Department of Housing and Urban Development, on any given night 39,471 veterans are homeless. According to the department of Veteran Affairs on an average day greater than 20 veterans commit suicide. According to the same study the average age of those who commit suicide is 50. This is a very important number because it tells us three things, these veterans have suffered for some time, they never got the help they needed, and if the church doesn't do something we know what we must look forward to if our young veterans returning don't get help. Post 9-11 veterans because of the issues they deal with have an unemployment rate of 9.4% compared to the national average 4.9%. Although veterans have a divorce rate much less than the national average, because in large part they know what commitment means, can you imagine the difficulties veteran families deal with due to these issues?

16. **Let me give you a statistic West Virginians can be proud of.** West Virginia is home to more veterans per capita than any other state in the nation. That means we live on the battle field in this fight against Satan. Attempt to find things pertaining to your area that will instill motivation and pride in your group.

17. **Promote participation.** Once the group completes the course work it doesn't end; now the work begins. Each member as a Christian is responsible for dragging other wounded souls off Satan's battlefield. To promote this the group leader should foster further individual growth by assigning members dates to create and lead the group's lesson. This will promote individual public speaking and foster their relationship with God.

18. **Be cautious not to keep a schedule.** Although each lesson is broken down so you could cover a lesson per week, be mindful to go at a pace that promotes a good group understanding of the topic. Some in the group may get the message quickly, while others may take a little longer. The discussion at the end of each topic is very

important to letting veterans know that they are not the only ones dealing with a situation so don't be afraid to extend a discussion after class or carry it over into next week.

19. **Community Events.** In addition to being a valuable tool for recruiting new members, community events help the members interact with others while helping in the community and assisting in the church. A good example of a DVM community event is "Recruit Night". Every spring high school graduates that have volunteered for military service are preparing to leave for basic training. This is a scary time not only for them but their families. "Recruit Night" gives DMV members the opportunity to pass on information to new recruits as to what to expect and their experiences being a Christian in the US Military.

20. **Biblical Counseling.** Many organizations offer veterans an enormous amount of counseling, unfortunately it falls short of the complete help they need because it excludes God. Discipled Veterans give the group leader and the church pastor the opportunity to give them real scriptural help.

Lesson One: Don't Be AWOL

Lesson Objective: The purpose of this lesson is to encourage the class to evangelize other veterans. Make sure they understand that as Christians it is our duty to reach other people for Christ, and to drag wounded souls from Satan's battlefield. Make them understand their comfort in life comes from serving God and there are consequences for not serving God.

Introduction: The Israelites wanted a King, so God had Samuel anoint Saul as their first king. God remembered that Amalek laid in wait against Israel when they came out of Egypt so he told King Saul to go and destroy Amalek. God told King Saul to spare nothing, "kill every man, woman, infant and suckling, ox and sheep, camel and ass." Saul killed everything but saved Agag the king and kept all the good live stock. King Saul said he did it so he could use the animals as sacrifices to God. Samuel told King Saul "to obey is better than sacrifice". King Saul's failure to obey God's orders made Him regret making Saul king so God removed the comfort of the Holy Spirit from Saul and ordered his replacement as king. In our text, we see God has chosen a new king, one who trusts God and will follow His orders.

Lesson Text

God gave Samuel direction to replace King Saul

1 Samuel 16:1-3 1 And the LORD said unto Samuel, How long wilt thou mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? fill thine horn with oil, and go, I will send thee to Jesse the Bethlehemite: for I have provided me a king among his sons. 2 And Samuel said, How can I go? if Saul hear it, he will kill me. And the LORD said, Take an heifer with thee, and say, I am come to sacrifice to the LORD. 3 And call Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will shew thee what thou shalt do: and thou shalt anoint unto me him whom I name unto thee.

Samuel followed God's direction

1 Samuel 16:4-5 4 And Samuel did that which the LORD spake, and came to Bethlehem. And the elders of the town trembled at his coming, and said, Comest thou peaceably? 5 And he said, Peaceably: I am come to sacrifice unto the LORD: sanctify yourselves, and come with me to the sacrifice. And he sanctified Jesse and his sons, and called them to the sacrifice.

God rejected seven of Jessie's sons

1 Samuel 16:6-10 6 And it came to pass, when they were come, that he looked on Eliab, and said, Surely the LORD'S anointed is before him. 7 But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or

on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart. 8 Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, Neither hath the LORD chosen this. 9 Then Jesse made Shammah to pass by. And he said, Neither hath the LORD chosen this. 10 Again, Jesse made seven of his sons to pass before Samuel. And Samuel said unto Jesse, The LORD hath not chosen these.

God choses David to replace King Saul

1 Samuel 16:11-14 11 And Samuel said unto Jesse, Are here all thy children? And he said, There remaineth yet the youngest, and, behold, he keepeth the sheep. And Samuel said unto Jesse, Send and fetch him: for we will not sit down till he come hither. 12 And he sent, and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and withal of a beautiful countenance, and goodly to look to. And the LORD said, Arise, anoint him: for this is he. 13 Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brethren: and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel rose up, and went to Ramah. 14 But the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD troubled him.

Lesson Points

1. God gave King Saul the opportunity to serve Him and as we saw it came with all the privilege and comfort that God promises us if we obey God's commands. Saul chose not to follow God's orders and told God he did follow His orders because he wanted to save the good animals for sacrifice.
2. Nothing has really changed, has it? Today when we don't follow God's orders we come up with all kinds of reasons, just like Saul did, as to why. We tell him things like we can't do this thing you want me to do because I already witness to others by living right, my ministry is driving a van, or teaching Sunday school. These things are like wearing your uniform when you were in the military your uniform showed others who you were, name, rank, branch, and accomplishments. But if you just wore the uniform and didn't carry out orders you would have just been a uniform. We live right and perform duties around the church because it's our Christian uniform but it's not our orders our orders are to spread the gospel.

2 Timothy 4:2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

3. It doesn't matter if you enlisted or were drafted into your military service, once in we all served. Each of you had a sense of duty, you didn't run away from your service, you learned to follow orders because you knew it was best for you and your team. David chose to follow God's orders because he understood that it was best for him and God's people.
4. Saul was AWOL. David's service was required by God because Saul wouldn't follow orders. When we don't follow God's orders, like Saul, He will take the privilege and comfort of the Holy Spirit from us and find someone else who will follow His orders. When we don't follow God's orders we tell God where our heart is.

John 14:15 If ye love me, keep my commandments.

5. When David was to be anointed, he could have made many excuses as to why he couldn't serve God. He could have said, I

have seven older brothers who are more qualified. He could have said, I am already busy tending to my father's sheep. He could have said, I am ruddy there are many stronger choices but he didn't. David was no more than 15 years old at the time, not much younger than some of us when we began our military service. I'm sure he was scared; he was just told that he was going to replace the king. He had to be wondering what King Saul would think of this, as well as his friends and the community. But, he followed God's orders.

Romans 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to [his] purpose.

6. We have all heard of people who went AWOL and we all know it was never positive for them. It's a shame they live with for the rest of their life. I would say without question it is a point in their life that they regret. It is the same when we don't follow God's orders. If He is convicting you about something, and you run from it, you will regret it for the rest of your life. Decide to follow Him and trust that He is in control. As veterans, we are

trained to always be prepared and have a strategy for success. When we don't have a plan, it causes us to be on guard and have a heightened sense of anxiety. So, when God asks us to depend on Him and just serve Him it's contrary to our training and causes anxiety but that's where faith comes in to play we must trust God.

Psalms 46:10 Be still, and know that I [am] God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth.

7. King Saul could've been "a man after God's own Heart" but because he wouldn't follow orders he was replaced, left comfortless, and miserable. As we study the life of King David, the greatest warrior, keep in mind all the comfort and privilege given to King David that could have been King Saul's if he hadn't gone AWOL on God.

Acts 13:21-23 21 And afterward they desired a king: and God gave unto them Saul the son of Cis, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, by the space of forty years. 22 And when he had removed him, he raised up unto them David to be their king; to whom also he gave testimony, and said, I

have found David the son of Jesse, a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfil all my will.

King David's Psalm on the subject

Psalms 23 1 (A Psalm of David.) The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. 2 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. 3 He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. 4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. 5 Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. 6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

David's Comfort from the Psalm

In the wake of Samuel anointing David as the next King of Israel he was embolden and prepared to walk through the valley and appear in the Goliath's shadow of death, while fearing no evil because he knew that God was with him. He could do this because he knew that his actions were squarely in God's will and service. When we are acting in God's

will and service, we can enjoy the same comfort that David enjoyed.

Life Application

If we were to go around the room, we would all say we are better because of our service. Just like each of you during your individual service, David had a sense of duty, and just like each of you when David looked back on his life after following God's call to duty he saw that it was the best thing he ever did. God requires our service and just like our military service, if we chose to follow Him, we will very quickly be able to look back at our decision and say it was the best decision I ever made. The alternative leaves us AWOL, running and regretting for the rest of our life.

Charge and Discussion

What did God do for David in this experience? God anointed David as the next king and gave him comfort in a tough situation.

What did David have to do that was critical to God being able to help him? David had to be willing to serve and trust God even when it was scary and what God asked him to do wasn't ordinary.

What should we be doing so God can give us the same comfort David had in his life? We have to trust God and follow the orders He gives us.

Lesson Two: Don't Fear Goliaths

Lesson Objective: The purpose of this lesson is to build trust in Christ by acting on faith in Christ. Help the veteran delete some of their training of self-reliance in exchange for dependence on Christ.

Introduction: To set the scene, The Army of the Philistines stood on one hill and the Israeli Army stood on another hill with a valley between them. They would go down into the valley and fight morning and evening for forty days. On this day Goliath (9'3") came down in his full armor with weapons and in front of him his armor bearer. He said, "I defy the armies of Israel" send a man to fight me, but every man was afraid. Saul said if someone would volunteer and kill Goliath he would make him rich, give him his daughter, and make his family free. When David heard what Goliath was saying he basically said why hasn't someone gone down there and defended the army of the living God? David's older brother, being one of the men who was scared to fight Goliath, got mad at him. David was about fifteen now and he didn't care about the offers of King Saul, but he certainly didn't like that Goliath was defying God.

Lesson Text

David steps up to fight Goliath

1Samuel 17:32 32 And David said to Saul, Let no man's heart fail because of him; thy servant will go and fight with this Philistine.

Saul tells David that he can't kill Goliath

1Samuel 17:33 33 And Saul said to David, Thou art not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him: for thou art but a youth, and he a man of war from his youth.

David was confident in God

1Samuel 17:34-37 34 And David said unto Saul, Thy servant kept his father's sheep, and there came a lion, and a bear, and took a lamb out of the flock: 35 And I went out after him, and smote him, and delivered it out of his mouth: and when he arose against me, I caught him by his beard, and smote him, and slew him. 36 Thy servant slew both the lion and the bear: and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be as one of them, seeing he hath defied the armies of the living God. 37 David said moreover, The LORD that delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, he will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine. And Saul said unto David, Go, and the LORD be with thee.

Saul armed David

1Samuel 17:38 38 And Saul armed David with his armour, and he put an helmet of brass upon his head; also he armed him with a coat of mail.

David refused Saul's weapons, trusting his proven weapons

1Samuel 17:39-41 39 And David girded his sword upon his armour, and he assayed to go; for he had not proved it. And David said unto Saul, I cannot go with these; for I have not proved them. And David put them off him. 40 And he took his staff in his hand, and chose him five smooth stones out of the brook, and put them in a shepherd's bag which he had, even in a scrip; and his sling was in his hand: and he drew near to the Philistine. 41 And the Philistine came on and drew near unto David; and the man that bare the shield went before him.

Goliath cursed God and David

1Samuel 17:42-44 42 And when the Philistine looked about, and saw David, he disdained him: for he was but a youth, and ruddy, and of a fair countenance. 43 And the Philistine said unto David, Am I a dog, that thou comest to me with staves? And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. 44 And the Philistine said to David, Come to me, and I will give thy flesh unto the fowls of the air, and to the beasts of the field.

David defended God against Goliath's cursing

1Samuel 17:45-47 45 Then said David to the Philistine, Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied. 46 This day will the LORD deliver thee into mine hand; and I will smite thee, and take thine head from thee; and I will give the carcasses of the host of the Philistines this day unto the fowls of the air, and to the wild beasts of the earth; that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel. 47 And all this assembly shall know that the LORD saveth not with sword and spear: for the battle is the LORD'S, and he will give you into our hands.

David killed Goliath with his sling

1Samuel 17:48-50 48 And it came to pass, when the Philistine arose, and came and drew nigh to meet David, that David hasted, and ran toward the army to meet the Philistine. 49 And David put his hand in his bag, and took thence a stone, and slang it, and smote the Philistine in his forehead, that the stone sunk into his forehead; and he fell upon his face to the earth. 50 So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and with a stone, and smote the Philistine, and slew him; but there was no sword in the hand of David.

David cut off Goliath's head with his own sword

1Samuel 17:51 51 Therefore David ran, and stood upon the Philistine, and took his sword, and drew it out of the sheath thereof, and slew him, and cut off his head therewith. And when the Philistines saw their champion was dead, they fled.

Israel defeated the Philistines

1Samuel 17:52-54 52 And the men of Israel and of Judah arose, and shouted, and pursued the Philistines, until thou come to the valley, and to the gates of Ekron. And the wounded of the Philistines fell down by the way to Shaaraim, even unto Gath, and unto Ekron. 53 And the children of Israel returned from chasing after the Philistines, and they spoiled their tents. 54 And David took the head of the Philistine, and brought it to Jerusalem; but he put his armour in his tent.

Lesson Points

1. God desires the glory in our service and for that reason often God will choose to use the most unlikely people to perform the greatest tasks for Him. He wants it to be seen that the tasks performed could only be done because God was in it.

2. Sometimes when God is trying to use an unlikely person His will to use that person is objected to by that person. Have you ever felt like you should be doing something for the Lord and not done it because you felt like someone else is more qualified, experienced, or would be better at it? You're probably right there is a more experienced and qualified person, that's why the Lord wanted to use you, so it would be evident that it was obviously the Lord who did whatever He is calling you to do, NOT YOU, so He can be glorified.

3. David trusted in Gods ability to care for him if he was willing to serve Him. When David took food to his brothers who were in the army, David had no idea that he would end up fighting Goliath that day, but he trusted God and was willing to step up wherever God needed him. David saw an opportunity to defend and serve God and jumped at it. Where did David get that kind of trust? David's trust came from experience, he knew God took care of him with the lion and the bear, and he certainly wasn't afraid of some giant.

4. David knew that he was nothing more than a weapon that God was going to use in killing Goliath but God's goal wasn't to kill Goliath. Whether he knew it or not, Goliath was just a weapon in God achieving His goal. God's goal wasn't testing David's faith, or convicting the faithless in Israel's Army, or even killing Goliath, God was seeking His just glory. David explained God's goal just prior to killing and cutting off Goliath's head:

1 Samuel 17:45-47 45 Then said David to the Philistine, Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied. 46 This day will the LORD deliver thee into mine hand; and I will smite thee, and take thine head from thee; and I will give the carcasses of the host of the Philistines this day unto the fowls of the air, and to the wild beasts of the earth; that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel. 47 And all this assembly shall know that the LORD saveth not with sword and spear: for the battle is the LORD'S, and he will give you into our hands.

5. Maybe the reason you don't have the trust to step out like David did is because you never had to face a lion or bear. I submit to you the only reason you haven't faced the lion or bear is because to this point God has fought them for you and you just haven't acknowledged it. We can all look back at our lives and see situations where God stepped in and killed the lion for us. We will often attribute it to something we did; stealing Gods glory but it was God.

6. David had every opportunity to stand down. David's family questioned his motives for being there. King Saul told him he couldn't do it. The entire army on both sides just knew David was about to die. David knew God would care for him if he served God, so when David saw an opportunity to serve God, he took the opportunity to serve God.

7. David trusted in God to the extent that he didn't want anything in battle that wasn't proven. Saul gave David the best weapons and armor he had but David didn't want them because he hadn't proven them. When we step out in faith and allow God to prove His promise of protection it grows our trust in God and you will soon rightly realize that you

truly can do anything if it's God's will and you trust Him to care for you. You see God's promise in Philippians 4:13 is not that God strengthens you, it is the trust you have in God that strengthens you.

Philippians 4:13 I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

King David's Psalm on the subject

Psalm 9 1 (To the chief Musician upon Muthlabben, A Psalm of David.) I will praise thee, O LORD, with my whole heart; I will shew forth all thy marvellous works. 2 I will be glad and rejoice in thee: I will sing praise to thy name, O thou most High. 3 When mine enemies are turned back, they shall fall and perish at thy presence. 4 For thou hast maintained my right and my cause; thou satest in the throne judging right. 5 Thou hast rebuked the heathen, thou hast destroyed the wicked, thou hast put out their name for ever and ever. 6 O thou enemy, destructions are come to a perpetual end: and thou hast destroyed cities; their memorial is perished with them. 7 But the LORD shall endure for ever: he hath prepared his throne for judgment. 8 And he shall judge the world in righteousness, he shall minister judgment to the people in uprightness. 9 The LORD also will be a refuge for the oppressed, a refuge in times of trouble.

10 And they that know thy name will put their trust in thee: for thou, LORD, hast not forsaken them that seek thee. 11 Sing praises to the LORD, which dwelleth in Zion: declare among the people his doings. 12 When he maketh inquisition for blood, he remembereth them: he forgetteth not the cry of the humble. 13 Have mercy upon me, O LORD; consider my trouble which I suffer of them that hate me, thou that liftest me up from the gates of death: 14 That I may shew forth all thy praise in the gates of the daughter of Zion: I will rejoice in thy salvation. 15 The heathen are sunk down in the pit that they made: in the net which they hid is their own foot taken. 16 The LORD is known by the judgment which he executeth: the wicked is snared in the work of his own hands. Higgsaion. Selah. 17 The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God. 18 For the needy shall not alway be forgotten: the expectation of the poor shall not perish for ever. 19 Arise, O LORD; let not man prevail: let the heathen be judged in thy sight. 20 Put them in fear, O LORD: that the nations may know themselves to be but men. Selah.

David's Comfort from the Psalm

David summed up how he felt about God not only before killing Goliath but certainly after God used him to kill Goliath. **Psalm 9: 10 And they that**

know thy name will put their trust in thee: for thou, LORD, hast not forsaken them that seek thee. In this Psalm David expressed the trust he has in God and how he could take that trust into every other aspect of his life.

Life Application

David is not the hero of this story, God is glorified in this story, David knew it and that's why he did it. Each of us can glorify God like David by allowing God to take an unqualified but willing servant and do great things. Imagine the glory God will get the next time He puts it on your heart to do something that seems above you, in the face of naysayers and He uses you to do it simply because you trusted Him. Any successes you may have had in life are because God is killing your lions and bears, and He will continue to take care of you, when you step up, face Goliath, and give Him the glory. Just a little faith in God will create trust in God and when you have trust in God you have comfort because of God, and when you have God's comfort you finally have Peace.

Charge and Discussion

What did God do for David in this experience? God protected David and gave him comfort in the scariest situation he had ever been in.

What did David have to do that was critical to God being able to help him? David had to trust God's promise to care for him when God asked him to do something.

What should we be doing so God can give us the same comfort David had in his life? We have to give God the opportunity to prove that he will care for us by faithfully depending on Him.

Lesson Three: Divide and Conquer

Lesson Objective: The purpose of this lesson is to help the veteran understand that problems in their life, whatever they may be are the result of Satan's actions. Satan is the enemy. But the good news is that a close walk with God will protect us from the enemies' attempts on us individually, our families, and our relationship with God.

Introduction: David had just defended Israel by killing Goliath. After killing Goliath David came back and had a bond with King Saul's son Jonathan. He had a comradery with Jonathan. Jonathon gave David his robe, sword, bow, and girdle. King Saul gave him command over men of war. Everybody seemed to love David but King Saul being jealous, it started to get to him.

Lesson Text

The people of Israel celebrated David over Saul
1 Samuel 18:6-7 6 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. 7 And the women answered one another as they

played, and said, Saul hath slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands.

Saul became jealous of David

1 Samuel 18:8-9 8 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? 9 And Saul eyed David from that day and forward.

Saul tried to kill David

1 Samuel 18:10-12 10 And it came to pass on the morrow, that the evil spirit from God came upon Saul, and he prophesied in the midst of the house: and David played with his hand, as at other times: and there was a javelin in Saul's hand. 11 And Saul cast the javelin; for he said, I will smite David even to the wall with it. And David avoided out of his presence twice.

Saul recognized, God is with David

1 Samuel 18:12-16 12 And Saul was afraid of David, because the LORD was with him, and was departed from Saul. 13 Therefore Saul removed him from him, and made him his captain over a thousand; and he went out and came in before the people. 14 And David behaved himself wisely in all his ways; and the LORD was with him. 15 Wherefore when Saul

saw that he behaved himself very wisely, he was afraid of him. 16 But all Israel and Judah loved David, because he went out and came in before them.

Saul offers David his daughter in a scheme to kill him at the hands of the Philistines

1 Samuel 18:17-27 17 And Saul said to David, Behold my elder daughter Merab, her will I give thee to wife: only be thou valiant for me, and fight the LORD'S battles. For Saul said, Let not mine hand be upon him, but let the hand of the Philistines be upon him. 18 And David said unto Saul, Who am I? and what is my life, or my father's family in Israel, that I should be son in law to the king? 19 But it came to pass at the time when Merab Saul's daughter should have been given to David, that she was given unto Adriel the Meholathite to wife. 20 And Michal Saul's daughter loved David: and they told Saul, and the thing pleased him. 21 And Saul said, I will give him her, that she may be a snare to him, and that the hand of the Philistines may be against him. Wherefore Saul said to David, Thou shalt this day be my son in law in the one of the twain. 22 And Saul commanded his servants, saying, Commune with David secretly, and say, Behold, the king hath delight in thee, and all his servants love thee: now therefore be the king's son in law. 23 And Saul's servants spake those words in the ears of David. And David said, Seemeth it to you a light thing to be a king's son in law, seeing that

I am a poor man, and lightly esteemed? 24 And the servants of Saul told him, saying, On this manner spake David. 25 And Saul said, Thus shall ye say to David, The king desireth not any dowry, but an hundred foreskins of the Philistines, to be avenged of the king's enemies. But Saul thought to make David fall by the hand of the Philistines. 26 And when his servants told David these words, it pleased David well to be the king's son in law: and the days were not expired. 27 Wherefore David arose and went, he and his men, and slew of the Philistines two hundred men; and David brought their foreskins, and they gave them in full tale to the king, that he might be the king's son in law. And Saul gave him Michal his daughter to wife.

Saul became David's enemy

1 Samuel 18:28-30 28 And Saul saw and knew that the LORD was with David, and that Michal Saul's daughter loved him. 29 And Saul was yet the more afraid of David; and Saul became David's enemy continually. 30 Then the princes of the Philistines went forth: and it came to pass, after they went forth, that David behaved himself more wisely than all the servants of Saul; so that his name was much set by.

Lesson Points

1. Saul was being used of God and was serving God victoriously with David conquering the Philistines. However, Saul let Satan use jealousy as a tactic to divide and take the focus off the enemy, Saul spent the rest of his days not fighting the enemy, but David. David, however, remained faithful to God's fight.
2. Satan's goal is to take as many to hell with him as he can. It is our orders as Christians to spread the gospel and win souls for Christ. We must recognize that Satan is just as much the enemy as any other enemy we have ever fought with one exception, the battles we lose to him are eternal and he is more cunning than any enemy we have ever faced. He is the supreme commander of all evil in this world. He's the reason the world knew the likes of Hitler, Binladen and Mussolini. As Christian leaders in our family he will do whatever possible to take us out of the fight.

1 Peter 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

3. Satan uses the simple tactic of divide and conquer. He knows that within our churches, our families, even our ministry, if he can turn us against each other the focus isn't on him and we will be so busy tearing each other down that he will be able to advance his agenda.

4. We must understand that there are only two controlling entities in this world, God and Satan. Everything that is good and right is of God and everything else is of Satan. When we see a situation rising, be it in our family, church, or some other facet of our life, we must evaluate its source and get on the correct side of it. The things of God will never conflict, so if when you evaluate a situation and determine it's of Satan get on the right side of the situation.

1 Corinthians 1:10 Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.

5. If King Saul had evaluated the situation he would have determined that God doesn't cause jealousy, recognized that it was an attempt by Satan to divide and conquer, and acted to overcome Satan's attempts. But he didn't he allowed it to consume him and Satan was able to advance. David, on the other hand, because of his relationship with God could evaluate the situation and act properly even when King Saul was trying to kill him. Verse 14 tells us "David behaved himself wisely in all his ways; and the LORD was with him".
6. Satan will use many weapons to divide and conquer. As we saw he will use jealousy. In our homes he commonly uses finances, children, friends, and our jobs to cause a division. It is imperative that we stay close to God for the sake of our church, our marriage, our family, and our service to God. If we are close to God we will clearly see when Satan tries to divide us.

King David's Psalm on the subject

Psalms 64 1 (To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David.) Hear my voice, O God, in my prayer: preserve my life from fear of the enemy. 2 Hide me

from the secret counsel of the wicked; from the insurrection of the workers of iniquity: 3 Who whet their tongue like a sword, and bend their bows to shoot their arrows, even bitter words: 4 That they may shoot in secret at the perfect: suddenly do they shoot at him, and fear not. 5 They encourage themselves in an evil matter: they commune of laying snares privily; they say, Who shall see them? 6 They search out iniquities; they accomplish a diligent search: both the inward thought of every one of them, and the heart, is deep. 7 But God shall shoot at them with an arrow; suddenly shall they be wounded. 8 So they shall make their own tongue to fall upon themselves: all that see them shall flee away. 9 And all men shall fear, and shall declare the work of God; for they shall wisely consider of his doing. 10 The righteous shall be glad in the LORD, and shall trust in him; and all the upright in heart shall glory.

David's Comfort in the Psalm

David says in the Psalm “**preserve my life from fear of the enemy**”, he wasn't afraid of the enemy because he recognized it was God who kept him from the enemy. David was comforted in the fact that if he stayed close to God he would be able to recognize when Satan would send someone to try and tare his family apart.

Life Application

We suffer so much turmoil because we are not on alert assessing situations to determine where they originate. Before we know it, we are at odds with a brother, we allow something to come between us in our marriage. Every bit of turmoil in our lives is the result of Satan's attempts to win the war. For us to be standing a proper watch we must be as close as we can be to God. Every day we walk through a mine field created by Satan's to take out our families. You would never walk through a mine field without some detection device. God is our detection device for Satan's mines and it is imperative that we carry Him with us so He can let us know when we are about to step on something that will kill our marriages, our children, or our witness. When we walk with God we don't have to fear Satan. Situations like PTSD are the result of Satan planting a mine in our life and just waiting for someone close to us to step on it so it will blow up and ruin a relationship and opportunity to tell them about God. God will detect and disarm those mines if we stay close to Him.

Charge and Discussion

What did God do for David in this experience? God was walking point for David and gave him the intel needed to evaluate the situation.

What did David have to do that was critical to God being able to help him? David had to be in communication with God.

What should we be doing so God can give us the same comfort David had in his life? We have to create the ability to communicate with God by slowing down, praying, study scripture, and listening for His direction.

Lesson Four: Comradery of Warriors

Lesson Objective: The purpose of this lesson is to help the group understand the special relationship that exists between comrades when God is the bond. Christian veterans share a double brother comradery provided by God. we can and should depend on each other when the enemy, Satan, wages war in our life.

Introduction: At this point David is approximately twenty-three or twenty-four years old. It's been about six or seven years since he was anointed by Samuel and killed Goliath. During this period, David has been faithful to God, King Saul and has also become a great warrior. The people recognized the wisdom of David, "David behaved himself wisely in all his ways". King Saul, "became David's enemy continually." in 1Samuel 18. As we look at the text of this lesson we see that King Saul's division with David has grown to the point that he begins to openly plot David's murder. David is forced to flee depending on the help of others for places to hide, food, and weapons.

Lesson Text

Jonathon, King Saul's son helped David gather intel.

1Samuel 19:1-3 1 And Saul spake to Jonathan his son, and to all his servants, that they should kill David. 2 But Jonathan Saul's son delighted much in David: and Jonathan told David, saying, Saul my father seeketh to kill thee: now therefore, I pray thee, take heed to thyself until the morning, and abide in a secret place, and hide thyself: 3 And I will go out and stand beside my father in the field where thou art, and I will commune with my father of thee; and what I see, that I will tell thee.

Michal, King Saul's daughter helps David escape.

1Samuel 19:12-14 12 So Michal let David down through a window: and he went, and fled, and escaped. 13 And Michal took an image, and laid it in the bed, and put a pillow of goats' hair for his bolster, and covered it with a cloth. 14 And when Saul sent messengers to take David, she said, He is sick.

The Holy Spirit Protected David.

1Samuel 19:20 And Saul sent messengers to take David: and when they saw the company of the prophets prophesying, and Samuel standing as appointed over them, the Spirit of God was upon the messengers of Saul, and they also prophesied.

Jonathon, King Saul's son helped David gather intel again.

1 Samuel 20:20-22 20 And I will shoot three arrows on the side thereof, as though I shot at a mark. 21 And, behold, I will send a lad, saying, Go, find out the arrows. If I expressly say unto the lad, Behold, the arrows are on this side of thee, take them; then come thou: for there is peace to thee, and no hurt; as the LORD liveth. 22 But if I say thus unto the young man, Behold, the arrows are beyond thee; go thy way: for the LORD hath sent thee away.

Jonathon, King Saul's son helped David, knowing he would not get to be king if he did.

1 Samuel 20:30-32 31 For as long as the son of Jesse liveth upon the ground, thou shalt not be established, nor thy kingdom. Wherefore now send and fetch him unto me, for he shall surely die. 32 And Jonathan answered Saul his father, and said unto him, Wherefore shall he be slain? what hath he done?

The Priest Ahimelech gave David food and weapons at the risk of Doeg telling King Saul.

1 Samuel 21:6-9 6 So the priest gave him hallowed bread: for there was no bread there but the shewbread, that was taken from before the LORD, to put hot bread in the day when it was taken away. 7 Now a certain man of the servants of Saul was there that day, detained before the LORD; and his name

was Doeg, an Edomite, the chiefest of the herdmen that belonged to Saul. 8 And David said unto Ahimelech, And is there not here under thine hand spear or sword? for I have neither brought my sword nor my weapons with me, because the king's business required haste. 9 And the priest said, The sword of Goliath the Philistine, whom thou slewest in the valley of Elah, behold, it is here wrapped in a cloth behind the ephod: if thou wilt take that, take it: for there is no other save that here. And David said, There is none like that; give it me.

About four hundred men at risk of being killed by King Saul's army joined David.

1 Samuel 22:1-2 1 David therefore departed thence, and escaped to the cave Adullam: and when his brethren and all his father's house heard it, they went down thither to him. 2 And every one that was in distress, and every one that was in debt, and every one that was discontented, gathered themselves unto him; and he became a captain over them: and there were with him about four hundred men.

Doeg did tell King Saul and the Priest Ahimelech was killed because he helped David, but Ahimelech's son, Abiathar, protected David even though his father had just been killed for doing the same.

1 Samuel 22:19-23 19 And Nob, the city of the priests, smote he with the edge of the sword, both men and women, children and sucklings, and oxen, and asses, and sheep, with the edge of the sword. 20 And one of the sons of Ahimelech the son of Ahitub, named Abiathar, escaped, and fled after David. 21 And Abiathar shewed David that Saul had slain the LORD'S priests. 22 And David said unto Abiathar, I knew it that day, when Doeg the Edomite was there, that he would surely tell Saul: I have occasioned the death of all the persons of thy father's house. 23 Abide thou with me, fear not: for he that seeketh my life seeketh thy life: but with me thou shalt be in safeguard.

Lesson Points

1. Much like today there were two types of people revealing themselves in our text; those who were truly committed to God regardless of the consequences and those who may have said they were committed to God but when faced with the possibility of death for their commitment they were not committed.

2. Undoubtedly, David served in battle with many of the men who were now pursuing him with King Saul. David knew and probably worked with Doeg as he was a shepherd and so was David at one time. They had the commonality of nation, denomination, and occupation. I'm sure they were friends, but when it came down to it their human bonds were not strong enough when it came to their life and the question of who their god was.
3. Those who proved their commitment had the same human commonalities with David but they also had a commitment to God that was stronger than their fear of ridicule from society, the connection to their homes, the fear of King Saul, or even death. They were serving God.
4. Do you know what we call those people who chose to feed, arm, and protect David today?
The Church!
 - a) They were joined together because God is our only judgment not this world.

1 Corinthians 1:10 Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our

Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and [that] there be no divisions among you; but [that] ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.

- b) They were joined together because we esteem our brothers and sisters above ourselves.

Philippians 2:3 [Let] nothing [be done] through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.

- c) They were joined together because our love for one another proves our love for God.

John 17:23 I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.

- d) They were joined together to the degree of taking arms because we are stronger together.

Ecclesiastes 4:12 And if one prevail against him, two shall withstand him; and a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

King David's Psalm on the Subject

Psalm 11 1 (To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David.) In the LORD put I my trust: how say ye to my soul, Flee as a bird to your mountain? 2 For, lo, the wicked bend their bow, they make ready their arrow upon the string, that they may privily shoot at the upright in heart. 3 If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do? 4 The LORD is in his holy temple, the LORD'S throne is in heaven: his eyes behold, his eyelids try, the children of men. 5 The LORD trieth the righteous: but the wicked and him that loveth violence his soul hateth. 6 Upon the wicked he shall rain snares, fire and brimstone, and an horrible tempest: this shall be the portion of their cup. 7 For the righteous LORD loveth righteousness; his countenance doth behold the upright.

David's Comfort from the Psalm

In this Psalm David recognized the two types of people in his life as “the wicked” and the “Righteous”. David makes a point of showing us that the people God put in his life went to great lengths, even death to help him. David makes it clear to us here that it wasn't just his comrades like for him that caused them to help him, they helped him and risked their life doing so because of the mission of serving God. Their friendship wasn't simply dependent upon human relationship which could break as it did with Saul. David's comrade's mission was serving God, their bond was God's righteousness, and that was the difference between those who wanted to hurt him and those who wanted to help him.

Life Application

The same mission and comradery that David enjoyed exists today among God's people. You can separate “the wicked” or potentially wicked and the “righteous” by their mission. Relationships are based on the bonds that hold them together. For instance, some relationship bonds are based solely on commonality, you have the same interests. Some relationships are based on emotions like friendship or love. These types of relationships are based on a human commitment to each other. They are proven

and strengthened through the accomplishment of a common goal together like marriage and war. However, they fail based on that same human commitment to each other. The more proven commitments you have with a person the stronger the bond and the more you can trust that person. Your veteran brothers and sisters have proven their commitment to you through the common goal of their commitment and service to a third party, America. Our bond is closer than a non-veteran because the human commitment to the common goal has been proven. This is the position David found himself in. He had the bond of friendship, the commonality of nationality; he had even served at war with many of the men who hoped to kill him. It was those he had human relationships and the commitment to God with that he could call the “righteous” in this Psalm. If you look around the room you have your Jonathons, your Michals, your Ahimelechs, your Abiathars, and your four hundred distressed men. They not only have your best interest but the best interest of the Kingdom of God that binds you together. Depend on them when the enemy in your life comes calling, depend on them when the human relationships of this world fail you, depend on the proven relationships that are bound together by the righteousness of God.

Charge and Discussion

What did God do for David in this experience? God gave David righteous comrades with the same physical and spiritual mission.

What did David have to do that was critical to God being able to help him? David had to be committed to the same mission and then trust that God put these righteous comrades in his life and depend on them.

What should we be doing so God can give us the same comfort David had in his life? We have to recognize and depend on the “Double Brothers” (righteous comrades) that God has provided us and see the other veteran relationships, who are not spiritually focused for what they are, human commonality.

Lesson Five: Orders from Headquarters

Lesson Objective: The purpose of this lesson is to teach us that we should depend on God’s guidance even when we don’t understand what He is doing, because we can’t see the “big picture”.

Introduction: David is approximately 24 years old. Saul has publicly declared him an enemy and fugitive. Saul, with his army and the assistance of other citizens is actively pursuing David. David is not alone; he has with him those he described in Psalm 11 as “the righteous”. In the text chapter, the Philistines have invaded the Jewish City of Keilah. Because of King Saul’s preoccupation with chasing David he has become derelict in his duty of protecting The City of Keilah from the Philistines. The focus of our lesson today is to look at how David handled this situation. At this point in David’s life he has been through many trials including family conflicts with his brothers, at odds with the government, and numerous military battles. It is obvious that through those conflicts he has learned to trust God and turn to God for direction in his life. When he does depend on God for direction God miraculously comes through for him.

Lesson Text

Because David depended on God, David could ask God if he should take his 400 men to fight the much larger Philistine Army.

1 Samuel 23:1-2 1 Then they told David, saying, Behold, the Philistines fight against Keilah, and they rob the threshingfloors. 2 Therefore David enquired of the LORD, saying, Shall I go and smite these Philistines? And the LORD said unto David, Go, and smite the Philistines, and save Keilah.

When David's men were afraid to go fight the philistine Army, because David depended on God, David was able to consult God to get guidance and bring comfort to his men.

1 Samuel 23:2-3 3 And David's men said unto him, Behold, we be afraid here in Judah: how much more then if we come to Keilah against the armies of the Philistines? 4 Then David enquired of the LORD yet again. And the LORD answered him and said, Arise, go down to Keilah; for I will deliver the Philistines into thine hand.

When David heard about a possible problem coming his way, because he depended on God, he was able to consult God to see if it was truly going to happen.

1 Samuel 23:10-11 10 Then said David, O LORD God of Israel, thy servant hath certainly heard that Saul seeketh to come to Keilah, to destroy the city for my sake. 11 Will the men of Keilah deliver me up into his hand? will Saul come down, as thy servant hath heard? O LORD God of Israel, I beseech thee, tell thy servant. And the LORD said, He will come down.

When God confirmed for David that there was a problem coming, because David depended on God, he was able to get and follow direction from God on how to handle it before it even happened.

1 Samuel 23:12-13 12 Then said David, Will the men of Keilah deliver me and my men into the hand of Saul? And the LORD said, They will deliver thee up. 13 Then David and his men, which were about six hundred, arose and departed out of Keilah, and went whithersoever they could go. And it was told Saul that David was escaped from Keilah; and he forbare to go forth.

Because David depended on God and continually followed His direction, when David found himself in a situation where he couldn't defend himself all the parameters were in place so God could make a way for him.

1 Samuel 23: 25-28 25 Saul also and his men went to seek him. And they told David: wherefore he came

down into a rock, and abode in the wilderness of Maon. And when Saul heard that, he pursued after David in the wilderness of Maon. 26 And Saul went on this side of the mountain, and David and his men on that side of the mountain: and David made haste to get away for fear of Saul; for Saul and his men compassed David and his men round about to take them. 27 But there came a messenger unto Saul, saying, Haste thee, and come; for the Philistines have invaded the land. 28 Wherefore Saul returned from pursuing after David, and went against the Philistines: therefore they called that place Selahammahlekoth.

Lesson Points

1. When you live your life depending on God you always, wherever you are, regardless of the situation have a confidant who has all the answers. Pastors, doctors, spouses, and friends may have answers but they won't always be the correct ones and they won't always be around. Just like God telling David to go to Keilah, we may not always understand the reason God tells us to do something but we can depend on it being the right answer.

2. Have you ever found yourself in the middle of a patrol/mission and you get orders from headquarters to do something that at the time makes absolutely no sense to you but you do it because its orders from headquarters? Then after you get back and are debriefed you realize what you thought were stupid orders at the time made perfect sense now that you could see everything that was going on and what everyone else was doing in the complete battle plan.

3. Stonewall Jackson said, “You can’t properly lead a battle if you are in the fight, you must sheath your sword and find the high ground so you can see every fight that affects the battle.” God is the “Stoney J” in our life; He is the general standing on the high ground seeing every fight of our life, sending us orders from headquarters in how to best live our lives. We lose battles in life when we turn off our communications and don’t get orders, or when we do get orders but don’t follow them because we disagree with them or don’t understand them because we don’t see the entire battle. We drag ourselves off the battlefield of life bloody and beaten wondering why God let us down, when in fact we just didn’t follow orders.

4. When those around you know you are consulting God for your direction, they see you as a leader and they will follow you. We need God lead leaders in our families, jobs, communities, and churches. When David went in to Keilah scripture tells us he had 400 men but when he came out he had 600 men. That's because people saw who he took his orders from and saw his successes because he took his direction from God and trusted him. If we live our lives that way it will be easier for us to lead our families and advance in ministry.

5. When we follow God even when it seems hopeless to us, like taking 400 men into the belly of our sworn enemy to fight a third enemy, as David did in Keilah, it sets the parameters for God to handle things when life is out of our control, as was the case when David was trapped in a cave and God caused Saul to leave him. The Philistines wouldn't have attacked King Saul's Land if David hadn't run them out of Keilah. Because David trusted God and followed God's direction even when it may have not made sense to him. God could set the parameters

for future events and prevent a much larger problem for David.

6. I wonder how many problems we could avoid in our life if we would just trust and take God's direction when it might not make sense to us. If we would just take God and our 400 men to battle with us when God tells us to, how many catastrophes could we prevent in the lives of our families?

King David's Psalm on the Subject

Psalm 31 1 (To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David.) In thee, O LORD, do I put my trust; let me never be ashamed: deliver me in thy righteousness. 2 Bow down thine ear to me; deliver me speedily: be thou my strong rock, for an house of defence to save me. 3 For thou art my rock and my fortress; therefore for thy name's sake lead me, and guide me. 4 Pull me out of the net that they have laid privily for me: for thou art my strength. 5 Into thine hand I commit my spirit: thou hast redeemed me, O LORD God of truth. 6 I have hated them that regard lying vanities: but I trust in the LORD. 7 I will be glad and rejoice in thy mercy: for thou hast considered my trouble; thou hast known my soul in adversities; 8 And hast not shut me up into the hand of the enemy: thou hast set my feet in a large room. 9 Have mercy upon me, O LORD,

for I am in trouble: mine eye is consumed with grief, yea, my soul and my belly. 10 For my life is spent with grief, and my years with sighing: my strength faileth because of mine iniquity, and my bones are consumed. 11 I was a reproach among all mine enemies, but especially among my neighbours, and a fear to mine acquaintance: they that did see me without fled from me. 12 I am forgotten as a dead man out of mind: I am like a broken vessel. 13 For I have heard the slander of many: fear was on every side: while they took counsel together against me, they devised to take away my life. 14 But I trusted in thee, O LORD: I said, Thou art my God. 15 My times are in thy hand: deliver me from the hand of mine enemies, and from them that persecute me. 16 Make thy face to shine upon thy servant: save me for thy mercies' sake. 17 Let me not be ashamed, O LORD; for I have called upon thee: let the wicked be ashamed, and let them be silent in the grave. 18 Let the lying lips be put to silence; which speak grievous things proudly and contemptuously against the righteous. 19 Oh how great is thy goodness, which thou hast laid up for them that fear thee; which thou hast wrought for them that trust in thee before the sons of men! 20 Thou shalt hide them in the secret of thy presence from the pride of man: thou shalt keep them secretly in a pavilion from the strife of tongues. 21 Blessed be the LORD: for he hath shewed me his marvellous kindness in a strong city. 22 For I said in

my haste, I am cut off from before thine eyes: nevertheless thou heardest the voice of my supplications when I cried unto thee. 23 O love the LORD, all ye his saints: for the LORD preserveth the faithful, and plentifully rewardeth the proud doer. 24 Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the LORD.

David's Comfort from the Psalm

David tells us in this Psalm that he depended on God for his every direction and that God never failed him. David took comfort in knowing that all he had to do was follow God's orders and everything else in his life would be taken care of. Then David, a man as human as you and me, a man who went to war and had the mental scars from it, a family man, and a man who sinned against God left us a personal message at the end of this Psalm. He said to us **23 O love the LORD, all ye his saints: for the LORD preserveth the faithful, and plentifully rewardeth the proud doer. 24 Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the LORD.**

Life Application

In your life how often do you go on alert because a potential threat rises? What God is telling us by example of David's life is that we don't have to live on continual alert if we just follow God's orders. God is standing on the high ground looking at every fight and directing the battle. The only thing he asks of us is to follow His orders and take comfort in the knowledge that He is in control.

Charge and Discussion

What did God do for David in this experience? God was looking at situations that would come in David's future and setting up scenarios for the best outcome.

What did David have to do that was critical to God being able to help him? David had to follow Gods orders even when they made no sense to him.

What should we be doing so God can give us the same comfort David had in his life? We need to understand that God wants to be in control of our lives and who else would we want to control our lives but the one who can see the future and use that foresight to protect us and our families from the battles of our lives.

Lesson Six: Winning the Enemy

Lesson Objective: If our goal is to bring others to our way of thinking concerning God and his salvation what does it profit us if we take vengeance on those who wish to hurt us? If vengeance against those who wish to hurt us moves them further away from realizing God's salvation, do tell, who is behind our vengeance and who have we let control us when we are vengeful, Satan?

Introduction: David is approximately 25 years old in this passage. Previously we found King Saul had David cornered and was about to take him. Then Saul got a message that the Philistine's invaded his land so he had to break off to go deal with them. Now Saul is back on David's trail and he brought his best 3000 men with him and left the rest to guard his land so he wouldn't have to be called off David's trail again. This tells us he was fervently chasing David. He tried to plan for things that might hinder his chase; he really wanted to get him. When King Saul got to the area, David and some of his men were hiding in the back of a cave. King Saul being tired from his journey wanted a cool place to take a nap, unfortunately for him he chose the mouth of David's cave to sleep in. When David's men saw King Saul asleep in their cave they tried to talk David into killing him in his sleep. David didn't kill him but he

did cut Saul's skirt off so he would know he could have killed him. David later felt bad about even doing that because Saul was God's anointed man. After Saul woke up and was a good distance from the cave David stepped out of the cave and called out to him. When David called out, Saul and all his 3000 men turned and saw David. In front of Saul, all of Saul's 3000 men, and all of David's 600 men David bowed down to King Saul and humbly said:

Lesson Text

I know you may have heard that I want to hurt you.

1 Samuel 24:9 And David said to Saul, Wherefore hearest thou men's words, saying, Behold, David seeketh thy hurt?

If I wanted to hurt you I could have done it today. I didn't hurt you even though you continue to hunt me.

1 Samuel 24:10-11 10 Behold, this day thine eyes have seen how that the LORD had delivered thee to day into mine hand in the cave: and some bade me kill thee: but mine eye spared thee; and I said, I will not put forth mine hand against my lord; for he is the LORD'S anointed. 11 Moreover, my father, see, yea, see the skirt of thy robe in my hand: for in that I cut off the skirt of thy robe, and killed thee not, know

thou and see that there is neither evil nor transgression in mine hand, and I have not sinned against thee; yet thou huntest my soul to take it.

God will judge me and you and any vengeance I'm owed God will give it to me then.

1 Samuel 24:12 The LORD judge between me and thee, and the LORD avenge me of thee: but mine hand shall not be upon thee.

King Saul, while weeping, in the presence of his best 3000 men, says David is more righteousness than me. This is undoubtedly a motivational issue for his men.

1 Samuel 24:17-19 And he said to David, Thou art more righteous than I: for thou hast rewarded me good, whereas I have rewarded thee evil. 18 And thou hast shewed this day how that thou hast dealt well with me: forasmuch as when the LORD had delivered me into thine hand, thou killedst me not. 19 For if a man find his enemy, will he let him go well away? wherefore the LORD reward thee good for that thou hast done unto me this day.

King Saul, while weeping, in the presence of his best 3000 men, told David that he will be King. This again would have to cause Saul's army to question themselves as they hunt down the man they know will be their future king.

1 Samuel 24:20 And now, behold, I know well that thou shalt surely be king, and that the kingdom of Israel shall be established in thine hand.

Lesson Points

1. We must be very careful, so we are not tricked into becoming useful to the enemy. Satan owns and uses emotions like vengeance to make us feel like we are right when we seek vengeance against someone who has done us wrong. However, the Lord says vengeance is his.

Romans 12:19 “Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.”

2. When someone hurts us, Satan will give us plenty of reasons for vengeance, our sin nature causes us to want vengeance, and just like David’s men who wanted him to kill Saul, Satan will give us plenty of people who will support us in our vengeance. Satan will make it appear as if it’s the right thing to do.
3. If our goal is to bring others to our way of thinking concerning God and his salvation

what does it profit us if we take vengeance on those who wish to hurt us? If vengeance against those who wish to hurt us moves them further away from realizing God's salvation, do tell, who is behind our vengeance and who have we let control us when we are vengeful, Satan?

4. God promises us that He will handle vengeance if it's required. Our number one mission even when people hurt us is to win those around us to Christ. Regardless of the situation we must not forget our mission. Satan's goal is to make us forget our mission and move us to conflict with others so he can diminish our efforts. Immediate vengeance may satisfy our immediate emotion but it gives Satan a win because it prevents us from being able to reach people affected by our vengeance.
5. If David had killed Saul in that cave, he would have never been able to lead the best 3000 men in Saul's army or any person those 3000 men had influence over. He would have been their enemy for life. But because David left vengeance up to God, none of David's men died in battle that day, David's relationship with God grew, and Saul's best

3000 men left that day with more respect for David than their own king. That my friend is godly vengeance!

6. God understands vengeance, and our desire for it. God gave us an example in David, and direction in Proverbs 25:21-22 in how to obtain vengeance, and maintain our ability to witness to those who offend us. Satan would have us reap vengeance ourselves so he can exclude us and our testimony from the war.

Proverbs 25:21-22 21 If thine enemy be hungry, give him bread to eat; and if he be thirsty, give him water to drink: 22 For thou shalt heap coals of fire upon his head, and the LORD shall reward thee.

King David's Psalm on the Subject

Psalm 58 (To the chief Musician, Altaschith, Michtam of David.) 1 Do ye indeed speak righteousness, O congregation? do ye judge uprightly, O ye sons of men? 2 Yea, in heart ye work wickedness; ye weigh the violence of your hands in the earth. 3 The wicked are estranged from the womb: they go astray as soon as they be born, speaking lies. 4 Their poison is like the poison of a serpent: they are like the deaf adder that stoppeth her

ear; 5 Which will not hearken to the voice of charmers, charming never so wisely. 6 Break their teeth, O God, in their mouth: break out the great teeth of the young lions, O LORD. 7 Let them melt away as waters which run continually: when he bendeth his bow to shoot his arrows, let them be as cut in pieces. 8 As a snail which melteth, let every one of them pass away: like the untimely birth of a woman, that they may not see the sun. 9 Before your pots can feel the thorns, he shall take them away as with a whirlwind, both living, and in his wrath. 10 The righteous shall rejoice when he seeth the vengeance: he shall wash his feet in the blood of the wicked. 11 So that a man shall say, Verily there is a reward for the righteous: verily he is a God that judgeth in the earth.

David's Comfort from the Psalm

We can see in the first five verses of this Psalm David describing the actions of the unrighteous religious crowd, asking the congregation if they speak righteously and judge uprightly while in their heart they work wickedness. He goes on to say that they are like a snake that won't listen to the snake charmer, as to say they won't listen to people who try to help them. He gives insight to how harmful they are to the righteous in verses six through nine as we see David asking God to deal with them harshly. Then in verses ten and eleven we see

the satisfaction and joy David experienced when God took his vengeance and David reaped the benefits of it. **10 The righteous shall rejoice when he seeth the vengeance: he shall wash his feet in the blood of the wicked. 11 So that a man shall say, Verily there is a reward for the righteous: verily he is a God that judgeth in the earth.**

Life Application

Have you ever seen something in your enemy that you respect, some attribute that gave you reason to say something like “I have to give it to them in this regard”? You must think that Saul’s best 3000 men looked at David that day and had that same feeling. After that day outside the cave I suspect Saul’s men probably wished they had been with David. In our own lives when we face conflict if we focus on the mission of souls we will always be the victor because we don’t measure this war in vengeance we measure it with souls. This principle applies to every situation in our lives work, church, and most importantly as we lead our families. We must be mindful as we serve God that when conflict rises the person you are having conflict with isn’t the enemy, Satan is still the enemy and he has made the person you conflict with a victim in his war against God. Anytime a conflict rises and we can recognize that it’s Satan and not the other person it’s like dropping a bomb on his ammo

supply. Imagine the harmony in our homes and churches if everyone understood where conflict originates and acted accordingly.

Charge and Discussion

What did God do for David in this experience? God gave David the composure to realize the true enemy, protected his integrity, and preserved his influence on others.

What did David have to do that was critical to God being able to help him? David had to ignore his desire for vengeance and the negative influence of others long enough to evaluate the situation.

What should we be doing so God can give us the same comfort David had in his life? We have to recognize vengeance is Satan's weapon against us not our weapon against the person who may have hurt us. We must maintain our composure and listen to God so not to allow Satan to ruin our ability to stay in the battle.

Lesson Seven: Helpmeet from God

Lesson Objective: The purpose of this lesson is to understand that God puts people in our lives to help us and direct us and He wants us to take advantage of that help. The greatest and most often taken for granted help God puts in our lives is our wife, so much so, He calls them our helpmeet.

Introduction: David is about 26 years old. Samuel had just died and all of Israel came together to bury him. After Samuel's burial David went in to the wilderness where he and his six hundred men ran into some shepherds who worked for a rich but wicked man by the name of Nabal. David sent ten of his men to go tell Nabal they come to him in peace, they met his shepherds in the wilderness and protected them. David told them to ask Nabal for some food for their travels. When Nabal heard this he basically said "Why would I help you, I don't know anybody named David or the son of Jessie for all I know you are escaped servants from some other master?" When David's men came back and told him this he was angry and he told four hundred of his men to put on their swords and two hundred of them to stay with their belongings. Before David got to Nabal one of Nabal's men told Nabal's wife Abigail how David's men had protected them in the wilderness and how Nabal had treated them when they came and asked

for food. When Abigail heard this, she gathered plenty of food for David and his men and set out to meet David and his men. When she got to David this is what happened:

Lesson Text

Abigail asked David for mercy

1Samuel 25:23-27 23 And when Abigail saw David, she hasted, and lighted off the ass, and fell before David on her face, and bowed herself to the ground, 24 And fell at his feet, and said, Upon me, my lord, upon me let this iniquity be: and let thine handmaid, I pray thee, speak in thine audience, and hear the words of thine handmaid. 25 Let not my lord, I pray thee, regard this man of Belial, even Nabal: for as his name is, so is he; Nabal is his name, and folly is with him: but I thine handmaid saw not the young men of my lord, whom thou didst send. 26 Now therefore, my lord, as the LORD liveth, and as thy soul liveth, seeing the LORD hath withholden thee from coming to shed blood, and from avenging thyself with thine own hand, now let thine enemies, and they that seek evil to my lord, be as Nabal. 27 And now this blessing which thine handmaid hath brought unto my lord, let it even be given unto the young men that follow my lord.

Abigail told David this isn't God's battle

1Samuel 25:28-29 28 I pray thee, forgive the trespass of thine handmaid: for the LORD will certainly make my lord a sure house; because my lord fighteth the battles of the LORD, and evil hath not been found in thee all thy days. 29 Yet a man is risen to pursue thee, and to seek thy soul: but the soul of my lord shall be bound in the bundle of life with the LORD thy God; and the souls of thine enemies, them shall he sling out, as out of the middle of a sling.

Abigail told David if he kills Nabal it will be held against him

1Samuel 25:30-31 30 And it shall come to pass, when the LORD shall have done to my lord according to all the good that he hath spoken concerning thee, and shall have appointed thee ruler over Israel; 31 That this shall be no grief unto thee, nor offence of heart unto my lord, either that thou hast shed blood causeless, or that my lord hath avenged himself: but when the LORD shall have dealt well with my lord, then remember thine handmaid.

David listened to Abigail's counsel

1Samuel 25:32-35 32 And David said to Abigail, Blessed be the LORD God of Israel, which sent thee this day to meet me: 33 And blessed be thy advice,

and blessed be thou, which hast kept me this day from coming to shed blood, and from avenging myself with mine own hand. 34 For in very deed, as the LORD God of Israel liveth, which hath kept me back from hurting thee, except thou hadst hastened and come to meet me, surely there had not been left unto Nabal by the morning light any that pisseth against the wall. 35 So David received of her hand that which she had brought him, and said unto her, Go up in peace to thine house; see, I have hearkened to thy voice, and have accepted thy person.

Abigail didn't tell Nabal till morning

1Samuel 25:36 36 And Abigail came to Nabal; and, behold, he held a feast in his house, like the feast of a king; and Nabal's heart was merry within him, for he was very drunken: wherefore she told him nothing, less or more, until the morning light.

Nabal took ill and died

1Samuel 25:37-38 37 But it came to pass in the morning, when the wine was gone out of Nabal, and his wife had told him these things, that his heart died within him, and he became as a stone. 38 And it came to pass about ten days after, that the LORD smote Nabal, that he died.

David took Abigail as his wife

1Samuel 25:39-44 39 And when David heard that Nabal was dead, he said, Blessed be the LORD, that hath pleaded the cause of my reproach from the hand of Nabal, and hath kept his servant from evil: for the LORD hath returned the wickedness of Nabal upon his own head. And David sent and communed with Abigail, to take her to him to wife. 40 And when the servants of David were come to Abigail to Carmel, they spake unto her, saying, David sent us unto thee, to take thee to him to wife. 41 And she arose, and bowed herself on her face to the earth, and said, Behold, let thine handmaid be a servant to wash the feet of the servants of my lord. 42 And Abigail hasted, and arose, and rode upon an ass, with five damsels of hers that went after her; and she went after the messengers of David, and became his wife. 43 David also took Ahinoam of Jezreel; and they were also both of them his wives. 44 But Saul had given Michal his daughter, David's wife, to Phalti the son of Laish, which was of Gallim.

Lesson Points

1. David was so angry that without thinking about the consequences of his actions he was ready to act and seek revenge on Nabal for the way he treated his men. Have you ever found yourself in that situation? Someone

does something that doesn't necessarily hurt you but it flips a switch in you that causes rage and demands an immediate retaliation? That's where David was here.

2. Some may think Abigail was betraying her husband Nabal by bringing food to David but in fact in verses 23 through 25 she was being a good helpmeet to her husband by saving his neck after his stupid comments to David's men. She protected her husband by basically saying don't blame Nabal, blame me, he is a folly and can't help himself. She goes on to say she wasn't there when David's men came but if she was she would have counselled her husband and helped David.
3. She was also serving the Lord by humbly reminding David of the consequences of his pending actions. David was so mad and ready for retaliation that he hadn't considered how his actions would negatively affect him and his men. Abigail reminded David in verses 26 through 31 that there was more to consider than retaliation.

What David needed to consider:

- a) God didn't tell you to fight this battle as in every other battle you've been victorious in. **Verse 26, "seeing the LORD hath withholden thee from coming to shed blood, and from avenging thyself with thine own hand"**

- b) The men needed food and the Lord supplied it so let them take part in God's blessing. **Verse 27, "And now this blessing which thine handmaid hath brought unto my lord, let it even be given unto the young men that follow my lord."**

- c) You have been faithful in fighting the Lord's battles and letting God take care of those that offend you. **Verse 28 "because my lord fighteth the battles of the LORD, and evil hath not been found in thee all thy days. Verse 29 "the souls of thine enemies, them shall he sling out, as out of the middle of a sling."**

- d) Abigail told David you don't want to look back on this day when you are king and have regrets wishing you had acted differently. **Verse 31 "That this shall be no grief unto thee, nor offence of heart unto my lord"**
4. There is no better way to explain David's reaction to Abigail's advice than to just read the passage. **32 And David said to Abigail, Blessed be the LORD God of Israel, which sent thee this day to meet me: 33 And blessed be thy advice, and blessed be thou, which hast kept me this day from coming to shed blood, and from avenging myself with mine own hand. 34 For in very deed, as the LORD God of Israel liveth, which hath kept me back from hurting thee, except thou hadst hastened and come to meet me, surely there had not been left unto Nabal by the morning light any that pisseth against the wall.**
5. By this point David had calmed down. He recognized the state of anger that he was in and that God sent Abigail to calm him and consider the actions he was about to take and the repercussions they included. He recognized that he was about to act outside

the will of God. He told Abigail if you hadn't stopped me I would have gone in there and killed everyone before morning.

6. As we read the story goes on to reveal that God did take care of David's enemy, in verse 38 God killed Nabal and gave Abigail to David as a wife.
7. If David had disregarded Abigail and acted on his rage, who would have gained from that situation? David would have been going into battle for the first time without God's blessing and may have died. If David had lived it would have diminished his ability to be effective with his people as a king directed by God. Satan would have been the only winner. Imagine how different history would have been if God hadn't sent Abigail or David hadn't listened to her godly advice.
8. Just like God knew David's life experiences and how those experiences would cause him to react in each situation, God knows where we've been and how we will react in every situation. God also puts people like Abigail in our lives to calm us, and cause us to consider the consequences of our actions.

King David's Psalm on the Subject

Psalm 128 1 (A Song of degrees.) Blessed is every one that feareth the LORD; that walketh in his ways. 2 For thou shalt eat the labour of thine hands: happy shalt thou be, and it shall be well with thee. 3 Thy wife shall be as a fruitful vine by the sides of thine house: thy children like olive plants round about thy table. 4 Behold, that thus shall the man be blessed that feareth the LORD. 5 The LORD shall bless thee out of Zion: and thou shalt see the good of Jerusalem all the days of thy life. 6 Yea, thou shalt see thy children's children, and peace upon Israel.

David's Comfort from the Psalm

On the writing of this Psalm you must believe that David reflected on the day when his now wife Abigail stood beside him and calmed him and gave him godly counsel. I can imagine as he described her position in this Psalm as **“by the sides of thine house”** he thought of her faithfulness to him. In that day, it wasn't normal for fruit bearing vines to be on the side of the house but in a separate vineyard so it is significant that David refers to his wife as a vine and positions her by his side. He had to think of her calming words on that day and how they redirected his anger back to trust in the Lord when he wrote **“4 Behold, that thus shall the man be blessed that**

feareth the LORD.” David realized the benefit of godly calming and comfort on his life and appreciated his now wife’s willingness to be used by God in ministering it to him.

Life Application

Have you ever been like David, so angry and intent on doing something that you just can’t think about anything else? When in that fury and before we act on it is very important that we seek and listen to godly counsel from someone so we don’t make permanent mistakes. God promises us once we are saved that he will never leave us and He has provided you with someone, a wife, your pastor, or even the members of this group. It’s up to us to realize who they are and listen to them. On many occasions our wives have said the magic words “Just calm down and think this through”, and then after we calmed down and decided not to kill someone, like Nabal, we are thankful God put her there for us. Satan would love nothing more than to diminish our leadership value with our family or ruin our testimony by causing us to act on emotion. Abigail told David his actions will affect his relationship with God and how he will be able to rule once he is king. When Satan tempts us to act on a situation consider how our actions affect our relationship with God and our ability to lead our family. Next time you are

raging and someone attempts to bring something to the situation think of Abigail and how God used her.

Charge and Discussion

What did God do for David in this experience?
God sent David Abigail to calm and give counsel.

What did David have to do that was critical to God being able to help him? David had to stop long enough to consider his purpose and listen to the godly counsel God gave him through Abigail.

What should we be doing so God can give us the same comfort David had in his life? We have to control our desire for immediate response, remember our mission, and the fact that God gives us Abigails to help us succeed in our mission.

Lesson Eight: The Perpetual Enemy

Lesson Objective: The purpose of this lesson is to help us realize that just because we get a victory in don't expect Satan to quit the fight. God allows the battles in our lives so we can recognize the victories when we obey Him.

Introduction: David is about 27 years old and he is still running from King Saul. Saul still seems to have the support of the people in that chapter 26 begins with the Zephites telling Saul where David is hiding. Although King Saul told David on many occasions that he was sorry and that David was closer to God than he was, Saul still takes the information from the Zephites and pursues David. David seeing that Saul came after him sent spies who determined that Saul's intentions were not good. Even though Saul told David they were.

Lesson Text

David's second opportunity to kill Saul

1Samuel 26:7-10 7 So David and Abishai came to the people by night: and, behold, Saul lay sleeping within the trench, and his spear stuck in the ground at his bolster: but Abner and the people lay round about him. 8 Then said Abishai to David, God hath delivered thine enemy into thine hand this day: now

therefore let me smite him, I pray thee, with the spear even to the earth at once, and I will not smite him the second time. 9 And David said to Abishai, Destroy him not: for who can stretch forth his hand against the LORD'S anointed, and be guiltless?

David let Saul know he could have killed him

1Samuel 26:11-16 10 David said furthermore, As the LORD liveth, the LORD shall smite him; or his day shall come to die; or he shall descend into battle, and perish. 11 The LORD forbid that I should stretch forth mine hand against the LORD'S anointed: but, I pray thee, take thou now the spear that is at his bolster, and the cruse of water, and let us go. 12 So David took the spear and the cruse of water from Saul's bolster; and they gat them away, and no man saw it, nor knew it, neither awaked: for they were all asleep; because a deep sleep from the LORD was fallen upon them. 13 Then David went over to the other side, and stood on the top of an hill afar off; a great space being between them: 14 And David cried to the people, and to Abner the son of Ner, saying, Answerest thou not, Abner? Then Abner answered and said, Who art thou that criest to the king? 15 And David said to Abner, Art not thou a valiant man? and who is like to thee in Israel? wherefore then hast thou not kept thy lord the king? for there came one of the people in to destroy the king thy lord. 16 This thing is not good that thou hast done. As the LORD liveth,

ye are worthy to die, because ye have not kept your master, the LORD'S anointed. And now see where the king's spear is, and the cruse of water that was at his bolster.

David asked Saul why he wants him dead

1Samuel 26:17-20 17 And Saul knew David's voice, and said, Is this thy voice, my son David? And David said, It is my voice, my lord, O king. 18 And he said, Wherefore doth my lord thus pursue after his servant? for what have I done? or what evil is in mine hand? 19 Now therefore, I pray thee, let my lord the king hear the words of his servant. If the LORD have stirred thee up against me, let him accept an offering: but if they be the children of men, cursed be they before the LORD; for they have driven me out this day from abiding in the inheritance of the LORD, saying, Go, serve other gods. 20 Now therefore, let not my blood fall to the earth before the face of the LORD: for the king of Israel is come out to seek a flea, as when one doth hunt a partridge in the mountains.

Saul promised to stop hunting David

1Samuel 26:21 21 Then said Saul, I have sinned: return, my son David: for I will no more do thee harm, because my soul was precious in thine eyes this day: behold, I have played the fool, and have erred exceedingly.

David didn't kill Saul because he was anointed by God

1Samuel 26:22-25 22 And David answered and said, Behold the king's spear! and let one of the young men come over and fetch it. 23 The LORD render to every man his righteousness and his faithfulness: for the LORD delivered thee into my hand to day, but I would not stretch forth mine hand against the LORD'S anointed. 24 And, behold, as thy life was much set by this day in mine eyes, so let my life be much set by in the eyes of the LORD, and let him deliver me out of all tribulation. 25 Then Saul said to David, Blessed be thou, my son David: thou shalt both do great things, and also shalt still prevail. So David went on his way, and Saul returned to his place.

Lesson Points

1. This exact same scenario played out once before and David was obedient to God and didn't kill King Saul although he could have killed him in his sleep then also.
2. Could you imagine the temptation David must have had to take King Saul out that night? David has been running for more than five years, living in the woods, no family life,

and 3000 men chasing him trying to kill him. He knew that he was right because he was obeying God. He knew that he was anointed and going to be the next king. The temptation to put a spear through Saul had to be great, but who was to gain from acting on that temptation?

3. In verse 8 while they are standing over Saul, Satan continues the temptation when Abishai says to David, “God hath delivered thine enemy into thine hand this day: now therefore let me smite him”. Satan is trying everything he can to win this battle by attempting to get David to disobey God.
4. Although I’m sure David thought about how his life would be different if Saul was dead, in verse 9 and 10 David obeys God and tells Abishai to leave Saul alone. Not because David didn’t want to stop running and not because Saul didn’t deserve to die but simply because God told him not to harm his anointed. But David wanted Saul to know that he could have taken his life so like last time this happened David took his spear and water to prove that he had been there.

5. Now if you were just looking at this from a military security standpoint without scripture you would conclude that King Saul had the worst security in the history of the military. This is the second time David reconned and entered Saul's camp and nobody woke up. They either had horrible security or something else was happening. We get the answer in verse 12 where scripture tells us "for they were all asleep; because a deep sleep from the LORD was fallen upon them". There are a couple things happening here:

- a) God caused them to sleep to strengthen David's faith in God showing him if he obeyed God, God would care of him.
- b) God caused them to sleep to test David's obedience to God. God already knew that David was going to obey but David didn't know what he would do when tempted by Satan again in this situation. David wouldn't have been able to recognize the strength gained through victory if he hadn't been tested.

6. It looks like David recognized his victory and gloated a bit in verses 15 and 16 as he makes fun of Saul's security detail. He basically says to Abner "I thought you were the best operator in Israel, obviously you're not because I snuck in and could have killed the King, look here I have the King's spear and canteen". In a statement that really shows David's warrior side and respect for the anointed of God, David tells Abner he should be put to death for not protecting the king.
7. To sum this chapter up Satan attacked using Saul as a weapon, David was tempted but obeyed God, and because David obeyed God he got the greater victory, he got to take a victory lap, and was strengthened for the next spiritual battle.

King David's Psalm on the Subject

Psalm 19 1 (To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David.) The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork. 2 Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge. 3 There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard. 4 Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them hath he set a tabernacle for the

sun, 5 Which is as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, and rejoiceth as a strong man to run a race. 6 His going forth is from the end of the heaven, and his circuit unto the ends of it: and there is nothing hid from the heat thereof. 7 The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. 8 The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes. 9 The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. 10 More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. 11 Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward. 12 Who can understand his errors? cleanse thou me from secret faults. 13 Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression. 14 Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer.

David's Comfort from the Psalm

Concerning being obedient to God and the victories that come with doing so David wrote in verse 11 **“Moreover by them is thy servant**

warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward.” David tells us in this Psalm what he learned, concerning obedience to God. He learned that Satan will tempt multiple times, God makes a way for us to resist that temptation, when we obey God the victory is greater than the thing we are tempted with.

Life Application

As we all know this tactic of temptation that Satan uses to get us to sin continues today. He still uses the lures that he used against David when he said “God hath delivered thine enemy into thine hand this day: now therefore let me smite him”. Today we almost look for what we call signs from God to justify what Satan wants us to do. It is senseless to think that God will make a way for us to do something that’s in opposition to obedience to Him. Satan is a master deceiver. Like with David God will allow us to be put in positions of temptation. Jesus Himself was put in a position of temptation. But on every occasion of temptation God will give us the ability to obey and when we do as David said in Psalm 19:11 “Great is the reward”. He’s not talking about the reward in heaven he’s talking about the strength we gain and the joy we will have on earth when we resist Satan and obey God. Think about what Satan tempts you with and what protections

God gives you to resist temptation. Identify the pivot point where Satan presents temptation and you make the decision to sin or not to sin. Where in your temptation process are you standing over sleeping Saul with a spear in your hand? If we can recognize that spear moment in our temptation and use the tools God gives us to resist, obey, and win the victory “great is the reward”.

Charge and Discussion

What did God do for David in this experience? God placed David in a position where Satan could tempt him so David could experience the satisfaction of victory through obeying God.

What did David have to do that was critical to God being able to help him? David resisted Satan's temptation to kill Saul.

What should we be doing so God can give us the same comfort David had in his life? We must keep our mind on the mission, depended on God, recognize and resist Satan's temptations.

Lesson Nine: He Keeps Me When I Fail

Lesson Objective: The purpose of this lesson is to help the class understand that as a warrior in God's Army even when we get away from God, He is still there looking out for us and making way for us to come back to Him.

Introduction: Shortly after God gave David victory over Satan's temptation as he refused to kill Saul for the second time, David seems to have given in to depression. Although God never failed him and kept every promise to care for him, David quit on God. He fled and took refuge among the Philistine enemy in Gath. Not only did he go, he leads all his people with him. David made friends with the Philistine King Achish and asked him for his own land and he gave it to him. David wandered from God with the Philistines for a full year and four months and during this time David continued to do battle against others and God protected him. In the meantime, Saul had stopped chasing David but fell further away from God and because God wouldn't speak to him he turned to spirits for guidance. Possibly because the Philistines felt emboldened because David had left Israel to live among them they prepared for battle against Israel. Now David was so far out of the will

of God that he was willing to go with the Philistines to battle Israel some of the other Philistines feared he would turn on them so he was made to return to the area that they had given him. When David got back the Amalekites had raided his land, burned everything and took every woman child and possession they had. His men were so angry at David they spoke of killing him. David was at his rock bottom, he lost his homeland, his family, his possessions, and his men wanted to kill him.

Lesson Text

To clearly see the state of David's depression you must read 1 Samuel 27:1 before getting to our main text:

1 Samuel 27:1 And David said in his heart, I shall now perish one day by the hand of Saul: there is nothing better for me than that I should speedily escape into the land of the Philistines; and Saul shall despair of me, to seek me any more in any coast of Israel: so shall I escape out of his hand.

David sunk into depression although God was still blessing and caring for David and his people? This depression, when seemingly there is nothing to be depressed about, is a very good piece of evidence that David suffered from PTSD.

1 Samuel 30:6 6 And David was greatly distressed; for the people spake of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and for his daughters: but David encouraged himself in the LORD his God.

David turned to God in time of trouble

1 Samuel 30:7-8 7 And David said to Abiathar the priest, Ahimelech's son, I pray thee, bring me hither the ephod. And Abiathar brought thither the ephod to David. 8 And David enquired at the LORD, saying, Shall I pursue after this troop? shall I overtake them? And he answered him, Pursue: for thou shalt surely overtake them, and without fail recover all.

David persued the Amalekites

1 Samuel 30:9-17 9 So David went, he and the six hundred men that were with him, and came to the brook Besor, where those that were left behind stayed. 10 But David pursued, he and four hundred men: for two hundred abode behind, which were so faint that they could not go over the brook Besor. 11 And they found an Egyptian in the field, and brought him to David, and gave him bread, and he did eat; and they made him drink water; 12 And they gave him a piece of a cake of figs, and two clusters of raisins: and when he had eaten, his spirit came again to him: for he had eaten no bread, nor drunk any water, three days and three nights. 13 And David said

unto him, To whom belongest thou? and whence art thou? And he said, I am a young man of Egypt, servant to an Amalekite; and my master left me, because three days ago I fell sick. 14 We made an invasion upon the south of the Cherethites, and upon the coast which belongeth to Judah, and upon the south of Caleb; and we burned Ziklag with fire. 15 And David said to him, Canst thou bring me down to this company? And he said, Swear unto me by God, that thou wilt neither kill me, nor deliver me into the hands of my master, and I will bring thee down to this company. 16 And when he had brought him down, behold, they were spread abroad upon all the earth, eating and drinking, and dancing, because of all the great spoil that they had taken out of the land of the Philistines, and out of the land of Judah. 17 And David smote them from the twilight even unto the evening of the next day: and there escaped not a man of them, save four hundred young men, which rode upon camels, and fled.

Because David turned to God, all was restored

1 Samuel 30:18-20 18 And David recovered all that the Amalekites had carried away: and David rescued his two wives. 19 And there was nothing lacking to them, neither small nor great, neither sons nor daughters, neither spoil, nor any thing that they had taken to them: David recovered all. 20 And David took all the flocks and the herds, which they drave

before those other cattle, and said, This is David's spoil.

Lesson Points

1. Sometimes the scars of military service combined with the stress of life, can cause depression to the point of wanting to just give up. We've all been in positions where the stress of something overcame us and we act on our own without consulting the Lord. That's what David had been doing here for more than a year. Everything seemed to be going great for David and then he just shifted gears to depression.

1 Samuel 27:1 And David said in his heart, I shall now perish one day by the hand of Saul: there is nothing better for me than that I should speedily escape into the land of the Philistines; and Saul shall despair of me, to seek me any more in any coast of Israel: so shall I escape out of his hand.

2. It's important to point out that when David strayed from God it didn't just affect his life it affected his family's life, the life of his men, the life of his men's family's, and the life of the Israelites that he left behind under

King Saul's now Godless reign. It's the same for us when we allow depression to cause us to stray from God. It doesn't just affect us but it affects everyone around us.

3. It is important for us to understand that through the entire sixteen months that David strayed, God didn't leave David. God's promise was still intact when David allowed his depression to overcome him. It's also very evident that the entire time David strayed God was looking out for him as he provided a land for him and from what he recovered it indicates that David and his men were not lacking in possessions.
4. Think about this, David at least in part fled to Philistine due to concern for his men and their families but their wellbeing was only made worse because of the result of his worry, depression, and actions outside of God's will. God had taken care of him through it all and would have continued to do so.
5. The great thing about being a soldier in God's Army is that even when we mess up He is always waiting for us with open arms to come back. Think about this, even after this and other failures in David's life God still said he was a man after his own heart. It's the same

for us when we stray, God is just waiting for us to hit the bottom and remember how much better it was when we depended on him.

6. I can only imagine God's joy received and the comfort David and his men had in verse 8 when after all this time in turmoil David finally **"enquired at the Lord"** and The Lord told him he would **"without fail recover all"**. David recovered all physically and spiritually that day. He **"without fail recovered all"** of the relationship he previously had with God. No grudges or hurt feelings from God just joy that he had returned.

1 Samuel 30:8 And David enquired at the LORD, saying, Shall I pursue after this troop? shall I overtake them? And he answered him, Pursue: for thou shalt surely overtake them, and without fail recover all.

King David's Psalm on the Subject

Psalm 141 1 (A Psalm of David.) LORD, I cry unto thee: make haste unto me; give ear unto my voice, when I cry unto thee. 2 Let my prayer be set forth before thee as incense; and the lifting up of my hands

as the evening sacrifice. 3 Set a watch, O LORD, before my mouth; keep the door of my lips. 4 Incline not my heart to any evil thing, to practise wicked works with men that work iniquity: and let me not eat of their dainties. 5 Let the righteous smite me; it shall be a kindness: and let him reprove me; it shall be an excellent oil, which shall not break my head: for yet my prayer also shall be in their calamities. 6 When their judges are overthrown in stony places, they shall hear my words; for they are sweet. 7 Our bones are scattered at the grave's mouth, as when one cutteth and cleaveth wood upon the earth. 8 But mine eyes are unto thee, O GOD the Lord: in thee is my trust; leave not my soul destitute. 9 Keep me from the snares which they have laid for me, and the gins of the workers of iniquity. 10 Let the wicked fall into their own nets, whilst that I withal escape.

David's Comfort from the Psalm

In this Psalm, on the back side of David's depression, it seems he understands what happens to him on these occasions. In verses 1-4 he asks God to keep a watch on his prayers and keep me from evil men and their things. In verse 5 David understands that when in these times of depression, he needs the righteous to **"smite him"** and he says **"it shall be a kindness"** to him. Like many of us, David understands his state of mind when he is dealing with

depression and afterward he appreciates the efforts of the Lord and the “**righteous**” as they “**smite**” him concerning it. David was comforted in knowing that when he got this way neither God nor the “righteous” around him would give up on him, it should comfort us also.

Life Application

How often do we find ourselves in a situation where seemingly for no reason and although God is always faithful in caring for us our mood changes? Often concerning veterans like David, when it happens seemingly for no reason there actually is a reason. Even when you don't recognize them, anniversary dates, smells, and actions are triggers for depression, anxiety, and a variety of other situations veterans find themselves in. For example, at the mention of vacation or leaving home for any period you may begin to have anxiety. Some veterans hate the thought of leaving home for any period because it puts them in the same mind set they were in when preparing for deployment. Being married to someone who loves to travel could make that a common point of stress in a relationship. It may seem trivial but so did David's situation to those who don't understand the dynamics. It makes you wonder what caused David's switch to flip, what stressors triggered his depression on this day? Secular

counselors are not the only tools Christian veterans have at their disposal. We have David's experience, and the wisdom scripture gives us and the Holy Spirit. When we recognize this is happening we can ask the Lord to keep a watch on us, **Psalm 141:3 Set a watch, O LORD, before my mouth; keep the door of my lips.** When we find ourselves in these situations, just like in David's case, our family members and those who care about us the most are the ones who suffer. However, just like David they are the ones we depend on and need the most. David realized this in **Psalm 141:5 5 Let the righteous smite me; it shall be a kindness: and let him reprove me; it shall be an excellent oil, which shall not break my head: for yet my prayer also shall be in their calamities.** God provides for us today the same comfort David recognized in Psalm 141.

Charge and Discussion

What did God do for David in this experience? Even when David suffered through depression and the complications it caused, God never left him.

What did David have to do that was critical to God being able to help him? Immediately David had to recognize the cause of his situation was not reality but a situation brought on by his depression. God never stopped taking care of David although David reacted as if he did. Long term, when he was right with God, we saw in the Psalm that David realized what was happening and asked God to make him aware and protect him in those situations.

What should we be doing so God can give us the same comfort David had in his life? We must know that even when we think we are alone God hasn't nor will he ever leave us. Try to recognize that when those closest to us "smite us", "it shall be a kindness" from God.

Lesson #10: Defending the Flag

Lesson Objective: The purpose of this lesson is to help us realize that our problems, our family's problems, and our churches problems are really attacks on God.

Introduction: In the final chapter of 1 Samuel we saw that Saul's three sons including Jonathon, David's friend, were all killed on Mount Gilboa in the battle against the Philistines. Saul, while only wounded took his own life by falling on his sword. Saul knew he would die that day because Samuel told him, but taking his own life indicates he didn't understand or didn't care how the death of God's anointed would reflect negatively on God. David, on the other hand, refused to kill Saul simply because he was God's anointed. David understood the death of Saul would look as if God wasn't able to protect him or Israel. God allowed Saul's death because He knew David understood the principle of mission before self. God knew David would react by protecting and raising the flag of Israel from the demise of Saul's reign, therefore, elevating God among the world. For the Philistines, this battle was more than just a fight between two armies, it determined whose god was more powerful and upon Saul's death the Philistines declared that their goddess, Ashtaroth, had defeated Jehovah, the God of Israel. David understood that

protecting Israel wasn't as much about protecting Israel as it was uplifting God. After learning of Saul's death David was concerned about how it would affect others perception of the true God. He immediately went into damage control. We do things like that in war today. No matter how bad our losses are, we need to conceal the damage to present the perception of strength to control the loss and deter the enemy. David's immediate thoughts went to protecting the perception of God by propping up Israel in a time of defeat. In our text, we see that David immediately began to do just that by Killing the man who said he killed Saul, glorifying the might of Saul and Jonathan, introducing the bow, the most modern weapon, directing people not to talk about it in an attempt to limit the Philistines rejoicing, and cursing the location of Saul's death.

Lesson Text

David killed the man that killed Saul

2Samuel 1:13-17 13 And David said unto the young man that told him, Whence art thou? And he answered, I am the son of a stranger, an Amalekite. 14 And David said unto him, How wast thou not afraid to stretch forth thine hand to destroy the LORD'S anointed? 15 And David called one of the young men, and said, Go near, and fall upon him. And he smote him that he died. 16 And David said

unto him, Thy blood be upon thy head; for thy mouth hath testified against thee, saying, I have slain the LORD'S anointed. 17 And David lamented with this lamentation over Saul and over Jonathan his son:

David introduced the bow to Israel

2Samuel 1:18 18 (Also he bade them teach the children of Judah the use of the bow: behold, it is written in the book of Jasher.)

David ordered them not to discuss Saul's death

2Samuel 1:19-20 19 The beauty of Israel is slain upon thy high places: how are the mighty fallen! 20 Tell it not in Gath, publish it not in the streets of Askelon; lest the daughters of the Philistines rejoice, lest the daughters of the uncircumcised triumph.

David cursed the area of Saul's death

2Samuel 1:21-22 21 Ye mountains of Gilboa, let there be no dew, neither let there be rain, upon you, nor fields of offerings: for there the shield of the mighty is vilely cast away, the shield of Saul, as though he had not been anointed with oil. 22 From the blood of the slain, from the fat of the mighty, the bow of Jonathan turned not back, and the sword of Saul returned not empty.

David praised Jonathon and Saul

2Samuel 1:23-27 23 Saul and Jonathan were lovely and pleasant in their lives, and in their death they were not divided: they were swifter than eagles, they were stronger than lions. 24 Ye daughters of Israel, weep over Saul, who clothed you in scarlet, with other delights, who put on ornaments of gold upon your apparel. 25 How are the mighty fallen in the midst of the battle! O Jonathan, thou wast slain in thine high places. 26 I am distressed for thee, my brother Jonathan: very pleasant hast thou been unto me: thy love to me was wonderful, passing the love of women. 27 How are the mighty fallen, and the weapons of war perished!

Lesson Points

1. It is important to note where David was when the events of our text played out. He was in Ziklag an area that Achish the Philistine King had given him. It would have been certain that David was being watched and his actions especially upon hearing of Saul's death would have been passed on to the Philistine Kings. His actions would set the standard for how Israel would move forward as a people.
2. 1 Samuel 31:4&5 indicates that Saul died differently than the Amalekite indicated. It

seems David knew he was lying by the language he used when he condemned him, **“thy mouth hath testified against thee”**. He lied to David because he thought it would gain favor for him. He expected David to reward the man who killed his perceived enemy but the Amalekite didn’t understand the importance of God’s anointed. Asking the Amalekite why he wasn’t afraid of God’s anointed and then killing him set the standard for how Israel would deal with anyone who opposed them going forward and it is still representative of how Israel deals with opposition today.

3. In verse 17, 22, and 23 in the face of Saul’s failure, David continued to promote God first by proclaiming the greatness of Saul and Jonathon. I’m sure the Philistines like the Amalekite hoped David would rejoice at the death of Saul and fall in line with them. If David had rejoiced it would have been the end of Israel and supported the defeat of Israel’s God, the true God. I’m sure his flesh wanted to rejoice because the seemingly never-ending battle with Saul had ended but David put the greater mission of God first. He didn’t do this to promote the men but to promote the kingdom and who it represented.

4. In the presence of the Philistines David needed to promote Israeli strength, so in verse 18 he ordered the Children to be trained in the use of the bow, which was the most modern weapon of the time. He wanted their enemies to know that Israel and therefore God wasn't defeated.
5. In verse 21 David cursed the place where Saul and his sons died. He continues to elevate the anointed of God when he said this occurred **“as though he had not been anointed with oil”**. On the heels of God's anointed dying David knew he had to strike fear in the Philistines if they ever thought of harming the anointed again.
6. In verse 20 he directed his people not to talk about it. He didn't want news of Saul's death to give cause for the Philistines to rejoice. He told the women to mourn his death and to speak of Saul's greatness and might.
7. The fight David was in wasn't against Saul or the Philistines they were simply weapons Satan used. Satan's focus was to destroy David's family, his followers, and Israel because they represented God. The same

holds today, Satan wants to destroy you, your family, and the church because it represents God. When we see opposition to the church as were the Philistines, or opposition in the church as in the case of Saul, understand its Satan. We must decide if we are going to contribute to it by falling on our sword as Saul did, or are we going to recognize it as an attack on God and become vigilant in the battle against it.

8. Today it seems at every turn there is an attack on God through the things that represent Him. Conflict in our churches, attacks on our families through things we let in, attacks on our marriages but it's all Satan because we represent God. Like the Philistines with David, Satan is hoping we just rejoice and just fall in line. But David's example shows us that God's comfort and protection lay in becoming a vigilant soldier protecting those things that represent God.

King David's Psalm on the Subject

Psalms 140 1 (To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David.) Deliver me, O LORD, from the evil man: preserve me from the violent man; 2 Which imagine mischiefs in their heart; continually are they gathered

together for war. 3 They have sharpened their tongues like a serpent; adders' poison is under their lips. Selah. 4 Keep me, O LORD, from the hands of the wicked; preserve me from the violent man; who have purposed to overthrow my goings. 5 The proud have hid a snare for me, and cords; they have spread a net by the wayside; they have set gins for me. Selah. 6 I said unto the LORD, Thou art my God: hear the voice of my supplications, O LORD. 7 O GOD the Lord, the strength of my salvation, thou hast covered my head in the day of battle. 8 Grant not, O LORD, the desires of the wicked: further not his wicked device; lest they exalt themselves. Selah. 9 As for the head of those that compass me about, let the mischief of their own lips cover them. 10 Let burning coals fall upon them: let them be cast into the fire; into deep pits, that they rise not up again. 11 Let not an evil speaker be established in the earth: evil shall hunt the violent man to overthrow him. 12 I know that the LORD will maintain the cause of the afflicted, and the right of the poor. 13 Surely the righteous shall give thanks unto thy name: the upright shall dwell in thy presence.

David's Comfort from the Psalm

In this Psalm David obviously recognized that there is evil and its intent is to attack God's people. However, he is very clear in verse 7 that his

strength comes from God and that God is his protector when the battles come. **7 O GOD the Lord, the strength of my salvation, thou hast covered my head in the day of battle.**

Life Application

It is important for us to remember that when problems rise in our lives it is an attack by Satan against God and the way we react to the problem will determine how destructive the damage is going to be to God. The world may wound us but receiving God's protection and comfort requires us to press on lead by God. It is our duty as soldiers of the cross to never fall on our swords no matter the heat of the battle. Our careful, God lead actions keep us in the useful ranks and prevent us from becoming Saul. It is imperative that we as God's people remember that our Christian Flag represents our King. Our actions as Christians are representative of our God. How we live our lives, how we protect our families, how we act at work, how we treat our brothers and sisters are all representative of our King. Because we represent God there is going to be attacks but we have the protection of God if we remain vigilant and don't fall on our swords.

Charge and Discussion

What did God do for David in this experience? David became king of a proud, God lead nation instead of a defeated people subject to the enemy.

What did David have to do that was critical to God being able to help him? David had to understand Philistine attacks were acts of Satan against God and react in such a way to uplift God first.

What should we be doing so God can give us the same comfort David had in his life? Understand that strikes against us, our families, our church, and our country are truly strikes against our God and we must do everything we can not to contribute to them by falling on our sword but limit their damage by being led by God.

Lesson #11: Transition and Readjustment

Lesson Objective: The purpose of this lesson is to understand that transition from military life to civilian is difficult but if you maintain the integrity and honor of your service while taking direction from God, you will succeed.

Introduction: The events of this portion of David's life occurred from the age of 30 to 37. We left off in the last lesson with the death of Saul and David's concerns being focused on the protection of Israel to uplift God. This lesson will focus on the transitional period in David's life where he went from a soldier to King and his actions that directly related to his success as he made that difficult transition.

Lesson Text

David's first step in his transition was to inquire of the Lord.

2 Samuel 2:1-3 1 And it came to pass after this, that David enquired of the LORD, saying, Shall I go up into any of the cities of Judah? And the LORD said unto him, Go up. And David said, Whither shall I go up? And he said, Unto Hebron. 2 So David went up thither, and his two wives also, Ahinoam the

Jezreelitess, and Abigail Nabal's wife the Carmelite.
3 And his men that were with him did David bring up, every man with his household: and they dwelt in the cities of Hebron.

David maintained his military bearing by honoring those who properly buried Saul.

2 Samuel 2:5 And David sent messengers unto the men of Jabeshgilead, and said unto them, Blessed be ye of the LORD, that ye have shewed this kindness unto your lord, even unto Saul, and have buried him.

Saul's son, Ishbosheth, became king of eleven tribes of Israel.

2 Samuel 2:8-10 8 But Abner the son of Ner, captain of Saul's host, took Ishbosheth the son of Saul, and brought him over to Mahanaim; 9 And made him king over Gilead, and over the Ashurites, and over Jezreel, and over Ephraim, and over Benjamin, and over all Israel. 10 Ishbosheth Saul's son was forty years old when he began to reign over Israel, and reigned two years. But the house of Judah followed David.

David knew there is a time to fight and a time to wait on God

2 Samuel 4:10-12 10 When one told me, saying, Behold, Saul is dead, thinking to have brought good tidings, I took hold of him, and slew him in Ziklag,

who thought that I would have given him a reward for his tidings: 11 How much more, when wicked men have slain a righteous person in his own house upon his bed? shall I not therefore now require his blood of your hand, and take you away from the earth? 12 And David commanded his young men, and they slew them, and cut off their hands and their feet, and hanged them up over the pool in Hebron. But they took the head of Ishbosheth, and buried it in the sepulchre of Abner in Hebron.

Lesson Points

1. Transition may not be immediate; things happen much slower in the civilian world. In the military we operated on orders, we determined the outcome we needed in a situation and followed orders to obtain that outcome. We focused solely on what had to be done to attain our goal. In the civilian world, there are many more issues to consider like people's feelings and because of that things tend to move slower. David maintained his attributes of a warrior but he was taking his direction from God so he could adjust his actions making him a successful leader in the civilian world.

2. When Ishbosheth split Israel I'm sure the warrior David was immediately inclined to strike and take control of the other eleven tribes, but God knew if David did, he would lose the support of many in the Ishbosheth's kingdom and David then couldn't be an effective leader of all Israel. I'm sure warrior David did not understand God's plan, but he followed it and soon Ishbosheth's kingdom imploded from within and they came willingly to David to lead them.
3. During this period while Ishbosheth's kingdom crumbled, because David was following God's direction, God began to bless his life. God gave him more wives and sons. Eventually, David's original wife Michal, the daughter of Saul, was even reunited with him.
4. While following God's direction, David gives us evidence that his military bearing and honor is still intact although operating in the civilian world, when Ishbosheth is killed by his own countrymen in his sleep. David knew this would likely give him all the tribes of Israel but the fashion in which it was done by traitors was not honorable.

5. Can you remember how difficult it was making the transition from military to civilian life? You go from a regimented band of brothers you trust with a mission and the weapons you need to complete the mission, to a world with a totally different set of rules and values.

6. Think about your own situation; how many of your mistakes stem from you operating like the military in a civilian world. Sometimes we expect the world to act with the same sense of urgency that we have in a situation although the civilian situation isn't the same life or death situation we were trained in. Too often we give orders to family when we should be giving direction. When we give orders and they aren't followed we treat them like some recruit who needs "special training".

7. Transitioning is tough, I wish the world operated like the military, it would be so much better, but it doesn't. The training that adds the value of respect, honor, and integrity to our personality is the same training that causes us so much trouble.

8. Like every other aspect of life, success lays in direction from God. By David's example we see it and guess what the secular world today agrees. The Pew Research group agrees with David's example. A post 9-11 study indicates readjustment success is directly related to how often veterans attend "religious services".
9. Veterans try to readjust using all kinds of methods which often leads to substance abuse, turmoil, and broken homes. When David depended on God for readjustment, he got his wife Michal back, his family grew, and in his job, he leads an entire nation.

King David's Psalm on the Subject

Psalms 101 (A Psalm of David.) I will sing of mercy and judgment: unto thee, O LORD, will I sing. 2 I will behave myself wisely in a perfect way. O when wilt thou come unto me? I will walk within my house with a perfect heart. 3 I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes: I hate the work of them that turn aside; it shall not cleave to me. 4 A froward heart shall depart from me: I will not know a wicked person. 5 Whoso privily slandereth his neighbour, him will I cut off: him that hath an high look and a proud heart will not I suffer. 6 Mine eyes shall be

upon the faithful of the land, that they may dwell with me: he that walketh in a perfect way, he shall serve me. 7 He that worketh deceit shall not dwell within my house: he that telleth lies shall not tarry in my sight. 8 I will early destroy all the wicked of the land; that I may cut off all wicked doers from the city of the LORD.

David's Comfort from the Psalm

This Psalm gave us some good insight into David's heart as he gave in to direction from the Lord. In the first few verses he said, **"I will behave myself wisely in a perfect way"** and **"O when wilt thou come unto me"**. Then we see he maintained the attributes of his Military training when he in the remainder of the Psalm says **"Whoso privily slandereth his neighbour, him will I cut off",** **"He that worketh deceit shall not dwell within my house"**, and **"I will early destroy all the wicked of the land"**.

Life Application

When we transitioned from military life to civilian life it's like David's transition. None of us are kings but defiantly the experience of going from a regimented military unit to dealing with the wants and needs of a civilian world are different. David's

situation would seemingly be worse because he doesn't just have to live in the civilian world he is responsible for it. His actions give us great insight to his success and the same direction is available to us. Maintain the attributes of honor but be directed by God in where we interject them.

Charge and Discussion

What did God do for David in this experience? God redeemed his lost family, added to his family, made him successful in his work by directing him in when to use his training.

What did David have to do that was critical to God being able to help him? David had to decide to depend on God, listen for God's direction, and limit reaction.

What should we be doing so God can give us the same comfort David had in his life? We should be building and nurturing our relationship with God so we can be directed and then listen to him as to where we interject our military attributes.

Lesson #12: How Long is Basic Training

Lesson Objective: The purpose of this lesson is to help us understand that God has a plan for each of us to command and our willingness to be trained determines at what speed our training advances.

Introduction: In the previous lesson we saw that Israel was a split nation. David ruled in Hebron over Judah and Ishbosheth, Saul's son ruled over the other eleven tribes of Israel. They were in continual conflict. Throughout the conflict Judah grew stronger and Ishbosheth's eleven grew weaker until Ishbosheth's most trusted began to turn on him and ultimately killed him. It is at this point we begin this lesson.

Lesson Text

David was anointed as a teenager.

1 Samuel 16:13 Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brethren: and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel rose up, and went to Ramah.

David took one tribe of Israel.

2 Samuel 2:1 And it came to pass after this, that David enquired of the LORD, saying, Shall I go up into any of the cities of Judah? And the LORD said unto him, Go up. And David said, Whither shall I go up? And he said, Unto Hebron.

David becomes king of all Israel.

2 Samuel 5:1-3 1 Then came all the tribes of Israel to David unto Hebron, and spake, saying, Behold, we are thy bone and thy flesh. 2 Also in time past, when Saul was king over us, thou wast he that leddest out and broughtest in Israel: and the LORD said to thee, Thou shalt feed my people Israel, and thou shalt be a captain over Israel. 3 So all the elders of Israel came to the king to Hebron; and king David made a league with them in Hebron before the LORD: and they anointed David king over Israel.

Once David was king of all Israel the Philistines made war against Israel.

2 Samuel 5:17-25 17 But when the Philistines heard that they had anointed David king over Israel, all the Philistines came up to seek David; and David heard of it, and went down to the hold. 18 The Philistines also came and spread themselves in the valley of Rephaim. 19 And David enquired of the LORD, saying, Shall I go up to the Philistines? wilt thou deliver them into mine hand? And the LORD said

unto David, Go up: for I will doubtless deliver the Philistines into thine hand. 20 And David came to Baalperazim, and David smote them there, and said, The LORD hath broken forth upon mine enemies before me, as the breach of waters. Therefore he called the name of that place Baalperazim. 21 And there they left their images, and David and his men burned them. 22 And the Philistines came up yet again, and spread themselves in the valley of Rephaim. 23 And when **David enquired of the LORD**, he said, Thou shalt not go up; but fetch a compass behind them, and come upon them over against the mulberry trees. 24 And let it be, when thou hearest the sound of a going in the tops of the mulberry trees, that then thou shalt bestir thyself: for then shall the LORD go out before thee, to smite the host of the Philistines. 25 And David did so, as the LORD had commanded him; and smote the Philistines from Geba until thou come to Gazer.

Lesson Points

1. It's important for us to keep in mind that we are a very small part of God's enormous plan. That's difficult for each of us because our human nature egos like to make us believe that we are the greatest tool God has. Becoming useful to God and being able to be directed by Him requires that we realize he is

in control and for our lives to have peace we must be subject to His direction.

2. One of the first questions of everyone thinking about any branch of the military is “How long is basic and my training after?”. We all know there is a specific amount of time for each branch’s basic and training after but that time is subjective. Boot camp and school lasts as long as it takes for you to complete the training or until you get dropped out of training. Every step is important to being able to move on to the next step and you can’t move on until you complete each step.

3. Remember when you went to basic training? The first part of basic wasn’t to train you it was to break you down so you could be trained the way the military wanted you. Imagine how much different the military would be if on the first day everybody skipped basic and went straight to AIT, MOS, or A school. Everyone would be coming to training with their own individual ideals about how things should work. Training without basic training is called college and we see how bad that works. Basic training is

about removing self so you can follow directions and operate as a team.

4. After individualism gave way to unit and we learned to depend on orders for direction each of us went to a school that allowed us to use that unit first method of learning to become a useful member of our branch of the military. Once at our first duty station we are truly able to be tested on our ability work as a unit, carry out orders, and serve in a useful capacity. As we could prove ourselves in the field we were promoted to lead, then after we led we commanded, but never until we were ready.
5. David's training and proving to this point took 21 years. As we saw it took him a long time to learn to depend on direction from God. Every time it seemed like he had it, a Nabal would cause him to disregard his need for orders or his depression would cause him to hide with the philistines but eventually he seems to have gotten it.
6. **1 Samuel 16:13** At 16 years old David enlisted in God's Army when Samuel anointed him, "**Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward**", and

on that day David began his Basic training learning to stop depending on himself but rather to depend on God for direction/orders for his life. It took 14 years for David to learn this completely. That may seem like a long time but many of us stay in God's perpetual basic training unit our entire lives, never learning to decrease reliance on self and learning to depend on him for orders and direction in our lives.

7. **2 Samuel 2:1** “And it came to pass after this, that **David enquired of the LORD**”. On that day at the age of 30 David got it and asked God for orders and God sent him to his training school. He still wasn't ready to command all of Israel but he was ready to be trained to lead so God gave him just Judah and for 7 years.

8. **2 Samuel 5:1-3** “**they anointed David king over Israel**” at the age of 37 David was ready to command and command he did. In this chapter we see two more times that David had learned to live depending on God as the Philistines came to war and on each occasion David didn't act until he “**enquired of the LORD**”.

King David's Psalm on the Subject

Psalms 139 1 (To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David.) O LORD, thou hast searched me, and known me. 2 Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off. 3 Thou compassest my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways. 4 For there is not a word in my tongue, but, lo, O LORD, thou knowest it altogether. 5 Thou hast beset me behind and before, and laid thine hand upon me. 6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain unto it. 7 Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence? 8 If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there. 9 If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; 10 Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me. 11 If I say, Surely the darkness shall cover me; even the night shall be light about me. 12 Yea, the darkness hideth not from thee; but the night shineth as the day: the darkness and the light are both alike to thee. 13 For thou hast possessed my reins: thou hast covered me in my mother's womb. 14 I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well. 15 My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of

the earth. 16 Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them. 17 How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God! how great is the sum of them! 18 If I should count them, they are more in number than the sand: when I awake, I am still with thee. 19 Surely thou wilt slay the wicked, O God: depart from me therefore, ye bloody men. 20 For they speak against thee wickedly, and thine enemies take thy name in vain. 21 Do not I hate them, O LORD, that hate thee? and am not I grieved with those that rise up against thee? 22 I hate them with perfect hatred: I count them mine enemies. 23 Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: 24 And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

David's Comfort from the Psalm

David reveals in this Psalm that he has learned no matter the situation God has the direction needed for him to persevere. **6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain unto it.** It doesn't matter where David is God is with him. **8 If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there.** The true comfort David enjoys in his life is because

he has successfully completed the training God had for him and is being used by God, **17 How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God! how great is the sum of them!** This training and comfort is available to each of us willing to take orders and serve God.

Life Application

Why do we stay stuck in basic training? Each of us understands the concept of why we must die to self to move forward. We know that until we learn to take orders we can't be trained, or lead, or ultimately command. God has more for us to do, He wants us to advance. It's like each of us become comfortable being that guy in boot camp who can't seem to even fold his uniforms correctly because he just won't listen to direction. God has a unit that He needs us to lead but until we learn to depend on his orders we can't. Over the years how many men have we physically lost in battle because of leaders who weren't ready to lead. In this spiritual war how many people do we have to lose to hell while we are in basic training trying to figure out how to depend on God? God has a plan for each of us to lead and eventually command, it is up to us if we ever get out of basic training and advance.

Charge and Discussion

What did God do for David in this experience? God gave David the ability to command and have perfect comfort while he did because he was being guided by the proven God.

What did David have to do that was critical to God being able to help him? David had to learn to die to self and rely solely on God for direction.

What should we be doing so God can give us the same comfort David had in his life? We have to use the experience of David as evidence of what God will do for us and learn to depend on God for everything so he can take care of us and use us in the war.

Lesson #13: God's Standard Operating Procedures

Lesson Objective: The purpose of this lesson is to show the group that it is important to follow God's directions even when you think it's not the most expedient method and you think you need to act immediately.

Introduction: In the previous passage David had just become king of all Israel and one of his first actions was to get the ark to Jerusalem. The Philistines captured the ark during the battle of Aphek and David may have feared they would attempt to do so again. When the Philistines moved the ark, they placed it on a cart pulled by oxen it was more efficient than the way God commanded Israel to do it in Exodus 25-13-15. Probably to move it quickly David allowed Uzzah and his brother to attempt to move it as the Philistines did but because it wasn't done in accordance with God's procedure when the cart hit a rough spot the ark started to shift and almost fell. Uzzah put his hand on the cart to stabilize it but he wasn't authorized to touch the ark so God killed him. Initially David was angry with God but ultimately recognized his failure and stopped the arks movement until it could be done properly. Once the ark was properly prepared and

moved David rejoiced and praised God, because once it was done God's way. Everything went smoothly and David's goal of recovering the ark to Jerusalem was completed with no problems.

Lesson Text

David planned to move the Ark

2 Samuel 6:1-2 1 Again, David gathered together all the chosen men of Israel, thirty thousand. 2 And David arose, and went with all the people that were with him from Baale of Judah, to bring up from thence the ark of God, whose name is called by the name of the LORD of hosts that dwelleth between the cherubims.

David didn't follow God's direction on how to move the Ark

2 Samuel 6:3-5 3 And they set the ark of God upon a new cart, and brought it out of the house of Abinadab that was in Gibeah: and Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, drave the new cart. 4 And they brought it out of the house of Abinadab which was at Gibeah, accompanying the ark of God: and Ahio went before the ark. 5 And David and all the house of Israel played before the LORD on all manner of instruments made of fir wood, even on harps, and on psalteries, and on timbrels, and on cornets, and on cymbals.

Because David didn't follow direction Uzzah died

2 Samuel 6:6-8 6 And when they came to Nachon's threshingfloor, Uzzah put forth his hand to the ark of God, and took hold of it; for the oxen shook it. 7 And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Uzzah; and God smote him there for his error; and there he died by the ark of God. 8 And David was displeased, because the LORD had made a breach upon Uzzah: and he called the name of the place Perezuzzah to this day.

David corrected the problem

2 Samuel 6:9-15 9 And David was afraid of the LORD that day, and said, How shall the ark of the LORD come to me? 10 So David would not remove the ark of the LORD unto him into the city of David: but David carried it aside into the house of Obededom the Gittite. 11 And the ark of the LORD continued in the house of Obededom the Gittite three months: and the LORD blessed Obededom, and all his household. 12 And it was told king David, saying, The LORD hath blessed the house of Obededom, and all that pertaineth unto him, because of the ark of God. So David went and brought up the ark of God from the house of Obededom into the city of David with gladness. 13 And it was so, that when they that bare the ark of the LORD had gone six paces, he sacrificed oxen and fatlings. 14 And David danced

before the LORD with all his might; and David was girded with a linen ephod. 15 So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the LORD with shouting, and with the sound of the trumpet.

Lesson Points

1. During our military service if you operated any piece of equipment from a can opener to an aircraft carrier there was a “Standard Operating Procedure” for doing so. It may have been called something different in each branch of the military but the fact remains that there was a specific procedure for operating everything. That procedure may not have always made sense to you but it was the way that piece of equipment was to be operated and for good reason it had been tested and tried and it was believed to be the best way to do it.
2. If at some point you believed there was a better way of operating that piece of equipment and you skipped a step or did it differently you paid the consequences if it failed or even if it didn’t fail and it was found out that you didn’t follow procedure. Usually the Standard Operating Procedure had been written as the result of someone operating a

piece of equipment and something going wrong and someone getting hurt. Commanding officers would say, “the SOP is written in the blood of those who came before us”.

3. All the steps to follow may have sometimes seemed like over kill and sometimes we may have believed we had a better way of doing it but we knew if we followed the “Standard Operating Procedure” we had confidence that what we were doing would have a successful outcome.
4. What would really bother you is when the civilian technical representative who was not bound by military operating procedure would come down and do things to the equipment that you couldn't because it violated operating procedure but it seemed to work much better. But you knew on the rare occasion, because you did it the military way, if something went wrong you were protected.
5. As a member of God's Army, we enjoy that same comfort of knowing that if we simply follow God's will for how to do things nothing will go wrong and if it seemingly does go wrong God is there to handle it. To

enjoy that comfort we must be willing to follow God's procedures for a Christian life even when by the world's standard it may not seem like the best way to do things.

6. It may have been more efficient to move the ark as the Philistines did but it wasn't God's way therefore it didn't work out the proper way and Uzzah died because of David's failure to follow God's procedure. The same thing happens in our lives when we think we know what we are doing and disregard or don't take the time to follow the Lord, other people like our spouses and children will get hurt.
7. Here is the major difference between the outcome in the military and the outcome with God when you don't follow procedure. In the military, it would generally end with a other than honorable separation but when David realized his mistake and corrected it God drew him closer to the point that David was rejoicing and praising God at the end of the chapter.

King David's Psalm on the Subject

Psalms 37:7-11 7 Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for him: fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass. 8 Cease from anger, and forsake wrath: fret not thyself in any wise to do evil. 9 For evildoers shall be cut off: but those that wait upon the LORD, they shall inherit the earth. 10 For yet a little while, and the wicked shall not be: yea, thou shalt diligently consider his place, and it shall not be. 11 But the meek shall inherit the earth; and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace.

David's Comfort from the Psalm

At the point of writing this Psalm David understood that God's way was different than the world's way of doing things. He took comfort as a child of God in his ability as he said in verse 7 to "**Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for him**". He learned a lesson and found delight and peace in being meek to the direction of The Lord especially when it contrasted with the world's way of doing things.

Life Application

Too often we try and do things without considering God. Sometimes when we do consult God and it doesn't happen as fast as or exactly like we want it to we will even oppose God's direction because Satan leads us to believe we or counsel from the world knows better than God. Often when we act outside of God's direction, we fail, and people around us get hurt. Then we are ridiculous enough to blame God and wonder why He would allow bad things to happen to us. Every time something goes wrong in our lives it's because we didn't follow the "Standard Operating Procedure" God gave us for how to properly operate a Christian life. To make it worse how many times have you seen Christians not follow David's example of repentance and fall further away from God never seeking repentance and the joy of God's reconciliation, delight, and peace. We veterans know how to follow operating procedures and know the benefit of doing so. Don't let Satan trick you into believing that humans in the military can write procedures for how to properly operate their equipment but somehow God isn't able to tell you how to operate his creation.

Charge and Discussion

What did God do for David in this experience? God provided David with everything he needed to live a perfect Christian life but also knew he would sometimes fail so he also gave him a method of reconciliation.

What did David have to do that was critical to God being able to help him? David had to set aside what he or the world believed was the best course of action and be willing to consult and follow direction given to him by God, and when he failed to do so be willing to repent.

What should we be doing so God can give us the same comfort David had in his life? We must do the same as David and look to God for direction and guidance in life then enjoy the delight that comes with it.

Lesson #14: My Servant David

Lesson Objective: The purpose of this lesson is to help us understand that if we are a servant of God, He will care for and reward our service and take care of us and our families not only spiritually but physically.

Introduction: David is now King of all Israel. He finds himself setting in his house made of cedar, no problems with any of his enemies, he was enjoying life. David told the prophet Nathan “**I dwell in an house of cedar, but the ark of God dwelleth within curtains.**” It seems that David felt bad about that and wanted to build a temple for the ark. Nathan the prophet told him to do whatever he wanted to do concerning building a temple for the ark. That night The Lord came to Nathan with a message for David. God told Nathan to tell David that he didn’t need a house for the ark. However, God recognized where David’s heart was so he had Nathan tell him some other things.

Lesson Text

God gives Nathan a message for David

2 Samuel 7:4-11 4And it came to pass that night, that the word of the LORD came unto Nathan, saying, 5 Go and tell my servant David, Thus saith the LORD,

Shalt thou build me an house for me to dwell in? 6 Whereas I have not dwelt in any house since the time that I brought up the children of Israel out of Egypt, even to this day, but have walked in a tent and in a tabernacle. 7 In all the places wherein I have walked with all the children of Israel spake I a word with any of the tribes of Israel, whom I commanded to feed my people Israel, saying, Why build ye not me an house of cedar? 8 Now therefore so shalt thou say unto my servant David, Thus saith the LORD of hosts, I took thee from the sheepcote, from following the sheep, to be ruler over my people, over Israel: 9 And I was with thee whithersoever thou wentest, and have cut off all thine enemies out of thy sight, and have made thee a great name, like unto the name of the great men that are in the earth. 10 Moreover I will appoint a place for my people Israel, and will plant them, that they may dwell in a place of their own, and move no more; neither shall the children of wickedness afflict them any more, as beforetime, 11 And as since the time that I commanded judges to be over my people Israel, and have caused thee to rest from all thine enemies. Also the LORD telleth thee that he will make thee an house.

God tells David his son shall reign

2 Samuel 7:12 12 And when thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy

seed after thee, which shall proceed out of thy bowels, and I will establish his kingdom.

God tells David his son shall build the temple

2 Samuel 7:13-17 13 He shall build an house for my name, and I will stablish the throne of his kingdom for ever. 14 I will be his father, and he shall be my son. If he commit iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men, and with the stripes of the children of men: 15 But my mercy shall not depart away from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away before thee. 16 And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever before thee: thy throne shall be established for ever. 17 According to all these words, and according to all this vision, so did Nathan speak unto David.

Lesson Points

1. It's very important how the Lord refers to David. God tells Nathan to **“Go and tell my servant David”**. This shows us very clearly that God sees David's heart and appreciates that David wants to build a house for him. What a perfect accomplishment to be such a good child of God that God recognizes you and refers to you as His servant. Have you ever had one of your children, when they were little want to do something for you that

was insignificant and you absolutely didn't need but you see that they are simply doing it because they think of you so highly, I envision that is what is happening here between God and David. We get a very good picture of The Lord's thoughts on this subject in 1 Kings 8:18.

1 Kings 8:18 And the LORD said unto David my father, Whereas it was in thine heart to build an house unto my name, thou didst well that it was in thine heart.

2. We get a very good idea in this passage of God's emphasis on having respect for allowing things to run through the proper process or what we might call chain of command. God could have spoken directly to David in this passage but because Nathan, God's prophet previously told David he saw nothing wrong with building the temple it would have lessened the way God used His prophets if he went straight to David. To maintain the integrity of how God provided guidance to His people He told Nathan to talk to David. Although He can and does speak to us individually today God does this same thing by giving our pastor messages for us.

3. In verses 8-11 God explains to David that because of his servant's heart or what we might call being a good soldier God did all these things for him in the past. He said I took you from following sheep to leading all of God's people. I've been with you and conquered every one of your enemies. He said I gave you the house you are in now and caused you to have rest from all your enemies. God did all these things because David was a good servant and soldier. God offers us this same care and comfort.
4. On a side note I want us to look specifically at what God says in 2 Samuel 7:10 and how it affects every country and war of today.

2 Samuel 7:10 Moreover I will appoint a place for my people Israel, and will plant them, that they may dwell in a place of their own, and move no more; neither shall the children of wickedness afflict them any more, as beforetime,

The battle's that Israel fights today are to protect the land that God gave them in this passage. That is why it is so important as we hear in the news about the land disputes in

Israel the we and the United States are on the correct side, Israel's side of the fight.

5. Because of David's servant heart and being a good soldier God gave David some additional promises in 2 Samuel 7:12-17. God promised that after David's death his seed will continue as king. David's son will build God a house and his kingdom will reign forever. God goes on to make a promise that carries over to us and our children in verse 14 and 15 when he said **14 I will be his father, and he shall be my son. If he commit iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men, and with the stripes of the children of men: 15 But my mercy shall not depart away from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away before thee.** He promises that He will never leave us nor our children even when we sin. Assurance of that promise is that He says He will chasten us when we do sin. One of the surest ways to ensure we are a child of God is His chastening when we sin. God wouldn't chasten someone who didn't belong to him.
6. Verse 16 is the promise that Jesus would come from David's lineage and reign forever. Luke 1:31-33 is a confirmation that the

promise in verse 16 occurred. **31 And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. 32 He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: 33 And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.**

King David's Psalm on the Subject

Usually we look to the Psalm to see how David felt about situations in his life but in this lesson, we don't have to go any further than 2 Samuel 7:18-29.

2 Samuel 7:18-29 18 Then went king David in, and sat before the LORD, and he said, Who am I, O Lord GOD? and what is my house, that thou hast brought me hitherto? 19 And this was yet a small thing in thy sight, O Lord GOD; but thou hast spoken also of thy servant's house for a great while to come. And is this the manner of man, O Lord GOD? 20 And what can David say more unto thee? for thou, Lord GOD, knowest thy servant. 21 For thy word's sake, and according to thine own heart, hast thou done all these great things, to make thy servant know them. 22 Wherefore thou art great, O LORD God: for there is none like thee, neither is there any God beside thee,

according to all that we have heard with our ears. 23 And what one nation in the earth is like thy people, even like Israel, whom God went to redeem for a people to himself, and to make him a name, and to do for you great things and terrible, for thy land, before thy people, which thou redeemedst to thee from Egypt, from the nations and their gods? 24 For thou hast confirmed to thyself thy people Israel to be a people unto thee for ever: and thou, LORD, art become their God. 25 And now, O LORD God, the word that thou hast spoken concerning thy servant, and concerning his house, establish it for ever, and do as thou hast said. 26 And let thy name be magnified for ever, saying, The LORD of hosts is the God over Israel: and let the house of thy servant David be established before thee. 27 For thou, O LORD of hosts, God of Israel, hast revealed to thy servant, saying, I will build thee an house: therefore hath thy servant found in his heart to pray this prayer unto thee. 28 And now, O Lord GOD, thou art that God, and thy words be true, and thou hast promised this goodness unto thy servant: 29 Therefore now let it please thee to bless the house of thy servant, that it may continue for ever before thee: for thou, O Lord GOD, hast spoken it: and with thy blessing let the house of thy servant be blessed for ever.

David's Comfort from the Psalm

It's obvious that David was overwhelmed by God telling him that his lineage would reign forever, **“Who am I, O Lord GOD? and what is my house, that thou hast brought me hitherto?”**. Could you imagine if God told you that He intended to rule and reign his kingdom through your lineage, it would be humbling to say the least. David knew it was because he was truly God's servant that He chose him. **For thy word's sake, and according to thine own heart, hast thou done all these great things, to make thy servant know them.** The rest of his statements in this chapter let us know that David understood the position and situation God had put him in.

Life Application

All these things occurred in David's life because God recognized him as a faithful soldier with a servant's heart. As Christians, because we are adopted in to the lineage of David we enjoy the same opportunity to be cared for, our future planned, God's mercy and correction. Even more so we can pass that adoption on to our children if we lay the ground work and show them how by leading them to Christ. What more do we as leaders of our homes want than to see our children have a prosperous life

and how better to do that than to ensure they are included in David's lineage through God's adoption. We will see in just a few chapters that God does exactly as he said he would when David sinned. David was still God's child and chosen leader however he did face God's chastisement.

Charge and Discussion

What did God do for David in this experience? God gave David the comfort and certainty about his future and the future of his lineage.

What did David have to do that was critical to God being able to help him? All David had to do was be a good servant soldier, dedicated to the Lord.

What should we be doing so God can give us the same comfort David had in his life? God offers us and our children this exact same comfort if we simply dedicate ourselves to him and be a servant soldier for Him.

Lesson #15: Debriefing the Battle of Sin

Lesson Objective: The purpose of this lesson is to break down sin, by explaining the process Satan uses to capture us in it, in hopes of creating a deterrent to it, and learning how to recover from it, if we get hit by it.

Introduction: In the last lesson God saw David's heart, in that, David wanted to build a temple for the ark, although God hadn't asked Him to. God told David that his purpose wasn't to build the temple but to expand the territory of Israel. So, David spent the next ten years, from age forty to fifty expanding Israel's territory. During this period David was faithful to God and God was faithful to David. At this point in his life David was at the top of his game, so to speak. He had been chosen and trained by God to be the leader of Israel. He learned to consult the Lord before making decisions in his life. He had conquered the kingdoms around him and was revered by all people as a godly king. This caused Satan to put a very big target on David's back because he knew if he could take David down many would go down with him and so could all of Israel. So, attack Satan did.

Lesson Text

David wasn't in the fight

2 Samuel 11:1 1 And it came to pass, after the year was expired, at the time when kings go forth to battle, that David sent Joab, and his servants with him, and all Israel; and they destroyed the children of Ammon, and besieged Rabbah. But David tarried still at Jerusalem.

Because David wasn't in the fight, he was vulnerable

2 Samuel 11:2-3 2 And it came to pass in an eveningtide, that David arose from off his bed, and walked upon the roof of the king's house: and from the roof he saw a woman washing herself; and the woman was very beautiful to look upon. 3 And David sent and enquired after the woman. And one said, Is not this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?

David sinned with Bathsheba

2 Samuel 11:4-7 4 And David sent messengers, and took her; and she came in unto him, and he lay with her; for she was purified from her uncleanness: and she returned unto her house. 5 And the woman conceived, and sent and told David, and said, I am with child. 6 And David sent to Joab, saying, Send me Uriah the Hittite. And Joab sent Uriah to David.

7 And when Uriah was come unto him, David demanded of him how Joab did, and how the people did, and how the war prospered.

David tried to cover his sin

2 Samuel 11:8-14 8 And David said to Uriah, Go down to thy house, and wash thy feet. And Uriah departed out of the king's house, and there followed him a mess of meat from the king. 9 But Uriah slept at the door of the king's house with all the servants of his lord, and went not down to his house. 10 And when they had told David, saying, Uriah went not down unto his house, David said unto Uriah, Camest thou not from thy journey? why then didst thou not go down unto thine house? 11 And Uriah said unto David, The ark, and Israel, and Judah, abide in tents; and my lord Joab, and the servants of my lord, are encamped in the open fields; shall I then go into mine house, to eat and to drink, and to lie with my wife? as thou livest, and as thy soul liveth, I will not do this thing. 12 And David said to Uriah, Tarry here to day also, and to morrow I will let thee depart. So Uriah abode in Jerusalem that day, and the morrow. 13 And when David had called him, he did eat and drink before him; and he made him drunk: and at even he went out to lie on his bed with the servants of his lord, but went not down to his house. 14 And it came to pass in the morning, that David wrote a letter to Joab, and sent it by the hand of Uriah.

David sinned to try and cover his sin

2 Samuel 11:15-17 15 And he wrote in the letter, saying, Set ye Uriah in the forefront of the hottest battle, and retire ye from him, that he may be smitten, and die. 16 And it came to pass, when Joab observed the city, that he assigned Uriah unto a place where he knew that valiant men were. 17 And the men of the city went out, and fought with Joab: and there fell some of the people of the servants of David; and Uriah the Hittite died also.

God convicted David due to his sin

2 Samuel 12: 1-9 1 And the LORD sent Nathan unto David. And he came unto him, and said unto him, There were two men in one city; the one rich, and the other poor. 2 The rich man had exceeding many flocks and herds: 3 But the poor man had nothing, save one little ewe lamb, which he had bought and nourished up: and it grew up together with him, and with his children; it did eat of his own meat, and drank of his own cup, and lay in his bosom, and was unto him as a daughter. 4 And there came a traveller unto the rich man, and he spared to take of his own flock and of his own herd, to dress for the wayfaring man that was come unto him; but took the poor man's lamb, and dressed it for the man that was come to him. 5 And David's anger was greatly kindled against the man; and he said to Nathan, As the LORD liveth, the man that hath done this thing shall surely die: 6

And he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity. 7 And Nathan said to David, Thou art the man. Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, I anointed thee king over Israel, and I delivered thee out of the hand of Saul; 8 And I gave thee thy master's house, and thy master's wives into thy bosom, and gave thee the house of Israel and of Judah; and if that had been too little, I would moreover have given unto thee such and such things. 9 Wherefore hast thou despised the commandment of the LORD, to do evil in his sight? thou hast killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword, and hast taken his wife to be thy wife, and hast slain him with the sword of the children of Ammon.

God punished David for his sin

2 Samuel 12:10-12 10 Now therefore the sword shall never depart from thine house; because thou hast despised me, and hast taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be thy wife. 11 Thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will raise up evil against thee out of thine own house, and I will take thy wives before thine eyes, and give them unto thy neighbour, and he shall lie with thy wives in the sight of this sun. 12 For thou didst it secretly: but I will do this thing before all Israel, and before the sun.

David repented of his sin

2 Samuel 12:13 13 And David said unto Nathan, I have sinned against the LORD. And Nathan said unto David, The LORD also hath put away thy sin; thou shalt not die.

Scars of David's sin

2 Samuel 12:14 14 Howbeit, because by this deed thou hast given great occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme, the child also that is born unto thee shall surely die.

Lesson Points

1. **David's Stature** – Everyone is a target. The more you do for God the bigger target you are for Satan because he knows if he can take you out you will take others with you. David was a great king, he had expanded Israel over the previous ten years to the point that they were the super power of the time. He was not only a great national leader, people knew his success was due to his relationship with God. Satan's tactic hasn't changed, he knows that if you are serving God and he can take you out others will follow so he is going to tempt you. Nobody is exempt!

2. **David's temptation** - Seeing Bathsheba was Satan's temptation on David. Satan knows what your weaknesses are. If you aren't being fulfilled in your marriage he will use another woman who knows exactly what to say to you to make you think you are the greatest man in the world. If your weakness is money Satan will tempt you with a job that will cause your relationship with God to be strained. If your weakness is PTSD Satan will tell you it's ok to let it control you and it will take you out of the fight and make you useless to God. We are going to be tempted just like David. We must be on guard for it or we will fall to it. The minute you think you don't have to be on guard he will strike and you will fall. We must always be on alert it's not if Satan attacks, it's when he does. Expect his attack because it's going to happen if you are in any way useful to God.

3. **David's Sin** - It's not a sin to have a weakness, that's simply our sin nature. It's not a sin to be tempted, that is simply Satan's weapon. These things are normal. Sin is when you allow yourself to become victim to Satan's temptation. David's sin was acting on the temptation that Satan used by putting naked Bathsheba in his path. If David had

recognized it for what it was, an attack on God by Satan, and he had turned and walked away, tempted as he was, he hadn't sinned. David's defeat began when Satan told him he was strong enough to look at naked Bathsheba and not sin. Everything after that should be expected, when we open the door to sin what do we expect Satan to do, he's a warrior. One preacher said, "You shouldn't be surprised if you get in the car with Satan and he drives you straight into hell." That's exactly what happened to David. Satan pulled up with what he knew was David's weakness and David wasn't on alert, he didn't look at who was driving, he just got in the car. That was the mistake that led to his sin.

4. **David's blindness to his sin** – Once you sin Satan is going to throw in smoke so you can't see what he's doing and then he's going to do everything he can to take you out. Satan will take the sin you commit and make you think it is right, make you blind to the consequences of the sin, make you blind to the damage your sin will cause. Once you sin it is truly a spiritual blood bath fight between God and Satan to regain control of you. Satan will use every weapon in his arsenal to draw

you further away from God and win the fight. Satan is a deceiver and has use of weapons like emotion and misplaced reason, he will use them to win. You will be in turmoil because you have experienced the true peace of God but it seems like it's nowhere to be found. Satan will cause you to think of ways to hide or justify your sin that you would never dream you could do, but you will if you remain blinded. I'm sure an honorable warrior like David would have never dreamed he could have killed Uriah, a faithful brother in arms, to hide his sin, but he did. He did it because he couldn't see through Satan's smoke, he did it because he wasn't thinking straight, he did it because he was letting Satan win in the battle for his life.

5. **David's eyes were opened** – At this point in the sin process your only hope of survival is God's perseverance to fight for one of his own and the others you will take down with you if you don't recover. David was so blind at this point that he tried to justify and minimalize his sin in **2 Samuel 11:25** by saying, **“for the sword devoureth one as well as another”** referring to Uriah's death. God must clear the smoke so you can see clearly. In David's case, the smoke cleared

in **2 Samuel 12:7** when God's man Nathan said to David, "**Thou art the man.**" This was a critical point as it will be with us if we ever find ourselves in this situation. If the smoke doesn't clear Satan is going to try and make you believe your Nathan is disingenuous, Satan is going to tell you he doesn't care about you, he doesn't understand or anything else he can do to counter this biblical principle of trying to restore a brother. For Satan to succeed he must continue to keep you blind to everything you know about your Nathan. For Satan to succeed you will have to forget he is a brother, you will have to forget the past battles and successes you have experienced with him, you will have to forget that at one time not long ago you fought side by side with your Nathan in the war against the same one who is now trying to blind you. Many good soldiers of the cross die here believing Satan over a trusted battle tested warrior of Christ.

6. **David's repentance** - Praise the Lord David's smoke cleared and he faced his sin. Often good soldiers recognize their sin but due to embarrassment or some other weapon of Satan they never face it. It's not easy to

face our failures or face those our failures have damaged. However, the only path to restoration is repentance and that's impossible if we don't face our sin head on. David took his first step towards repentance with six words in **2 Samuel 12:13** when he said to Nathan, "**I have sinned against the Lord.**"

7. **David's restoration** - When a repentant fallen soldier isn't restored he becomes a prisoner of war. Just like the POW of our physical wars, he has the training and experience to keep fighting but he finishes out the war in a miserable spiritual prison. Satan is behind this too, Satan isn't stupid he knows this unrestored soldier has experience dealing with the enemy and if he lets him back in the fight he will be an even greater foe. Too often when a repentant soldier attempts to be restored Satan is successful at keeping him out of the war because Christians won't allow him to be restored and that's no less sin than the repentant soldier's original sin. Praise God for brother and sister warriors of the cross who understand and practice restoration! **2 Samuel 12:13** shows us how God handles restoration of truly repentant soldiers "**And Nathan said unto**

David, The LORD also hath put away thy sin; thou shalt not die". What a merciful grace filled King we serve to completely forget the failures of his children. It is imperative for us to follow our masters lead in restoring brothers and sisters to the fight lest we experience the same smoke-filled battle with our own sin of unforgiveness.

8. **David's sin damage** - After repentance and restoration Satan isn't going to stop. Immediately and continuously if he thinks it will affect you Satan will remind you of your sin. The scars of battle with Satan although forgiven by God, unfortunately will never go away because it has effected the war effort the damage of our sin is something we will live with. **2 Samuel 12:14 Howbeit, because by this deed thou hast given great occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme, the child also that is born unto thee shall surely die.** Because of his sin, David's family was in turmoil the rest of his days. The key to success in living with your sin scars is what you think about when you look at the scars. Don't allow them to diminish you, when you see your sin scars let them be a reminder of the war, let them stir your desire to fight, let them remind you to

be alert. Look in the mirror every day at your battle scar and let them be a reminder of how much you hate the enemy that caused them. Put it in your arsenal and through dependence on God make Satan regret the day he gave it to you.

King David's Psalm on the Subject

Psalm 51 (To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David, when Nathan the prophet came unto him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba.) 1 Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions. 2 Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. 3 For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me. 4 Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, and be clear when thou judgest. 5 Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me. 6 Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom. 7 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. 8 Make me to hear joy and gladness; that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice. 9 Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. 10 Create in me a clean heart, O God;

and renew a right spirit within me. 11 Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me. 12 Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit. 13 Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee. 14 Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, thou God of my salvation: and my tongue shall sing aloud of thy righteousness. 15 O Lord, open thou my lips; and my mouth shall shew forth thy praise. 16 For thou desirest not sacrifice; else would I give it: thou delightest not in burnt offering. 17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise. 18 Do good in thy good pleasure unto Zion: build thou the walls of Jerusalem. 19 Then shalt thou be pleased with the sacrifices of righteousness, with burnt offering and whole burnt offering: then shall they offer bullocks upon thine altar.

David's Comfort from the Psalm

David's writing in this Psalm makes it clear that his only peace comes through repentance, restoration, and a humble reliance on God. Nothing is different between us and our brother David. We will sin and our only peace comes through repentance, restoration, and a humble reliance on God.

Life Application

Satan is making every effort for us to die in our sins and if he can't do that he will do everything he can to prevent us from bringing someone else to salvation. Brothers be on alert, expect to be tempted and when you fall reach up and grab God's hand and let him drag you to safety. Nobody must die on this battlefield. Nobody must be a prisoner of this war. Reach out and save a brother. Constant communication with God through scripture and prayer is the counter to every tactical maneuver Satan will try. Keep your ammunition dry and keep your head on a swivel because we are at war!

Charge and Discussion

What did God do for David in this experience? God restored David, God Was faithful even when David wasn't.

What did David have to do that was critical to God being able to help him? David had to face his sin and repent of his sin and then be willing to get back in the fight using his scars as a reminder.

What should we be doing so God can give us the same comfort David had in his life? Be on alert. When we fail depend on God and the proven brothers God will send to clear the smoke and restore you. Repent and get back in the fight.

Lesson #16: Sin Scars

Lesson Objective: The purpose of this lesson is to help the group understand that although God forgives our sin, the scars of sin linger.

Introduction: In the last lesson we saw that because of David's sin with Bathsheba God said in 2 Samuel 12: 10-12 **“the sword shall never depart from thine house”, “I will raise up evil against thee out of thine own house”, “I will take thy wives before thine eyes, and give them unto thy neighbor”**. The events of this lesson occur when David is fifty-two to sixty-six, approximately. Immediately we begin to see the effects of his sin in chapter twelve as Bathsheba's and David's child dies, but during David's punishment we also continue to see God's plan continue to develop as Israel's next king Solomon is born and David continues to increase Israel by conquering the Ammonites. In chapters thirteen through twenty-one we will see the scars of not only David's sin but Saul's sin also and how they affected not only them but their family and generations that follow them.

Lesson Text

David's son Amnon raped his sister Tamar.

2 Samuel 13:14 Howbeit he would not hearken unto her voice: but, being stronger than she, forced her, and lay with her.

David's son Absalom killed his brother Amon.

2 Samuel 13:28-29 28 Now Absalom had commanded his servants, saying, Mark ye now when Amnon's heart is merry with wine, and when I say unto you, Smite Amnon; then kill him, fear not: have not I commanded you? be courageous, and be valiant. 29 And the servants of Absalom did unto Amnon as Absalom had commanded. Then all the king's sons arose, and every man gat him up upon his mule, and fled.

David's son Absalom fled for three years to prevent being killed because he killed his brother, as was the law.

2 Samuel 13:37-39 37 But Absalom fled, and went to Talmai, the son of Ammihud, king of Geshur. And David mourned for his son every day. 38 So Absalom fled, and went to Geshur, and was there three years. 39 And the soul of king David longed to go forth unto Absalom: for he was comforted concerning Amnon, seeing he was dead.

David fought a civil war in Israel against his son. David allowed Absalom to return but would not allow him back in the royal family this caused bitterness in Absalom's heart and caused the civil war.

2 Samuel 15:10-12 10 But Absalom sent spies throughout all the tribes of Israel, saying, As soon as ye hear the sound of the trumpet, then ye shall say, Absalom reigneth in Hebron. 11 And with Absalom went two hundred men out of Jerusalem, that were called; and they went in their simplicity, and they knew not any thing. 12 And Absalom sent for Ahithophel the Gilonite, David's counsellor, from his city, even from Giloh, while he offered sacrifices. And the conspiracy was strong; for the people increased continually with Absalom.

David's son Absalom is killed and David mourns.

2 Samuel 18:14-15 14 Then said Joab, I may not tarry thus with thee. And he took three darts in his hand, and thrust them through the heart of Absalom, while he was yet alive in the midst of the oak. 15 And ten young men that bare Joab's armour compassed about and smote Absalom, and slew him.

David dealt with division among the tribes of Israel.

2 Samuel 19:41-42 41 And, behold, all the men of Israel came to the king, and said unto the king, Why

have our brethren the men of Judah stolen thee away, and have brought the king, and his household, and all David's men with him, over Jordan? 42 And all the men of Judah answered the men of Israel, Because the king is near of kin to us: wherefore then be ye angry for this matter? have we eaten at all of the king's cost? or hath he given us any gift?

Saul's sin was revisited on his descendants and David had to deal with it.

2 Samuel 21:1-7 1 Then there was a famine in the days of David three years, year after year; and David enquired of the LORD. And the LORD answered, It is for Saul, and for his bloody house, because he slew the Gibeonites. 2 And the king called the Gibeonites, and said unto them; (now the Gibeonites were not of the children of Israel, but of the remnant of the Amorites; and the children of Israel had sworn unto them: and Saul sought to slay them in his zeal to the children of Israel and Judah.) 3 Wherefore David said unto the Gibeonites, What shall I do for you? and wherewith shall I make the atonement, that ye may bless the inheritance of the LORD? 4 And the Gibeonites said unto him, We will have no silver nor gold of Saul, nor of his house; neither for us shalt thou kill any man in Israel. And he said, What ye shall say, that will I do for you. 5 And they answered the king, The man that consumed us, and that devised against us that we should be destroyed from

remaining in any of the coasts of Israel, 6 Let seven men of his sons be delivered unto us, and we will hang them up unto the LORD in Gibeah of Saul, whom the LORD did choose. And the king said, I will give them. 7 But the king spared Mephibosheth, the son of Jonathan the son of Saul, because of the LORD'S oath that was between them, between David and Jonathan the son of Saul.

Lesson Points

1. Although God forgives sin and has already paid his children's sin debt, He's still going to punish his children for sin. When we punish our children, we do it to correct an act they have committed that is potentially harmful to them. We punish them to prevent them from repeating the harmful act. We do it because we love them and don't want them to be hurt. Therefore, God punished David and punishes us today for the same reason.
2. When we punish our children if we don't explain to them why we are punishing them they would never get the lesson, likewise when we explain to them the reason for punishment if they don't listen, they won't learn the lesson. When a Christian commits sin there is obviously already some

disconnect in communication with God. If the child of God continues not communicating with God after the sin God is still going to punish them. In order to learn from punishment communication with God is critical so we know why we are being punished, so we can correct it. David was quick to repent and reconcile with God after his sin. Because he repented, he knew exactly why those things happened in his life over the next years. He was also able to receive the benefit of the punishment and correction and never committed that sin again.

3. Have you ever heard someone say, why is God letting this happen to me? If they are a repentant Christian and in communication with God, like David, they probably wouldn't have to look very far to find the answer. Like us when we punish our children, we want them to know the reason for the punishment so they can get the correction, God wants us to know the reason also. Generally, a Christian who asks, "Why is God letting this happen to me?" isn't in communication with God and therefore isn't listening to God's direction and that is probably the reason they got in trouble in the first place.

4. An exclusion to that rule are those who are hurt due to our sin. For example, David's first son with Bathsheba hadn't done anything but died as punishment for David's sin. David's daughter Tamar hadn't sinned but was raped as punishment for David's sin. Although Amnon raped Tamar and was killed for it that wouldn't have happened but for David's sin. Absalom killed his brother Amnon because of the rape of his sister which led to his exile and ultimately civil war against his father. All of which is the result of David's sin.
5. You can find theological writings that discuss the chronology of chapter 21 and how it seems misplaced, however, it fits perfectly and goes to the fact that God is teaching us about others paying a price for our sins, as we see Saul's descendants paying the price for Saul's sin a generation before.
6. Sometimes things that happen in our life are simply God training us for something that He sees coming. There is always a reason for things that happen in life. Correction for sin, someone else's sin, training for something coming. David knew the reason for what was

happening in his life and chose to accept it, learn from it, and apply the lesson as he continued to do Gods work.

7. The key to trouble whether it be self-induced or otherwise is a strong dependence on God as it occurs. Often that's the lesson God wishes to teach us, it's dependence on Him and His guidance that keeps us from sin in the first place.

King David's Psalm on the Subject

Psalm 42 1 (To the chief Musician, Maschil, for the sons of Korah.) As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God. 2 My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God? 3 My tears have been my meat day and night, while they continually say unto me, Where is thy God? 4 When I remember these things, I pour out my soul in me: for I had gone with the multitude, I went with them to the house of God, with the voice of joy and praise, with a multitude that kept holyday. 5 Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted in me? hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him for the help of his countenance. 6 O my God, my soul is cast down within me: therefore will I remember thee from the land of Jordan, and of the Hermonites, from

the hill Mizar. 7 Deep calleth unto deep at the noise of thy waterspouts: all thy waves and thy billows are gone over me. 8 Yet the LORD will command his lovingkindness in the daytime, and in the night his song shall be with me, and my prayer unto the God of my life. 9 I will say unto God my rock, Why hast thou forgotten me? why go I mourning because of the oppression of the enemy? 10 As with a sword in my bones, mine enemies reproach me; while they say daily unto me, Where is thy God? 11 Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted within me? hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him, who is the health of my countenance, and my God.

David's Comfort from the Psalm

Verses one through three show us the turmoil of the separation from God that David feels during his punishment. When David says, **“My soul thirsteth for God”** and **“Where is thy God?”** it gives us a real sense of his desire for God’s comfort during his punishment and David’s recognition of his need for Him. David ends this Psalm in verse eleven by confirming to us that he understands the purpose of punishment and that he knows his only hope is to continue to serve Him as he says, **“I shall yet praise him, who is the health of my countenance, and my God.”**

Life Application

David's sin, punishment, and how he properly dealt with it through clinging closer to God is no different than how it works with us today. We are human beings and we will be tempted with sin if we are a useful soldier for Christ in His war against Satan. If Satan isn't tempting you with sin then you have something to be worried about because that means Satan isn't worried about you. As veterans, we understand better than most that the largest threats are the best targets for the enemy. We also understand that when the enemy does hit a good target it must be recovered as quickly and efficiently as possible so we can start using it against the enemy again. In our case the quickest and most efficient way for us to recover when hit by sin is total reliance on God. That's also our best weapon against being a sin target in the first place.

Charge and Discussion

What did God do for David in this experience?

God offered David protection against Satan and sin, but when David didn't use it God punished David teaching him reliance on God not only as a deterrent to sin but as a reminder not to sin.

What did David have to do that was critical to God being able to help him?

Once David sinned and was being punished, it was crucial that David understood God's punishment was nothing other than God showing David how much he cared for him, and reminding him who he belonged to, and then following God's protocol to repentance and the dependence on God as a way to recover from sin.

What should we be doing so God can give us the same comfort David had in his life?

We must depend on God for protection from Satan's attempts to catch us in sin. When we fail be prepared for the correction that will come. Depend on God for restoration while continuing to serve him.

Lesson #17: David's Retirement Ceremony

Lesson Objective: The purpose of this lesson is to show the group what David realized at the end of his waring days about where his comfort, protection, and success came from during his waring days and how ours lay in the same place.

Introduction: In our text we see that David's waring days had come to an end. David was sixty-six years old and during the first battle in the new war against the Philistines he had "waxed faint" and almost fallen to one of Goliath's sons. We see in our text that Goliath's family seemed to be coming for David in retribution for his killing Goliath fifty years earlier. Considering all this David's men told him he couldn't go to battle with them anymore for fear that the "light of Israel" would be quenched. This caused David to reminisce a bit on his life as a warrior and the protections and comfort God offered him through the years.

Lesson Text

David waxed faint in battle

2 Samuel 21:15-16 15 Moreover the Philistines had yet war again with Israel; and David went down, and

his servants with him, and fought against the Philistines: and David waxed faint. 16 And Ishbibenob, which was of the sons of the giant, the weight of whose spear weighed three hundred shekels of brass in weight, he being girded with a new sword, thought to have slain David.

David's men told him that he could no longer go into battle

2 Samuel 21:17-22 17 But Abishai the son of Zeruah succoured him, and smote the Philistine, and killed him. Then the men of David sware unto him, saying, Thou shalt go no more out with us to battle, that thou quench not the light of Israel. 18 And it came to pass after this, that there was again a battle with the Philistines at Gob: then Sibbechai the Hushathite slew Saph, which was of the sons of the giant. 19 And there was again a battle in Gob with the Philistines, where Elhanan the son of Jaareoregim, a Bethlehemite, slew the brother of Goliath the Gittite, the staff of whose spear was like a weaver's beam. 20 And there was yet a battle in Gath, where was a man of great stature, that had on every hand six fingers, and on every foot six toes, four and twenty in number; and he also was born to the giant. 21 And when he defied Israel, Jonathan the son of Shimea the brother of David slew him. 22 These four were born to the giant in Gath, and fell by the hand of David, and by the hand of his servants.

David reminisced about his war days

2 Samuel 22:1-7 1 And David spake unto the LORD the words of this song in the day that the LORD had delivered him out of the hand of all his enemies, and out of the hand of Saul: 2 And he said, The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; 3 The God of my rock; in him will I trust: he is my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my high tower, and my refuge, my saviour; thou savest me from violence. 4 I will call on the LORD, who is worthy to be praised: so shall I be saved from mine enemies. 5 When the waves of death compassed me, the floods of ungodly men made me afraid; 6 The sorrows of hell compassed me about; the snares of death prevented me; 7 In my distress I called upon the LORD, and cried to my God: and he did hear my voice out of his temple, and my cry did enter into his ears.

Lesson Points

1. Have you ever been to a military retirement ceremony? If you have you know that the retiree always feels some responsibility to do two things one, thank those who have contributed to his success along the way and two, impart some words of wisdom to those coming behind him. That's what the retiring warrior King David was doing on this day

through the words of song to God. He was giving praise to God as the one who was responsible for his success while at the same time imparting to us those same words as direction in how to be successful.

2. We often look at Bible characters as something greater than just regular men and women included in the scriptures. God could have featured fictional characters that lived perfect lives as examples for us to follow but He didn't. David was a warrior, David fell to adultery, David looked to his strength at times and not Gods, David committed murder, David betrayed his closest friend. God gave us common men and women who made the same mistakes we do for examples.
3. God knew the trials we would battle at the hand of Satan and wanted to give us realistic examples. Because God gave us realistic examples of people failing He could give us realistic examples of those same people when they succeeded and when they recognized that God was the reason they succeeded. David, on the day that the Lord delivered him from all his enemies, including Saul, looked back on it all and said these words in our text to the Lord. He stated in this passage that

when he completely depended on the Lord whether it was by choice or by no other option the Lord was his rock, fortress, deliverer, shield, horn of salvation, high tower, refuge, and savior. Because God gave us this example of a regular man in his failures and successes we can claim God as our strength, rock, fortress, deliverer, buckler, horn of salvation, and high tower.

4. God has given us this perfect example in David, not that David was perfect, but God was perfect in showing us how he will care for guys like us who deal with issues like those issues David dealt with. God promises us complete protection if we totally depend on Him. It's when we act contrary to the example God has given us that we end up in trouble.
5. We like to try and make others think we don't struggle with the same things they struggle with. It's simply a lie promulgated by Satan, which denies God, by placing ourselves above Him. I have the same problems as you, and you have the same problems as me, Satan is the cause, and God not you or I is the answer, just like David proclaimed in our example in 2 Samuel 22:1-7.

King David's Psalm on the Subject

Psalm 18:1-6 1 (To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David, the servant of the LORD, who spake unto the LORD the words of this song in the day that the LORD delivered him from the hand of all his enemies, and from the hand of Saul: And he said,) I will love thee, O LORD, my strength. 2 The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower. 3 I will call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised: so shall I be saved from mine enemies. 4 The sorrows of death compassed me, and the floods of ungodly men made me afraid. 5 The sorrows of hell compassed me about: the snares of death prevented me. 6 In my distress I called upon the LORD, and cried unto my God: he heard my voice out of his temple, and my cry came before him, even into his ears.

David's Comfort from the Psalm

In this Psalm David gave military references to what God meant to him throughout the years of serving God. **Strength-** He is the balance to our complete weakness. **Rock-** He's our solid foundation. **Fortress-** He is the barrier between us and Satan. **Deliverer-** He carries us from difficulties

in our life. **Buckler-** He is our shield from the problems we face. **Horn of our Salvation-** He is the pentacle of our salvation. **High Tower-** He is our vantage point to see all that Satan brings.

Life Application

Why do you think it is that we put on the façade that we don't have problems or that we can handle them ourselves when God says just depend on me? Is it our pride, our toughness, or is it simply Satan wanting to control us? As veterans, we like to focus on the most direct path to success. We pride ourselves on getting jobs finished expediently. What we don't realize because we let Satan fool us is that the most direct path to peace and success is simply turning it all over to God.

Charge and Discussion

What did God do for David in this experience? At the end of David's warring he looked back on his service and could see where God carried him through. David also knew that God's care was his only comfort in the days after his waring.

What did David have to do that was critical to God being able to help him? David at this point in his life was able to look back on his life and realize it was at the points when he relied on God that things worked and the rough times came when he didn't rely on God.

What should we be doing, so God can give us the same comfort David had in his life? We can learn from David's experience or we can learn the hard way by making the same mistakes. God has given us this example all we need to do is heed it.

Lesson #18: Our Greatest Asset

Lesson Objective: The purpose of this lesson is to help us understand that it's not our job to determine direction but to follow God's direction.

Introduction: David is approximately 67 in this passage. We saw in the last lesson that David had basically been retired from battle by his men because of his age. On his retirement David looked back on his life as a warrior and reminisced on how God had cared for him through it all, how God protected him and directed his paths. David recognized that it was only God who is and was his strength, rock, fortress, high tower, salvation. In chapter 23 David was thinking about the mighty men he served with over the years. We can assume that may have been what opened the door that allowed Satan to influence him in chapter 24. It doesn't say it in 2 Samuel but 1 Chronicles 21:1 tells us it was Satan that tempted David to number his men. **1 Chronicles 21:1** **And Satan stood up against Israel, and provoked David to number Israel.** David had just declared that God was his greatest asset, then on Satan's encouragement he numbered his men as if his men were his greatest asset.

Lesson Text

David counted how many men Israel had

2 Samuel 24:1-2 1 And again the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel, and he moved David against them to say, Go, number Israel and Judah. 2 For the king said to Joab the captain of the host, which was with him, Go now through all the tribes of Israel, from Dan even to Beersheba, and number ye the people, that I may know the number of the people.

Joab warned David against counting his men

2 Samuel 24:3 3 And Joab said unto the king, Now the LORD thy God add unto the people, how many soever they be, an hundredfold, and that the eyes of my lord the king may see it: but why doth my lord the king delight in this thing?

David didn't listen, didn't trust God and numbered his men

2 Samuel 24:4-9 4 Notwithstanding the king's word prevailed against Joab, and against the captains of the host. And Joab and the captains of the host went out from the presence of the king, to number the people of Israel. 5 And they passed over Jordan, and pitched in Aroer, on the right side of the city that lieth in the midst of the river of Gad, and toward Jazer: 6 Then they came to Gilead, and to the land of

Tahtimhodshi; and they came to Danjaan, and about to Zidon, 7 And came to the strong hold of Tyre, and to all the cities of the Hivites, and of the Canaanites: and they went out to the south of Judah, even to Beersheba. 8 So when they had gone through all the land, they came to Jerusalem at the end of nine months and twenty days. 9 And Joab gave up the sum of the number of the people unto the king: and there were in Israel eight hundred thousand valiant men that drew the sword; and the men of Judah were five hundred thousand men.

David realized he was wrong

2 Samuel 24:10 10 And David's heart smote him after that he had numbered the people. And David said unto the LORD, I have sinned greatly in that I have done: and now, I beseech thee, O LORD, take away the iniquity of thy servant; for I have done very foolishly.

David had to choose his punishment

2 Samuel 24:11-13 11 For when David was up in the morning, the word of the LORD came unto the prophet Gad, David's seer, saying, 12 Go and say unto David, Thus saith the LORD, I offer thee three things; choose thee one of them, that I may do it unto thee. 13 So Gad came to David, and told him, and said unto him, Shall seven years of famine come unto thee in thy land? or wilt thou flee three months before

thine enemies, while they pursue thee? or that there be three days' pestilence in thy land? now advise, and see what answer I shall return to him that sent me.

David left the punishment up to God

2 Samuel 24:14 14 And David said unto Gad, I am in a great strait: let us fall now into the hand of the LORD; for his mercies are great: and let me not fall into the hand of man.

David lost 70,000 of the men he numbered

2 Samuel 24:15-17 15 So the LORD sent a pestilence upon Israel from the morning even to the time appointed: and there died of the people from Dan even to Beersheba seventy thousand men. 16 And when the angel stretched out his hand upon Jerusalem to destroy it, the LORD repented him of the evil, and said to the angel that destroyed the people, It is enough: stay now thine hand. And the angel of the LORD was by the threshingplace of Araunah the Jebusite. 17 And David spake unto the LORD when he saw the angel that smote the people, and said, Lo, I have sinned, and I have done wickedly: but these sheep, what have they done? let thine hand, I pray thee, be against me, and against my father's house.

Lesson Points

1. We know David was a great fighting man and God used him to protect His people. We have read of the different nations David conquered for the Lord. Do you realize that just like God used David and his army to protect Israel's religious freedom, God used you and the US Military to protect America's religious freedoms?
2. In 2 Samuel 22 David praised God for deliverance from his enemies and Saul. David had been in some difficult situations and he knew that God protected him and gave him victory in each of those situations. David recognized that God was the reason for his victories. Have you ever been in a situation where you just knew this could be it if God doesn't come do something, and He did? Can you look back on that event and recognize it was God and praise God for it?
3. Although David knew it was God, not his men who carried him through, David numbered his fighting men. Although God had him perfectly in His arms, David started stressing about the calm, he was thinking something is about to happen, I need to make

ready. Depending on his training and his battle experience, David reverted to his training and started to evaluate his strength.

4. I'm sure David was thinking about Israel's success and probably started to think about the other kings who would want to knock him off and began to prepare the army. David forgot that it wasn't anything he or his men did but it was God that carried the day when tough times came. Are there areas in your life wherein you forgot it was God that brought you through the battles and you try to do it yourself?

5. Like David, we've all done this, we forget that it was God who carried us through the difficult times and we start numbering our men instead of depending on God. We think we must make sure we do this, because what if this happens. We think we must plan every step of our kid's life because if we don't they won't be prepared for it, when I'm not here. We must control every move our wife and I make so we will be successful. Have you ever felt like if you don't personally keep your thumb on things it will get out of control? That's what David was doing when he numbered his men.

6. God proved himself to David many times, but he had to teach him that lesson again. David forgot his power was in God, reverted to his training, and started numbering his men. God took the thing that David valued, and in one stroke took 70,000 of them, reminding David where his power came from.
7. Seventy thousand men and their families that David valued most suffered because he attempted to protect them based on his ability, forgetting God is where his power came from. This should force us to think about our family and the things they have endured because we didn't depend on God and took it upon yourself to formulate a battle plan.
8. You know this philosophy doesn't just pertain to situations of war. That same God that carried us through that difficult war time wants to carry us through the not so life-threatening situations also. He is there waiting when a bill is coming due, He is there waiting when we aren't getting along with the wife, He is there waiting when medical problems occur, He is there waiting when there is trouble at work. He is even there

waiting when that anxious feeling of comes over you for seemingly no reason at all and you just don't know what to do. He's there and He wants nothing more than for us to just ask Him to comfort us and lead us through whatever it is we are facing. Can you point to some situations in your life where you haven't yet but you think you should stop and let God take the lead?

9. You know that anxious feeling we get when something stresses us out, it is nothing more than Satan saying hey you must do something now and you don't have time to wait on God. There are only two controlling entities in this world God and Satan. If it's good it's God, if it's not it's Satan. The first question we must ask ourselves in every situation is where is this coming from? Satan likes to keep us all worked up and worried because if he does that it means he controls us and we are not depending on God. I can imagine Satan making David think, "You need to number your men in case something happens" and just like us David reverted to his training and did it, not considering God.

King David's Psalm on the Subject

Psalm 46 1 (To the chief Musician for the sons of Korah, A Song upon Alamoth.) God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. 2 Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; 3 Though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof. Selah. 4 There is a river, the streams whereof shall make glad the city of God, the holy place of the tabernacles of the most High. 5 God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved: God shall help her, and that right early. 6 The heathen raged, the kingdoms were moved: he uttered his voice, the earth melted. 7 The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah. 8 Come, behold the works of the LORD, what desolations he hath made in the earth. 9 He maketh wars to cease unto the end of the earth; he breaketh the bow, and cutteth the spear in sunder; he burneth the chariot in the fire. 10 Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth. 11 The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah.

David's Comfort from the Psalm

David gave us the cure for anxiety and the cure for our need to act in just a couple statements in this Psalm. **“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.”**, **“Therefore will not we fear”**, **“The LORD of hosts is with us”**, **“He maketh wars to cease unto the end of the earth”**, **“Be still, and know that I am God”**.

Life Application

What better passage for this situation that David found himself in than the Discipled Veteran core verse **Psalm 46:10 Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth.** How different would our lives be if we just allowed God to handle it all, if we just relied on Him to do what He said he would do. If we would just Be still and know that He is God.

Charge and Discussion

What did God do for David in this experience?

God offered David the peace that comes with allowing God to handle your troubles. The pure peace that comes with reliance on God. The peace of just being still and knowing He is the God of everything.

What did David have to do that was critical to God being able to help him?

David had to stop thinking it was up to him to get things done and rely on God to direct him in what needed to be done and then simply follow God's direction.

What should we be doing so God can give us the same comfort David had in his life?

We must stop numbering our men and rely on God. We have to allow God to lead in our lives. We have to follow God. It's not our responsibility to determine direction it's our responsibility to follow direction.

Lesson #19: Preparing for Solomon's Mission

Lesson Objective: The purpose of this lesson is to help us understand that it is our job to prepare our children for their mission for God not our mission.

Introduction: David is approximately sixty-eight in this passage. Be mindful as we read this passage that David was told that he would not build God's temple because he had blood on his hands, he was a warrior. There may be things that we can't do in our life because God hasn't called us to do them for whatever reason, but that can't stop us from making sure our children are prepared to serve God in whatever way He wants to use them. As we will read David didn't get upset because he couldn't build the temple he prepared his son Solomon to do it because it was Gods will. We will see that David ensured Solomon had the **advice, tools, and encouragement** he needed to do Gods will in his life and we should do the same. But for David's experiences he wouldn't have understood trusting God enough to prepare his son, the temple wouldn't have been built, and we wouldn't have the example of the wisest man who ever lived in David's son King Solomon.

Lesson Text

David teaches his son to be faithful to God

1 Chronicles 28:9 9 And thou, Solomon my son, know thou the God of thy father, and serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind: for the LORD searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts: if thou seek him, he will be found of thee; but if thou forsake him, he will cast thee off for ever.

David tells his son that he will build the temple

1 Chronicles 28:10 10 Take heed now; for the LORD hath chosen thee to build an house for the sanctuary: be strong, and do it.

David gave his Solomon direction

1 Chronicles 28:11-18 11 Then David gave to Solomon his son the pattern of the porch, and of the houses thereof, and of the treasuries thereof, and of the upper chambers thereof, and of the inner parlours thereof, and of the place of the mercy seat, 12 And the pattern of all that he had by the spirit, of the courts of the house of the LORD, and of all the chambers round about, of the treasuries of the house of God, and of the treasuries of the dedicated things: 13 Also for the courses of the priests and the Levites, and for all the work of the service of the house of the LORD, and for all the vessels of service in the house of the

LORD. 14 He gave of gold by weight for things of gold, for all instruments of all manner of service; silver also for all instruments of silver by weight, for all instruments of every kind of service: 15 Even the weight for the candlesticks of gold, and for their lamps of gold, by weight for every candlestick, and for the lamps thereof: and for the candlesticks of silver by weight, both for the candlestick, and also for the lamps thereof, according to the use of every candlestick. 16 And by weight he gave gold for the tables of shewbread, for every table; and likewise silver for the tables of silver: 17 Also pure gold for the fleshhooks, and the bowls, and the cups: and for the golden basons he gave gold by weight for every bason; and likewise silver by weight for every bason of silver: 18 And for the altar of incense refined gold by weight; and gold for the pattern of the chariot of the cherubims, that spread out their wings, and covered the ark of the covenant of the LORD.

David assures his son that his God will be with him

1 Chronicles 28:19-21 19 All this, said David, the LORD made me understand in writing by his hand upon me, even all the works of this pattern. 20 And David said to Solomon his son, Be strong and of good courage, and do it: fear not, nor be dismayed: for the LORD God, even my God, will be with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee, until thou hast

finished all the work for the service of the house of the LORD. 21 And, behold, the courses of the priests and the Levites, even they shall be with thee for all the service of the house of God: and there shall be with thee for all manner of workmanship every willing skilful man, for any manner of service: also the princes and all the people will be wholly at thy commandment.

Lesson Points

1. **Advice** - David gave his son Solomon godly advice in verses 9 & 10 to prepare him for what God wanted him to do. He said, know God and serve willingly with a perfect heart and a willing mind, God understands even your heart and your thoughts, if you seek God to lead you He will, but if you forsake God He will forsake you, be mindful that God chose you to do something for Him.
2. **Tools** – We see David gave his son Solomon all the tools and material he needed to do God’s will in verses 11 – 19. Verse 19 says “**All this, said David, the LORD made me understand in writing by his hand upon me, even all the works of this pattern.**” David knew before Solomon, what the Lord wanted Solomon to do

and he prepared all the tools he would need to be successful in following the Lords will for his life.

3. **Encouragement** - 1 Chronicles 28:20-21 Speaks of the encouragement David gave to Solomon to prepare him for what God wanted him to do. David told his son be strong, don't be scared or discouraged. David told him **“even my God will be with the”**. Have you ever passed anything of importance on to your children? I imagine Solomon saw what God did for David so when David told him **“even my God will be with thee”** it really meant something to Solomon. David told him God will not fail or forsake you. He told him if you serve God everybody else will be with you also.
4. Our training and the situations we have been in made us hard. Often with our children, we either do everything for them because we must be in control to ensure it was done right or we make them learn the hard way giving orders instead of direction because that's how we were trained and it is the only way we know to teach.
5. God gives us the example of the greatest warrior taking the time to give advice, be encouraging, and provide the tools his son needed to serve God. We are a product of how we were trained,

if we train our children the way we were trained they will be a product of how we were trained. The way we were trained worked well in the environment that we were being prepared for but it doesn't always work well in service to the Lord. David understood that Solomon's mission for God was different than his mission for God and David did everything he could to prepare his son for that mission.

6. It is imperative that we train our children for their mission for God, not the mission God had us, the only way to do that is to do exactly what David did. Consult God on your children's mission. Just like God did for David, He will give you all the advice, tools, and encouragement you will need to prepare your children for their mission for God. If we don't follow this example we are failing not only God but we are setting our children on the wrong path from the beginning.

King David's Psalm on the Subject

Psalm 145 1 (David's Psalm of praise.) I will extol thee, my God, O king; and I will bless thy name for ever and ever. 2 Every day will I bless thee; and I will praise thy name for ever and ever. 3 Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; and his greatness is unsearchable. 4 One generation shall praise thy

works to another, and shall declare thy mighty acts. 5 I will speak of the glorious honour of thy majesty, and of thy wondrous works. 6 And men shall speak of the might of thy terrible acts: and I will declare thy greatness. 7 They shall abundantly utter the memory of thy great goodness, and shall sing of thy righteousness. 8 The LORD is gracious, and full of compassion; slow to anger, and of great mercy. 9 The LORD is good to all: and his tender mercies are over all his works. 10 All thy works shall praise thee, O LORD; and thy saints shall bless thee. 11 They shall speak of the glory of thy kingdom, and talk of thy power; 12 To make known to the sons of men his mighty acts, and the glorious majesty of his kingdom. 13 Thy kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and thy dominion endureth throughout all generations. 14 The LORD upholdeth all that fall, and raiseth up all those that be bowed down. 15 The eyes of all wait upon thee; and thou givest them their meat in due season. 16 Thou openest thine hand, and satisfiest the desire of every living thing. 17 The LORD is righteous in all his ways, and holy in all his works. 18 The LORD is nigh unto all them that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth. 19 He will fulfil the desire of them that fear him: he also will hear their cry, and will save them. 20 The LORD preserveth all them that love him: but all the wicked will he destroy. 21 My mouth shall speak the praise

of the LORD: and let all flesh bless his holy name for ever and ever.

David's Comfort from the Psalm

It seems clear from this Psalm that David's intent for his son and example to us for our children is to cause them to lift and depend on God. **“One generation shall praise thy works to another, and shall declare thy mighty acts.”**, **“They shall abundantly utter the memory of thy great goodness, and shall sing of thy righteousness.”**, **“To make known to the sons of men his mighty acts, and the glorious majesty of his kingdom.”**

Life Application

Our mission for God was much like David's, defend our freedom to worship and serve God. If we train our children for our mission, they may never know their mission, and we have done nothing to prepare them for their mission. We need to ask God what our children's mission is and then be prepared to continue our service to God by preparing the advice, tools, and encouragement they need for their mission.

Charge and Discussion

What did God do for David in this experience? God told David what He wanted his son to do for Him and then supplied David with what he needed to help prepare his son.

What did David have to do that was critical to God being able to help him? David had to realize that his mission for God was different than his sons mission for God and then be willing to learn a new way of training to prepare his son.

What should we be doing so God can give us the same comfort David had in his life? Ask God to reveal the advice, tools, and encouragement we need to prepare our children for service to God, and then do all you can to support the mission God has for them.

Lesson #20: King David's Legacy

Lesson Objective: The purpose of this lesson is to help us understand that the physical things we do on this earth will one day burn up but the spiritual contributions we make will live eternally.

Introduction: King David is approximately 70 years old and at the end of his life. Right up to the end he battled Satan. While on his death bed one of his other sons attempted to become heir to Israel so David turned the throne over to Solomon while he still lived. As he prepared to die David's concern was still focused on the wellbeing of God's people.

Lesson Text

David was on his death bed

1 Kings 1:1-4 1 Now king David was old and stricken in years; and they covered him with clothes, but he gat no heat. 2 Wherefore his servants said unto him, Let there be sought for my lord the king a young virgin: and let her stand before the king, and let her cherish him, and let her lie in thy bosom, that my lord the king may get heat. 3 So they sought for a fair damsel throughout all the coasts of Israel, and found Abishag a Shunammite, and brought her to the king. 4 And the damsel was very fair, and cherished the

king, and ministered to him: but the king knew her not.

Adonijah tried to overthrow the throne of Israel

1 Kings 1:5-10 5 Then Adonijah the son of Haggith exalted himself, saying, I will be king: and he prepared him chariots and horsemen, and fifty men to run before him. 6 And his father had not displeased him at any time in saying, Why hast thou done so? and he also was a very goodly man; and his mother bare him after Absalom. 7 And he conferred with Joab the son of Zeruiah, and with Abiathar the priest: and they following Adonijah helped him. 8 But Zadok the priest, and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, and Nathan the prophet, and Shimei, and Rei, and the mighty men which belonged to David, were not with Adonijah. 9 And Adonijah slew sheep and oxen and fat cattle by the stone of Zoheleth, which is by Enrogel, and called all his brethren the king's sons, and all the men of Judah the king's servants: 10 But Nathan the prophet, and Benaiah, and the mighty men, and Solomon his brother, he called not.

Bathsheba and Nathan tell David of the plan

1 Kings 1:11-30 11 Wherefore Nathan spake unto Bathsheba the mother of Solomon, saying, Hast thou not heard that Adonijah the son of Haggith doth reign, and David our lord knoweth it not? 12 Now therefore come, let me, I pray thee, give thee counsel, that thou mayest save thine own life, and the life of thy son Solomon. 13 Go and get thee in unto king David, and say unto him, Didst not thou, my lord, O king, swear unto thine

handmaid, saying, Assuredly Solomon thy son shall reign after me, and he shall sit upon my throne? why then doth Adonijah reign? 14 Behold, while thou yet talkest there with the king, I also will come in after thee, and confirm thy words. 15 And Bathsheba went in unto the king into the chamber: and the king was very old; and Abishag the Shunammite ministered unto the king. 16 And Bathsheba bowed, and did obeisance unto the king. And the king said, What wouldest thou? 17 And she said unto him, My lord, thou swarest by the LORD thy God unto thine handmaid, saying, Assuredly Solomon thy son shall reign after me, and he shall sit upon my throne. 18 And now, behold, Adonijah reigneth; and now, my lord the king, thou knowest it not: 19 And he hath slain oxen and fat cattle and sheep in abundance, and hath called all the sons of the king, and Abiathar the priest, and Joab the captain of the host: but Solomon thy servant hath he not called. 20 And thou, my lord, O king, the eyes of all Israel are upon thee, that thou shouldest tell them who shall sit on the throne of my lord the king after him. 21 Otherwise it shall come to pass, when my lord the king shall sleep with his fathers, that I and my son Solomon shall be counted offenders. 22 And, lo, while she yet talked with the king, Nathan the prophet also came in. 23 And they told the king, saying, Behold Nathan the prophet. And when he was come in before the king, he bowed himself before the king with his face to the ground. 24 And Nathan said, My lord, O king, hast thou said, Adonijah shall reign after me, and he shall sit upon my throne? 25 For he is gone down this day, and hath slain oxen and fat cattle and sheep in abundance, and hath called all the king's sons, and the captains of the host, and Abiathar the priest; and, behold,

they eat and drink before him, and say, God save king Adonijah. 26 But me, even me thy servant, and Zadok the priest, and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, and thy servant Solomon, hath he not called. 27 Is this thing done by my lord the king, and thou hast not shewed it unto thy servant, who should sit on the throne of my lord the king after him? 28 Then king David answered and said, Call me Bathsheba. And she came into the king's presence, and stood before the king. 29 And the king sware, and said, As the LORD liveth, that hath redeemed my soul out of all distress, 30 Even as I sware unto thee by the LORD God of Israel, saying, Assuredly Solomon thy son shall reign after me, and he shall sit upon my throne in my stead; even so will I certainly do this day. Then Bathsheba bowed with her face to the earth, and did reverence to the king, and said, Let my lord king David live for ever.

David made Solomon king of Israel

1 Kings 1:32-35 32 And king David said, Call me Zadok the priest, and Nathan the prophet, and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada. And they came before the king. 33 The king also said unto them, Take with you the servants of your lord, and cause Solomon my son to ride upon mine own mule, and bring him down to Gihon: 34 And let Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet anoint him there king over Israel: and blow ye with the trumpet, and say, God save king Solomon. 35 Then ye shall come up after him, that he may come and sit upon my throne; for he shall be king in my stead: and I have appointed him to be ruler over Israel and over Judah.

David charged Solomon to follow God

1 Kings 2:1-9 1 Now the days of David drew nigh that he should die; and he charged Solomon his son, saying, 2 I go the way of all the earth: be thou strong therefore, and shew thyself a man; 3 And keep the charge of the LORD thy God, to walk in his ways, to keep his statutes, and his commandments, and his judgments, and his testimonies, as it is written in the law of Moses, that thou mayest prosper in all that thou doest, and whithersoever thou turnest thyself: 4 That the LORD may continue his word which he spake concerning me, saying, If thy children take heed to their way, to walk before me in truth with all their heart and with all their soul, there shall not fail thee (said he) a man on the throne of Israel. 5 Moreover thou knowest also what Joab the son of Zeruah did to me, and what he did to the two captains of the hosts of Israel, unto Abner the son of Ner, and unto Amasa the son of Jether, whom he slew, and shed the blood of war in peace, and put the blood of war upon his girdle that was about his loins, and in his shoes that were on his feet. 6 Do therefore according to thy wisdom, and let not his hoar head go down to the grave in peace. 7 But shew kindness unto the sons of Barzillai the Gileadite, and let them be of those that eat at thy table: for so they came to me when I fled because of Absalom thy brother. 8

And, behold, thou hast with thee Shimei the son of Gera, a Benjamite of Bahurim, which cursed me with a grievous curse in the day when I went to Mahanaim: but he came down to meet me at Jordan, and I sware to him by the LORD, saying, I will not put thee to death with the sword. 9 Now therefore hold him not guiltless: for thou art a wise man, and knowest what thou oughtest to do unto him; but his hoar head bring thou down to the grave with blood.

David died

1 Kings 2:10-11 10 So David slept with his fathers, and was buried in the city of David. 11 And the days that David reigned over Israel were forty years: seven years reigned he in Hebron, and thirty and three years reigned he in Jerusalem.

Lesson Points

1. David began as a simple shepherd boy, from a poor family, the youngest of eight brothers. He seemingly wasn't destined for greatness but what made him great from the very first day he appeared in scripture was his willingness to serve The Lord.
2. Simply because he was willing to serve God used him in great ways.

- a) He organized Israel's Army.
 - b) He set up the system of worship.
 - c) He organized the system of administering Israel's government.
 - d) He built Israel's Palace.
 - e) He prepared everything that was needed to build God's temple.
 - f) He wrote Psalms that are used in worship.
 - g) He expanded, built, and protected God's kingdom and people.
 - h) He returned the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem.
 - i) God said he was a man after His own heart.
3. On his death bed David's concern continued to be the work of his God as he told his son, the next king, **3 And keep the charge of the LORD thy God, to walk in his ways, to keep his statutes, and his commandments,**

and his judgments, and his testimonies, as it is written in the law of Moses, that thou mayest prosper in all that thou doest, and whithersoever thou turnest thyself: 4 That the LORD may continue his word which he spake concerning me, saying, If thy children take heed to their way, to walk before me in truth with all their heart and with all their soul, there shall not fail thee (said he) a man on the throne of Israel.

4. Because David was willing to live for God, God could use David as an example for so many people. Here we are generations after his death reaping the benefits of David's life by his example. David could have chosen to focus his life on material things and took over the family business. David could have gone to another kingdom and been successful. David could have focused on what his desires were for his children and ensured they were famous athletes or scholars, but those things will only last as long as he lasted on this earth. Praise the Lord, David chose to be a servant of God and passed to his son a legacy that will last for eternity.
5. On more than one occasion, a veteran has looked at me and said you don't know the

things I've done, I couldn't possibly come to church. But because of David's legacy I can tell them about the greatest warrior the world has ever known and tell them that God said he was a man after God's own heart. Because of David's legacy, we can look at a bus kid who thinks he is destined to continue the life of his family and tell him about a poor shepherd boy who was willing to be used of God and became the King of Israel. Because of David's legacy we can tell someone who is having problems with sin about God's willingness to restore them if they will only repent. Because of David's legacy I can tell a veteran who is battling anxiety, PTSD, and depression about a warrior who dealt with the same issues, who depended on God, and he was able to overcome it.

6. Can you imagine the conversations David is having in Heaven today with people his life influenced? I can't wait to see David, thank him for the life he lived, and tell him what a help he was to so many veterans that came after him. Can you imagine the conversations David and his son Solomon have?

7. What is your legacy going to be? Once we are gone will we be in heaven talking to brothers and sisters that our life effected or will all our life's work burn up with the earth. Old men often consider the legacy they leave, but the legacy of service to the Lord isn't left behind it's carried with you for eternity.

King David's Psalm on the Subject

Psalm 78:1-8 1 (Maschil of Asaph.) Give ear, O my people, to my law: incline your ears to the words of my mouth. 2 I will open my mouth in a parable: I will utter dark sayings of old: 3 Which we have heard and known, and our fathers have told us.4 We will not hide them from their children, shewing to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and his strength, and his wonderful works that he hath done. 5 For he established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers, that they should make them known to their children: 6 That the generation to come might know them, even the children which should be born; who should arise and declare them to their children: 7 That they might set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments: 8 And might not be as their fathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation; a generation that set not their

heart aright, and whose spirit was not steadfast with God.

David's Comfort from the Psalm

I think it prudent as we speak of David's legacy and how it affected others, to review a Psalm of Asaph, a man that David influenced. The first eight verses of this Psalm speak clearly to our need to concentrate on eternal things and have a legacy that places importance on passing God's glory on to the next generation so they will not make the mistakes we made.

Life Application

What will your legacy be? How will our children and those we have contact with here on earth be effected by our lives? Will all your accomplishments burn up with the earth or will they be eternal? Satan would have us focus our time on things that won't last any longer than we do. Satan wants us to focus our time on making money, sports, entertainment, and education but it's all going to burn up one day. What will you have to talk about in heaven? Just like that poor, youngest shepherd boy who became a king, all it takes for us to leave an eternal legacy is the will to serve and depend on God.

Charge and Discussion

What did God do for David in this experience?

God gave David an opportunity to make his life count. God gave David an opportunity to leave a legacy that will be useful to his children and for those his life was able to influence.

What did David have to do that was critical to

God being able to help him? All David had to do was have a will to serve God, and then do it.

What should we be doing so God can give us the

same comfort David had in his life? To leave a legacy that will be useful to our children and last for an eternity we simply have to be willing to serve God by setting aside meaningless temporal things and concentrate on the eternal.

Future Lesson Template

Lesson Objective: What do I want the group to learn from the lesson that is applicable to their lives?

Introduction: Set the scene for what is happening in the text verses. What happened leading up to our text situation?

Lesson Text

Include as much of the story line text as possible without it being too lengthy a good introduction will help.

Lesson Points

List the points you want to make that are applicable to the lesson objective and veterans' lives. Use reference verses from other areas of scripture to support each point if necessary.

Life Application

Relate the lesson points to situations that veterans deal with today to show the group that dependence on God is the key to comfort and success in life.

Charge and Discussion

How does what we discussed in the lesson today relate to your life? What are some things you could do to increase your dependence on God?

The Enigma of Christian Life

Lesson Objective: The purpose of this lesson is to help us understand that the fact God can see everything, is good for us not bad.

Introduction: How does it make you feel when you hear someone say, “God can see everything you do”? Often when we were kids this was a way of scaring us in to being good. Even today when you hear it said it sometimes brings up negative feelings. What if I told you the fact that God sees everything should bring you peace.

Lesson Text

Psalm 19:1-14 1 (To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David.) The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork. 2 Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge. 3 There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard. 4 Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun, 5 Which is as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, and rejoiceth as a strong man to run a race. 6 His going forth is from the end of the heaven, and his circuit unto the ends of it: and there is nothing hid from the heat thereof. 7 The law of the LORD is

perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. 8 The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes. 9 The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. 10 More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. 11 Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward. 12 Who can understand his errors? cleanse thou me from secret faults. 13 Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression. 14 Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer.

Lesson Points

1. Everything is of God, seen by God, and in God's control. God can see everything we do. (Read 1-6) Often to scare us into doing right, we are told God sees everything and that is somehow the purpose for God being able to see everything. That entire philosophy just doesn't make sense. God knows that we are imperfect and sinful, He loves us, but He

holds us to a standard that He knows is impossible for us to meet? There must be a missing piece somewhere. It's almost like there is some code that must be broken for us to understand His plan. However, we know that just being good isn't enough to have a God filled life or satisfy salvation for that matter.

2. It's like the German enigma machines of World War 2; the allies didn't understand the codes but were living the effects of the codes that were being passed through those machines. They knew if they could just break the code they could then understand the messages and utilize the information they gained to help in the effort. That's kind of like where we are with God. We know He loves us, we know what He expects of us, but we also know that He knows we have a sin nature and can't meet the standard. It's like there is a missing code and we need it to understand the plan.
3. If everything about God and His plan for us is perfect, where do I fit in as an imperfect person? (Read 7-11) Even if I look and act like a Christian, my thoughts often don't reflect how I look and act. It seems as if God

knows everything and is in control of everything but just forgot or didn't consider our sin nature?

4. Let's flip our thinking, should we be scared because God sees all or comforted by it? God seeing, knowing, and being in control of everything is a wonderful thing, that means He knows how to look out for us.

5. God knew about and considered our sin nature, he gave us the code, and tells us the benefit of using the code that He gave us. (Read 7-11) "The **law of the LORD** is perfect, converting the soul:" "the **testimony of the LORD** is sure, making wise the simple." "The **statutes of the LORD** are right, rejoicing the heart:" "the **commandment of the LORD** is pure, enlightening the eyes." "The **fear of the LORD** is clean, enduring for ever:" "the **judgments of the LORD** are true and righteous altogether." We get confused on this but He tells us in verse 10 and 11 that following this code is the most important thing in our life and following it is the only path to satisfaction in life.

6. You might say, I see God gave us the code, I see how God knowing and seeing everything is good for me, but I have a hard time following Gods code. (Read 12-14) God didn't just give us the code and expect us to know how to use it. He knew because of our sin nature we would have some problems so in addition to the code he gave us an interpreter, The Holy Spirit, a trainer of sorts to help us along the way. Just like everything else the more we are trained the better we get at it but he is always there for questions. Furthermore, God knows complacency kills and if we become complacent He is there for refresher training.

Life Application

If we are truly trying to live for God, it should give us comfort to know that God sees everything because that means He can look out for us. Next time you hear someone say God sees everything, you should think praise the Lord, what comfort there is in that. On the contrary if you aren't really trying to live for God, He does know that also and you shouldn't think you can fool him or expect any comfort.

What's Your Rank in God's Army

Lesson Objective: The purpose of this lesson is to help the group understand we all have a place in the war against Satan and it is up to us as to how effective we are.

Introduction: Paul is writing his last letter, to Timothy. Paul's sees this letter as an opportunity to pass advice to his adopted son Timothy. Paul is giving Timothy advice concerning what is necessary for Timothy to be prepared and for Timothy to prepare others for Christian service.

Lesson Text

II Timothy 2:1-4 1 Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. 2 And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also. 3 Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. 4 No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.

Lesson Points

1. Why do you think the Lord uses the military, waring, soldier references in so many passages?

2 Corinthians 10:3&4 3For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh:

4 (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)

Ephesians 6:11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

2. God uses military references because He wants us to understand that this spiritual opposition that we are talking about is a literal war, just as literal as any conflict that any of us served in. The battle lines of this war were drawn long ago when Satan opposed God and a third of the angels joined him.
3. Just like you fought to secure the physical freedom of people around the world, this war is to secure the spiritual freedom of people around the world. In physical wars after a few

years allies change and motives change so that often it seems the players just trade places. But the effects of this war are eternal. The spoils of this war will last for eternity in the souls that will exist in Heaven or the souls that will exist in the eternal torment of Hell.

4. Who is the enemy in this spiritual war? **1 Peter 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:** Scripture identifies Satan as our adversary and explains to us what his intent is “seeking whom he may devour”. Satan’s goal is to maintain the souls that are born to him and in doing so deprive them of the peace we enjoy as Christians on earth and the eternal reward of heaven. Misery loves company, Satan knows where his eternal destination is and just like the adage says he wants to take as many as he can with him.

5. Once we have enlisted what are our orders in this war? **II Timothy 2:1-3 1 Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. 2 And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.**

3 Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.

- a) **“be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses”** We are to hold to the grace and promises of Jesus that we trusted in when we were saved. Satan knows that once saved we are destined for Heaven but he also knows that if he can turn us he can make us miserable while we are on earth and use us to deter others from being saved.

- b) **“the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also”** We are to tell others about the war, in hopes of making them realize that it exists and enlist them in the fight.

- c) **“Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ”** Just because we are secured and destined for Heaven doesn't mean Satan is going to give up on us. He will do everything he can to keep us

out of the fight. Expect “hardness” but we are commanded and God has given us the tools to endure the hardness Satan puts before us.

d) If God were to do an evaluation, how do you think He would rate you in the criteria of being a good soldier, being strong in your faith, telling others about the war and enlisting them, enduring hardness that comes with service.

6. What is your rank in this war? In God’s Army, you get to choose your rank and position by how willing you are to serve Him. God needs NCO’s but He gives us the tools and wants us all to be generals. Have you ever heard “with rank comes privilege”? It’s the same in Gods army, in that the higher position you hold the more comfort you get because you are closer to Him.
7. By your actions or inactions in physical war you are placed into rank or positions. This spiritual war against Satan is no different, by your action or inaction you hold a rank or position. What rank or position do you hold? Are you a **general** who came up through the

ranks being used of God, leading in the ministry He put you in? Are you an **NCO** learning to lead in the ministry God chose for you, preparing to replace the general? Are you a newly enlisted **private** eager to come up the ranks looking and praying about where God wants you to serve? Are you a **prisoner of war** who is saved but is allowing Satan to keep you out of the fight for some reason? Are you a **traitor** who knows salvation but because of the self-gratification of sin chooses to live as the world does? Are you a **lost refugee** whose life is full of turmoil, you don't understand why it's like that but if you could get relief you would.

Life Application

The problems we deal with in life are not just occurring by chance any more than the actions of any other war occur by chance, it's the enemy. Satan is on the attack because he knows he isn't going to win this war against God, therefore, his only hope is to continue attacking us hoping we fall so we can't be useful to God in His efforts to bring in others. Our options are become a trained operator in God's Army or be a victim to Satan.

