

After God's Heart

David Under Fire
Taken from 1 Samuel
Chapters 18, 19, 21, and 23

Lesson 7

FIRST DAY: Review and Overview

1. What part of your study on David as a young man lingers with you today?

2. In Psalm 119:67 the psalmist exclaims, *Before I was afflicted, I went astray, but now I keep Your word.* No one likes affliction, yet God uses affliction to refine, shape, and teach His servants. Before David could advance to claim the throne of Israel he needed to be refined, shaped, and taught dependency on God through various afflictions. Through these afflictions God was preparing David to be a godly king. Read the Scriptures highlighted below and comment on the various afflictions God used to shape His king:
 - a. 1 Samuel 18:8-9, 11, 29; 19:1a

 - b. 1 Samuel 21:10-15

 - c. 1 Samuel 23:7-8, 12

 - d. 1 Samuel 23:14, 25

3. Prayer is not only intimate communication with our God, but also a powerful weapon against evil. Take a moment now to pray.

Whenever I am afraid, I will trust in You.
Psalm 56:3

SECOND DAY: Taken from 1 Samuel Chapters 18 and 19

1. David prospered after the Spirit of the LORD came upon him (1 Samuel 16:13).
Review 1 Samuel 18:5-9 and remark on David's testimony while serving King Saul.

2. From the following Scriptures note Saul's changing attitude toward David and comment on the situations that prompted it:
 - a. 1 Samuel 18:10-12

 - b. 1 Samuel 18:13-16

 - c. 1 Samuel 18:28-29
 - (1) The Lord was with David. How did this intensify the tension between them?

 - (2) When have you faced opposition because the Lord was with you?

 - (3) Read Psalm 27:1-2 and share how you can find comfort in such times.

3. Using the passages below remark on God's protection of David:
 - a. 1 Samuel 19:9-10

 - b. 1 Samuel 19:11-12

 - c. 1 Samuel 19:18-24
 - (1) How does God's protection of David minister to you?

 - (2) Share a time when you experienced the Lord's protection.

THIRD DAY: Read 1 Samuel 21

1. According to 1 Samuel 21:1, where did David go in his flight from Saul?
 - a. Record the lie David told Ahimelech the priest. 1 Samuel 21:2
2. Summarize what happened in 1 Samuel 21:3-6.
 - a. Read Matthew 12:1-8. What did Jesus say about this incident?
3. According to 1 Samuel 21:7, who else *was there that day*?
 - a. Link this with 1 Samuel 22:9-18 to describe the tragic results of *that day*.
 - b. According to 1 Samuel 22:22, David later acknowledged that his lie was responsible for this tragedy. Comment on this.
4. What did David ask of Ahimelech? 1 Samuel 21:8
 - a. What did Ahimelech give him? 1 Samuel 21:9
 - (1) What reminder might this *sword* have given David?
 - (2) Share a special reminder God gave you during a difficult time.
5. To whom did David flee after this? 1 Samuel 21:10
 - a. What did the *servants of Achish* report about David? 1 Samuel 21:11
6. Describe David's reaction when he heard *these words*. 1 Samuel 21:12-13
 - a. What reminder do you think *these words* should have given him? See 1 Samuel 21:11.
 - b. How do you suppose David was feeling at this time?
7. Comment on Achish's response to David's behavior. 1 Samuel 21:14-15
8. What evidences do you see that God was still with David during these difficult times?
 - a. Share a few evidences that remind you of God's presence.

FOURTH DAY: Read 1 Samuel 23:1-12

1. In 1 Samuel 22:5 the prophet Gad told David to flee to Judah. According to 1 Samuel 23:1, what happened while he was there?
2. What was David's first reaction to this news? 1 Samuel 23:2a
 - a. Contrast this with David's actions in 1 Samuel 21:2, 12-13. What does this reveal about David's perspective?
3. What did God tell David to do? 1 Samuel 23:2b
 - a. How did David's men respond? 1 Samuel 23:3
 - b. What did David do yet again? 1 Samuel 23:4a
 - (1) Link David's actions with Proverbs 3:5-6. What do you see?
 - (2) In what way is this a directive for you?
4. Briefly record the events of 1 Samuel 23:4b-6.
5. What happened when *Saul was told that David had gone to Keilah*? 1 Samuel 23:7-8
6. According to 1 Samuel 23:9-12, how did David respond to these things?
 - a. What did the Lord tell David? 1 Samuel 23:12b
 - b. How does this demonstrate the truth in Psalm 50:15?
7. What do you learn about God through this story? See also Psalm 18:3; 145:18.

FIFTH DAY: Read 1 Samuel 23:13-29

1. Briefly summarize the events of 1 Samuel 23:13-15.
 - a. Although *Saul sought him every day*, why was David unharmed? 1 Samuel 23:14b
 - (1) What does this convey to you about God?
 - (2) How does this minister to you?
2. Describe the treachery of the Ziphites. 1 Samuel 23:19-20
 - a. Comment on Saul's response to them. 1 Samuel 23:21-23
3. Observe the building tension of 1 Samuel 23:24-26. Note your observations.
4. From 1 Samuel 23:27-29 describe the turn of events.
 - a. How do you see God at work in this?
5. David wrote Psalm 54 in the midst of this episode involving the Ziphites. Read this Psalm and choose a few verses or phrases that minister to you. Share why.

SIXTH DAY: Read Psalm 56

1. Psalm 56 was written after the events of 1 Samuel 21:10-15. Comment on the following passages:
 - a. David's Predicament – Psalm 56:1-2

 - b. David's Resolve – Psalm 56:3-4, 10-11

 - c. David's Enemies – Psalm 56:5-7

 - d. David's Realization – Psalm 56:8-9

 - e. David's Prayer – Psalm 56:12-13

2. What portion of this Psalm ministers to you the most?

When I cry out to You, then my enemies will turn back; This I know, because God is for me.
Psalm 56:9