

# 1 SAMUEL

## David is Learning to Lead

1 Samuel 22

### Icebreaker

Do you like going into caves? Why or why not? What is a memorable experience you have had in a cave?

### Context

Last week, David had reached rock bottom. He has essentially had to leave everything behind: position, wife, best friend, reputation, and dignity, in order to escape Saul. We find him in a cave, but no longer alone. God starts building around David the beginning of a new royal household, though he is many experiences away from being prepared to be king.

At the same time, we see Saul's descent into greater and greater depravity. In today's passage, a person introduced last week reappears to cause great sorrow in Israel. But we also see how God uses the actions of others, even the sinful actions of others, to fulfill his purposes and plans.

### Discuss

1. The first sentence of verse 1 gives us the location of David, now read Psalm 142:1-6 and Psalm 57:1-4. What was David's state of mind when he got to the Cave of Andellum?

Now, read Psalm 147:7 & Psalm 57:5-11. In the midst of his most troubling times, what does David do by the end of each of these Psalms?

Application: Why is it hard to worship and praise God in the midst of difficult times?

2. Read 2 Corinthians 1:3-5. Do you think David was changed because of his suffering?
3. Read verses 2-5. What kind of people were being drawn to David? Do these people tend to follow authority very well? What changed that would make these ragtag malcontents into devoted followers of David?



Read 1 Peter 5:1-11. What traits should a leader display? What traits should a follower display?

Application: Read Matthew 9:11; Matthew 11:28; and 1 Corinthians 1:26. What kind of people will Jesus welcome to himself?

4. Why did David go to Moab? [Read Ruth 1:1-5 & Ruth 4:13-17] What is the significance that a prophet of God is present with David now?
5. Read verses 7-8. What is Saul trying to do in his appeal to the Benjamites? Based on his words in verse 7, do you think Saul showed favoritism to people of his own clan over others in Israel? Why is that a problem? Are Saul's accusations in verse 8 true (based on the information we have been given)? What do we learn of Saul's heart and attitude based on verse 8?
6. Read verses 9-10. Is Doeg really concerned about the truth or does he share this information about David with ulterior motives?
7. Read verses 11-15. What do you notice about how Saul addresses the priest in verse 12? Why is this ominous?
8. Based on the information revealed in the Bible, is Ahimelech being truthful about his interactions with David in 14-15? Do you think Ahimelech's answer in verse 14 made Saul appreciate what David had done for him or did it make Saul angry? Do you think there was an answer Ahimelech could have given that would appease Saul?
9. Read verses 16-19. Why were the guards unwilling to kill Ahimelech and the priests? Why was Doeg willing to do Saul's bidding? What are your thoughts about God using an enemy of Israel (Doeg) to kill a priest who appeared to be doing the right thing?

Read 1 Samuel 2:27-33. Does knowing that Ahimelech is a great-grandson of Eli change your opinion? How would you explain to a non-Christian God using a pagan like Doeg to punish an Israelite?

10. Read 1 Samuel 15:1-3 & 7-9. What do we learn about the character of Saul in verses 18-19 compared to his decision in chapter 15?
11. Read verses 20-23. What was David's sin according to these verses?

Application: What are some ways we can deal with being harmed by the consequences of someone else's sin spilling into our own lives?

