

## **Responsibility Small Group Guide**

**Warm-up Question:** (Choose one, make up your own, or skip this part all together, depending upon the nature of your group.)

1. Did you have any way of earning money growing up? Explain.
2. As a child, did you ever get in trouble for something somebody else did? Or, conversely, did anyone else ever get in trouble for something you did? Explain.

**Read the following passage:** 1 Samuel 17:4, 8-11, 32.

When David arrived at the battle field and heard Goliath defying the army of Israel, this was not the first time Goliath had made his speech; Goliath had been doing this for forty days. For forty days, the men of Israel listened to Goliath shout his threats, and for forty days nobody did anything. This event is a powerful reminder that hundreds or even thousands of people can show up, but if nobody owns the mission, nothing will happen. Things changed when David arrived because David owned the mission. He took responsibility when nobody else was willing to do so. This was a defining characteristic in David's life. He took ownership when predators threatened his family's flocks. He took ownership in his relationships. He took ownership of his failures. And, ultimately, he learned to own the grace of God.

**Questions for Discussion** (Choose several that are relevant for your group):

1. John F. Kennedy made famous the following statement: "Victory has a thousand fathers, but defeat is an orphan." In your experience, do you find this statement to be true? Explain. To what extent are you taking ownership of the success of the organizations or groups that you are a part of? Are you generally satisfied with meeting the requirements of your role, or do you see your success more closely tied to the success of the entire organization? Explain. Compare John 10:11-13.
2. Read 1 Samuel 24:1-7. Why was David conscience-stricken after cutting off the corner of Saul's robe? What can David's example teach us about how we approach difficult relationships?
3. In 1 Samuel 24:12, David tells Saul: "May the LORD judge between you and me. And may the LORD avenge the wrongs you have done to me, but my hand will not touch you." How did David process the injustice of what he was experiencing in his relationship with Saul? What can we learn from this?
4. In your relationships, do you have a solid foundation of healthy boundaries; that is, are you taking responsibility for your own actions, attitudes, and emotions and letting go of those things that are outside of your control? Explain.
5. After years of faithful leadership, David abused his power and committed several profoundly immoral acts. He took advantage of a woman named Bathsheba,

arranged for her husband's death, and attempted to cover it all up. This was a colossal failure. But because he eventually humbled himself and owned his sin, God had mercy on him. He experienced severe consequences for his actions, but he was able to move forward in hope because God was with him. How does the grace of God help us move past our deepest failures? Do you think it's possible to move past feelings of regret for our past sins? Explain. See 2 Corinthians 5:16 - 6:2.

6. What is one way you need to "own the mission" in this season of your life?
7. What is one way you need to practically embrace the grace of God?

### **Pray**