



DISCUSSION GUIDE

What is your favorite childhood memory and why? What makes that memory so special to you over all the others?

- Read Proverbs 6:16-19. When you hear "...a false witness who pours out lies..." what situation or memory comes to mind? How did lies (yours or someone else's) affect your life? What rationalizations have you heard for lying about others or situations?
- Pastor Tony talked about 5 different types of slander from David's life, beginning with God slander. Read 1 Samuel 17:8-11 and discuss what was missing from Goliath's perspective of God and His people, and what is often missing from ours.
- David and his brothers had a stormy relationship in this passage (1 Samuel 17:17-18, 26-30) and there were a number of untruths spoken. In your opinion, why is it so easy to struggle with truth speaking in family relationships, and what can we learn from David and his family?
- 1 Samuel 18:6-9. David's relationship issues continue after his success over Goliath when Saul's competitiveness and jealousy cause him to say things about his young protégé that are unfair and the opposite of David's intent. How has someone else's success caused you to put others down, even to the point of lying and losing your integrity?
- David had some legitimate issues in his life, and his relationship with Bathsheba probably tops the list (2 Samuel 11). Many of us struggle with how we think and speak of ourselves; but lying about ourselves is still...lying, or slander. How does David's prayer in Psalm 51:1-4 speak about David's level of integrity and self-knowledge? How does that encourage you in your interaction with God and others about yourself?
- Another common area of slander is to manipulate others to your preferred ends, and Absalom is a picture-perfect example (2 Samuel 15:1-6.) Being a prince wasn't enough; he was unhappy about his lot and role, so he chose to lie and stage a coup d'état, or a hostile takeover. By the end of the story, it turns out badly for Absalom. In what ways have you bought into this mindset, and how has God revealed steps you need to take to make things right?
- Review the four takeaways in the message notes and discuss which of these you need to take next steps in, and how you can spur each other on to healthy, truthful relationships!

PERSONAL GUIDE

Day 1: Read Psalm 81

Day 2: Read Psalm 82

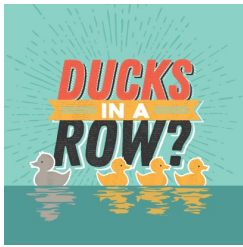
Day 3: Read Psalm 83

Day 4: Read Psalm 84

Day 5: Read Psalm 85



**MESSAGE NOTES & SMALL GROUP
DISCUSSION || PERSONAL GUIDES**



“Slingin’ Dirt”

[Tony Myles, Student Ministries Pastor]

MESSAGE NOTES

“Have you heard the latest?”

- *Proverbs 6:19a*: “...a false witness who pours out lies.”
- Slander is a harmful _____ about a story or character someone else hasn’t seen.
- Two reasons we give in to this:
 - ◇ The pressure to have a _____
 - ◇ The human nature of conclusions

Lessons on slander from the life of David...

_____ slander (*I Samuel 17:8-11*)

- Commonly: Culturally-based or human-sized perspective.
- Reality: If you knew who God really was you’d _____ to Him right now.
- Action step:

_____ slander (*I Samuel 17:17-18, 26-30*)

- Commonly: Misunderstood familiarity
- Reality: It’s hard to _____ in general, let alone in front of people
- Action step:

_____ slander (*I Samuel 18:6-9*) *For I said, ‘I will never harm the king—he is the Lord’s anointed one.’ (I Samuel 24:10b, NLT)*

- Commonly: Work, school or extracurriculars
- Reality: It’s more about our _____ or entitlements than their success
- Action step:

_____ slander (*II Samuel 11:1-6, 26-27, Psalm 51:1-4*)

- Commonly: We present ourselves as overly-idealized or overly-flawed.
- Reality: We’re continually reintroducing ourselves, but it only works when we’re _____.
- Action step:

_____ slander (*II Samuel 15:1-6*)

- Commonly: Strategic and _____
- Reality: When life isn’t going your way, you will either grow bitter or _____.
- Action step:

So are my ducks in a row?

- There are always real _____ on the other side of our assumptions.
- Conflict is inevitable—slander is not.
- When we slander, we become the _____ ones.
- You will either fill the gap between you and another person with _____ or _____.

Don’t miss this: When you throw mud at another person, you _____.

Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey. You can also use the Connect Card to let us know about your commitment, too!



“Slingin’ Dirt”

[Tony Myles, Student Ministries Pastor]

MESSAGE NOTES

“Have you heard the latest?”

- Proverbs 6:19a: “...a false witness who pours out lies.”
- Slander is a harmful spoiler about a story or character someone else hasn’t seen.
- Two reasons we give into this:
 - The pressure to have a take
 - The human nature of conclusions

Lessons on slander from the life of David...

God slander: (1 Samuel 17:8-11)

- Commonly: Culturally-based or human-sized perspective.
- Reality: If you knew who God really was you’d say YES to Him right now
- Action step:

Family slander (1 Sam 17:17-18, 26-30)

- Commonly: Misunderstood familiarity
- Reality: It’s hard to grow up in general, let alone in front of people
- Action step:

Competitive slander (1 Samuel 18:6-9)

- Commonly: Work, school or extracurriculars
- Reality: It’s more about our insecurities or entitlements than their success
- Action step:

Self-slander (2 Samuel 11:1-6, 26-27, Psalm 51:1-4)

- Commonly: We present ourselves as overly- idealized or overly-flawed.
- Reality: We’re continually reintroducing ourselves, but it only works when we’re honest.
- Action step:

Manipulative slander (2 Samuel 15:1-6)

- Commonly: Strategic and subversive
- Reality: When life isn’t going your way, you will either grow bitter or better.
- Action step:

So are my ducks in a row?

- There are always real people on the other side of our assumptions.
- Conflict is inevitable – slander is not.
- When we slander, we become the guilty ones.

- You will either fill the gap between you and another person with trust or suspicion.

Don't miss this: When you throw mud at another person, you lose ground.

Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey. You can also use the Connect Card to let us know about your commitment, too!