

Reflection and Discussion

Sermon Series	Pursuit, a study of David
Sermon Title	Cup of cold water
Bible Texts	1 Samuel 30
Date	November 26, 2023

CONNECT – Getting to know one another

- Question 1: Has there been a time when you thought that all was lost, but the Lord strengthened you in the midst of the circumstance?
- Question 2: Describe a generous act that you have witnessed lately. What impact did this example make on you?
- Question 3: Do you ever find it difficult to share with others if you have done most or all of the work?

Take a few minutes to read 1 Samuel 30. This is the last adventure of David before the death of Saul. For several years he has been fleeing for his life from Saul and learning many lessons of faith, character, and leadership. How is he doing in this story?

EQUIP – Understanding God's word

When David and his men returned to Ziklag, the town had been burned and all the people and goods were captured and carried off by the Amalekites.

- Question 4: What was the first reaction of David and his men upon seeing the destruction? Why might the men's response to David have been justified?
- Question 5: In the midst of disaster, "David strengthened himself in the Lord His God" (v 6). What steps might he have taken to do this?
- Question 6: As David makes plans, he inquires of the Lord through Abiathar, the priest. How are you encouraged by David's example? Who would you turn to if you needed godly counsel?

When David had received word from the LORD that he would succeed in the rescue, he took off with his 600 men to pursue the attackers. When they encountered a ravine, some of his men were too exhausted to cross, so they stayed behind there with the supplies. Those who continued the pursuit encountered an Egyptian man, alone and weak.

- Question 7: How did David and his men treat the Egyptian they found? Did their response surprise you?
- Question 8: Do you think the encounter of David and his men with the Egyptian slave was a simple accident? Why?
- Question 9: Did David and his men show any hesitancy about receiving God's pivotal help from an abandoned Egyptian slave?

Question 10: What did David recover after the battle was over? What do you find remarkable about the success of David's battle and rescue of the captives?

Question 11: What was the response of some of the returning soldiers to those who had stayed behind?

Question 12: Despite the grumblings from some, David said "No" it would not be that way. What were David's reasons for doing this? (There's an interesting parallel in Matthew 10:42.)

Question 13: Was David's decision justice or generosity? If it was both, why are they the same in this case?

Question 14: What does this teach us about who are the most important in the work of God's kingdom?

Question 15: With whom else did David share the plunder and why?

Question 16: How many incidents of generosity and mercy do you see in this story?

This story is rich with characters and drama, and in many ways is about us and our faith journey.

Question 17: How are we (or have we been) like David's men?

- experiencing loss
- being tired
- being courageous
- being a troublemaker

Question 18: How are we like the families that were rescued?

Question 19: How are we like the rejected Egyptian slave?

Question 20: How is David like Jesus in this story?

DISCIPLESHIP – Becoming and doing

Question 21: How can we be more generous sharing with others the gifts bestowed on us by God even if others can give nothing in return? (Psalm 24:1)

Question 22: How can we, as sinners, pardoned by grace, show grace to others in our sphere of influence?

Question 23: In what practical ways might you show generosity during the upcoming season of Thanksgiving and Christmas?

Question 24: Help can be found in our church body for those who have difficult decisions to make. Will you seek godly counsel the next time you find yourself confused about God's will for you?