

## Study 4



### Warm Up

1. Greeting / Refreshments / Get Acquainted
2. Prayer & Praise List / Group Fund
3. Testimony Sharing



### Overview of Today's Study

**Text:**

**1 Samuel 24**

**Lesson Title:**

***Learning to Let God Drive***

**Lesson Main Idea:** As God developed David for the role of the next King of Israel, He had to bring David to a place of absolute reliance upon God's leadership in his life. If David was to perform as king the way God needed him to, David could not be drunk with pride and power always taking matters into his own hands as Saul had. David would have to know when to act and when not to act in the events of his life. Only through a deep connection with God would David be able to sense God's lead in his life. So God permits an opportunity for David that will prove to bring David's thinking in perfect parallel to God's.

### 🔑 Today's Key Question 🔑

How can Christians know whether or not they should act or let God act in an event in their lives?



## Connecting the Study

Last time we studied how David was seeking God and choosing God's way of doing life. David lived his life in a godly way even though life was not going the way one might think life should go. Did David get mad at God and rebel against God and start acting outside of godly principles? No. In fact, the events David had to go through not only kept him close to God, it brought him closer. David was developing spiritual sight and able to see God's hand in the circumstances of his life. David chose to trust God's care for him. David was becoming more and more prepared to take on his role as the next King of Israel.

Today's study will reveal just how mature David's faith had become. We will see David choose a God honoring path despite physical circumstances, opportunity, and advice from close friends.



## Bible Study

### Read 1 Samuel 24:1-22

**A. What do these verses tell us?** (What happened? What was taught?)

**24:1-3** And it came to pass, when Saul was returned from following the Philistines, that it was told him, saying, Behold, David is in the wilderness of En-gedi. Then Saul took three thousand chosen men out of all Israel, and went to seek David and his men upon the rocks of the wild goats. And he came to the shepercotes by the way, where was a cave; and Saul went in to cover his feet: and David and his men remained in the sides of the cave. **Saul is on the hunt for David and has to take a restroom break. It just so happens that this is the same cave where David and some of his men are hiding.**

## Studying the Life of David

David's life shows that close connection with God can carry us through the most painful times in our lives.

**24:4-5** And the men of David said unto him, Behold the day of which the LORD said unto thee, Behold, I will deliver thine enemy into thine hand, that thou mayest do to him as it shall seem good unto thee. Then David arose, and cut off the skirt of Saul's robe privily. And it came to pass afterward, that David's heart smote him, because he had cut off Saul's skirt. **David has the opportunity to execute justice, ease his own life circumstances, advance his career, and could do so with the advice and encouragement of his close friends. Instead he takes a piece of Saul's robe and even feels guilty for doing this.**

**24:6-7** And he said unto his men, The LORD forbid that I should do this thing unto my master, the LORD's anointed, to stretch forth mine hand against him, seeing he is the anointed of the LORD. So David stayed his servants with these words, and suffered them not to rise against Saul. But Saul rose up out of the cave, and went on his way. **David tells those encouraging him to kill Saul that in no way does he feel that this is God's will and stops those under his command from harming Saul. And Saul exits the cave apparently clueless to the danger he was in.**

**24:8-15** David also arose afterward, and went out of the cave, and cried after Saul, saying, My lord the king. And when Saul looked behind him, David stooped with his face to the earth, and bowed himself. And David said to Saul, Wherefore hearest thou men's words, saying, Behold, David seeketh thy hurt? Behold, this day thine eyes have seen how that the LORD had delivered thee to day into mine hand in the cave: and some bade me kill thee: but mine eye spared thee; and I said, I will not put forth mine hand against my lord; for he is the LORD's anointed. Moreover, my father, see, yea, see the skirt of thy robe in my hand: for in that I cut off the skirt of thy robe and killed thee not, know thou and see that there is neither evil nor transgression in mine hand, and I have not sinned against thee; yet thou huntest my soul to take it. The LORD judge between me and thee, and the LORD avenge me of thee: but mine hand shall not be upon thee. As saith the proverb of the ancients, Wickedness proceedeth from the wicked: but mine hand shall not be upon thee. After whom is the king of Israel come out? after whom dost thou pursue? after a dead dog, after a flea. The LORD

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therefore be judge, and judge between me and thee, and see, and plead my cause, and deliver me out of thine hand. David humbly approaches Saul, proves to Saul he just had the opportunity to kill him and then communicates to Saul and everyone listening that he (David) would take no action to alter his situation but would let God act.

**24:16-22** And it came to pass, when David had made an end of speaking these words unto Saul, that Saul said, Is this thy voice, my son David? And Saul lifted up his voice, and wept. And he said to David, Thou art more righteous than I: for thou hast rewarded me good, whereas I have rewarded thee evil. And thou hast shewed this day how that thou hast dealt well with me: forasmuch as when the LORD had delivered me into thine hand, thou killedst me not. For if a man find his enemy, will he let him go well away? wherefore the LORD reward thee good for that thou hast done unto me this day. 20 And now, behold, I know well that thou shalt surely be king, and that the kingdom of Israel shall be established in thine hand. Swear now therefore unto me by the LORD, that thou wilt not cut off my seed after me, and that thou wilt not destroy my name out of my father's house. And David sware unto Saul. And Saul went home; but David and his men gat them up unto the hold. Saul responds with guilty weeping over his evil pursuit of David, asks for God to bless David for his mercy to Saul and even predicts what God has already stated would be done: that David would be the next king. Saul concedes his son will not inherit the throne but asks David to not cut out Saul's son and name from history. They then part company and go their separate ways.

To Act or Not to Act



That is the Question

T Bible Baptist Church

Our Purpose is to lead people into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ. 2 Cor. 5:18

## *Studying* the Life of David

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### **B. What do these verses mean?** (What was one or more principles/lessons the writer or God was trying to communicate?)

1. Just because the opportunity to advance ourselves, avenge ourselves, or ease our circumstances presents itself, does not always mean God wants us to act. (24:4-5).
2. It is wise to seek the advice from others but it is wiser to weigh their advice against God's leading in our lives (24:6-7).
3. If we want God to work in our behalf, we must humbly stand on the truth and not shrink away from declaring Him to others (24:8-15).
4. God can rescue us from the most desperate situations in our lives and cause those who would do us harm to change their minds (24:16-22).
5. How can Christians know whether or not they should act or let God act in an event in their lives? Christians must combine a close connection with God and choose to pray and wait for God to perform. (1 Sam. 24)

### **C. How should these verses impact my life?** (marriage, family, work, ministry, social life, friendships)

- ✓ Am I constantly looking to take advantage of opportunities that present themselves?
- ✓ If I were to receive bad advice from another Christian would I recognize it? Is my daily relationship with Christ healthy enough to give me insight?
- ✓ Is my trust in God contingent upon Him answering my requests exactly the way I am dictating?
- ✓ How well do I keep my hands off the wheel and give God the opportunity to do something great in my life or in the life people close to me?
- ✓ What can I "clean up" in my life so I can feel good about asking for God's involvement in a situation I am facing?



## Group Discussion Questions

(Try to facilitate the group's discussion and not do most of the talking during this time.)

### Group Questions

**Our culture here in America can be very opportunistic. How can Christians know when to take advantage of a situation and when to wait on God to act?** Closeness to God is vital if we are to be able to discern His will in specific situations. Choose not to act on impulse. Just because an opportunity presents itself does not necessarily mean we are to move on it. If a situation presents itself which has not been a long time prayer request, don't act. Pray and wait. The more "type A" personality you have in your hard wiring the more difficult this is to do. 😊

**When should Christians *always* take action?** When there is an opportunity to share Christ. If our ability to share Christ is being encroached. Other?

**How can Christians know whether they should follow the advice of their friends?** Consider the source – how close is this friend to Christ? Which is more important to your friend: *your best interest or God's will for your life?*