**WEEK 5 | 1 SAMUEL 21-25 | LEGALISM**

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Can you think of a time when you let yourself be influenced by a friend to do something that got you into trouble?

In 1 Samuel 22 we see a motley group gathering around David and pledging allegiance to him as their leader.

* Why do you think these people were drawn to him?
* What was their advice to David in Chapter 24:1-4? What do you think of this advice? What was David’s response?
* Does the company that we keep matter? Why or why not?

Discuss how long each member in your group has been a Christian.

* Are most of your friends believers? Should we have friends that are not believers?
* How can we be witnesses to those who are not believers and keep company with them and not be influenced negatively?

Read Psalm 1:1-2

Do these verses contradict the discussion that we just had?

* Consider what the three words walk, stand, and sit imply. Each one has a different implication to the depth of friendship.

**Application**: Do you need to reevaluate your closest friendships? Do they influence you or do you influence them? Are you in a position to be a witness to anyone? What can you start doing this week to reevaluate your friendships?

Read Mark 2:23-28

* How is the disciple’s situation similar to David’s in 1 Samuel 21?
* Jesus often confronted the Pharisees strict legalism: see also Mark 3:1-6, Luke 13:10-17
* How do we know if we’re being legalistic (hint: more focused on mercy / people’s needs or the letter of the law)?
* It’s easy to think this is new with Jesus, or that God was different in the Old Testament versus the New Testament, but read Hosea 6:6 and of course 1 Samuel 21. Does this change your view?