**WEEK 6 | 1 SAMUEL 26-30 | KNOWING GOD’S WILL**

HOMEWORK: Read 1 Samuel 26-30 then answer the questions below.

1 Samuel 26 we read of a second time that David spares Saul's life.

* Why did David refuse to give Abishai permission to kill Saul?
* How do you think Saul was feeling about David and this situation?
* How would you have reacted if you were in Saul's place?
* Looking back at 1 Samuel 24:8-15 what is significant to you about David's appeals to Saul?

In 1 Samuel 27 where does David flee and why?

* Describe David's previous encounter with Achish, King of Gath? (1 Sam. 21:10-15)
* Why did David lie to King Achish about where he was making raids?
* Why did Achish believe he could trust David?

In 1 Samuel 28:3-25 we see that Saul has come to a place in his life where he no longer has any spiritual support. Read the following verses and list the spiritual support Saul had in the past that is no longer available to him.

* 1 Samuel 16:14
* 1 Samuel 22:17-19
* 1 Samuel 25:1

Even though Saul had expelled mediums and spiritist from the land, we see that he disguised himself and consults a medium. In the following scriptures what does God say about the occult?

* Leviticus 19:31, 20:6,27
* Deuteronomy 18:19-12
* 1 Timothy 4:1
* Revelation 21:8

What alternative does Isaiah 8:19-20 give to consulting mediums and wizards?

Re-read I Samuel 28:4-7. Clearly God was not answering Saul. Read 2 Corinthians 7:9-10 and James 4:4-10. In light of these scriptures why do you think God may have not responded to Saul?

In chapter 28, what did Samuel prophesy concerning God's imminent judgement of Saul and his family and Israel?

* How did the medium react when Samuel appeared?

We sometimes struggle to discern God’s will. Go to biblegateway.com or biblehub.com and search the phrases “God’s will” and “will of God” (use quotation marks) to see which Scriptures come up. What do these tell you about God’s will and how we discern it?

In 1 Samuel 29 it becomes apparent that the leaders of the Philistines have a problem trusting David. Read 1 Samuel 27:8 - 28:2 again.

* Why did Achish feel David would be loyal to him and fight against the Israelites?
* Why did the commanders of the Philistines feel David would not be loyal to their cause?

In 1 Samuel 29:8 we get a glimpse of David's state of confusion when he says, "But what have I done? What have you found against your servant from the day I came to you until now? Why can't I go and fight against the enemies of my lord the king."

* Who were the "enemies" and who was "my lord the king?"
* In what respect do you think the decision of the Philistine commanders was a benefit to David?

As we finish our lesson this week in 1 Samuel 30 we read that David and his men have returned to Ziklag to find that it had been raided by the Amalekites and destroyed by fire. In addition, the Amalekites had captured their wives, sons and daughters.

* How did David and the people respond?
* When David returned to the Lord, how did the Lord bless him?
* In turn, how did David bless the others?

**\*Come ready to discuss knowing God’s will in your group.**