

THE CHRIST MUST SUFFER 1 SAMUEL 21-30

Share when you have missed something really obvious, and only realized when someone pointed it out to you?

Read 1 Samuel 21.

1. Why might this situation be dangerous for David? How does David protect himself from danger?

2. The second place David runs to is to Gath, the Philistine stronghold and former hometown of Goliath. Why might this situation be dangerous for David? How does David protect himself from danger?

3. What do David's actions say about his situation with Saul?

To get an idea of just how desperate David felt, let's read the song he wrote while he was hiding there: Psalm 56.

Read Psalm 56.

4. How does David describe his plight?

5. What does David ask God to do?

6. Why is David confident to make this request?

7. How would you describe David's feelings or attitudes conveyed in this psalm? What strikes you the most?

8. Read through the following passages and complete the table (if you're in a group, you could divide up the passages then report back to the group with your findings):

Passage	How is David in danger?	How does David respond to his situation?	How does God save David?
1 Samuel 22:1-5			
1 Samuel 23:7-14			
1 Samuel 24:1-7			
1 Samuel 26:1-12			
1 Samuel 27:1-4			

Read Mark 8:27-38.

9. How does Peter respond when Jesus describes his coming suffering and death?

10. Why does Jesus respond to Peter so strongly?

Implications

(Choose one or more of the following to think about further or to discuss in your group.)

- Why shouldn't Christians be surprised when Jesus seems weak to people?
- Why shouldn't Christians be surprised when we suffer? (See Mark 8:34-35.)
- Can you think of times when you have suffered for being a Christian? How is what you read here comforting when you look back on those times?
- "...in God I trust; I shall not be afraid. What can flesh do to me?" (Ps 56:4). When do you find this hardest to believe? What could help you to believe this more?

Give thanks and pray

- Read Romans 8:31-34 slowly and give thanks that we can know that "God is for us", not just because he rescued David from Saul but because "He who did not spare his own Son

but gave him up for us all" will "also with him graciously give us all things" (v. 32).

- Ask God to forgive you for the times when you have been afraid of people because you have not trusted him to look after you.
- Pray for those you know who are suffering at the moment, that they will put their confidence in the fact that God can rescue them through Christ.