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## 1 SAMUEL 18:1-30

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### GETTING STARTED...

Have you ever felt threatened by someone new at work? Someone who might do the job better than you can? When you are young it feels like you need to prove yourself at a new job and earn your place. When you are older it can feel like the younger people are a threat to your job. In many ways this is what Saul was feeling as David steps into the limelight. After David defeated Goliath, his name was now well known, and to Saul's dismay David was praised more than he was. As God's plan for the future Messiah begins to take shape, Saul has a decision, will he side with God's plan, or will he try and oppose it? As Saul opposes David more and more, God blesses David more and more. As believers we are faced with the same decision, are we willing to put Jesus first, so that people could see Jesus, even if that means we fade into the background?

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### READ THE TEXT: 1 SAMUEL 18:1-30

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As soon as he had finished speaking to Saul, the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul. <sup>2</sup> And Saul took him that day and would not let him return to his father's house. <sup>3</sup> Then Jonathan made a covenant with David, because he loved him as his own soul. <sup>4</sup> And Jonathan stripped himself of the robe that was on him and gave it to David, and his armor, and even his sword and his bow and his belt. <sup>5</sup> And David went out and was successful wherever Saul sent him, so that Saul set him over the men of war. And this was good in the sight of all the people and also in the sight of Saul's servants. <sup>6</sup> As they were coming home, when David returned from striking down the Philistine, the women came out of all the cities of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet King Saul, with tambourines, with songs of joy, and with musical instruments. <sup>7</sup> And the women sang to one another as they celebrated,

“Saul has struck down his thousands,  
and David his ten thousands.”

<sup>8</sup> And Saul was very angry, and this saying displeased him. He said, "They have ascribed to David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed thousands, and what more can he have but the kingdom?" <sup>9</sup> And Saul eyed David from that day on.

<sup>10</sup> The next day a harmful spirit from God rushed upon Saul, and he raved within his house while David was playing the lyre, as he did day by day. Saul had his spear in his hand. <sup>11</sup> And Saul hurled the spear, for he thought, "I will pin David to the wall." But David evaded him twice.

<sup>12</sup> Saul was afraid of David because the Lord was with him but had departed from Saul. <sup>13</sup> So Saul removed him from his presence and made him a commander of a thousand. And he went out and came in before the people. <sup>14</sup> And David had success in all his undertakings, for the Lord was with him. <sup>15</sup> And when Saul saw that he had great success, he stood in fearful awe of him. <sup>16</sup> But all Israel and Judah loved David, for he went out and came in before them.

<sup>17</sup> Then Saul said to David, "Here is my elder daughter Merab. I will give her to you for a wife. Only be valiant for me and fight the Lord's battles." For Saul thought, "Let not my hand be against him, but let the hand of the Philistines be against him." <sup>18</sup> And David said to Saul, "Who am I, and who are my relatives, my father's clan in Israel, that I should be son-in-law to the king?" <sup>19</sup> But at the time when Merab, Saul's daughter, should have been given to David, she was given to Adriel the Meholathite for a wife.

<sup>20</sup> Now Saul's daughter Michal loved David. And they told Saul, and the thing pleased him. <sup>21</sup> Saul thought, "Let me give her to him, that she may be a snare for him and that the hand of the Philistines may be against him." Therefore Saul said to David a second time, "You shall now be my son-in-law." <sup>22</sup> And Saul commanded his servants, "Speak to David in private and say, 'Behold, the king has delight in you, and all his servants love you. Now then become the king's son-in-law.' " <sup>23</sup> And Saul's servants spoke those words in the ears of David. And David said, "Does it seem to you a little thing to become the king's son-in-law, since I am a poor man and have no reputation?" <sup>24</sup> And the servants of Saul told him, "Thus and so did David speak." <sup>25</sup> Then Saul said, "Thus shall you say to David, 'The king desires no bride-price except a hundred foreskins of the Philistines, that he may be avenged of the king's enemies.' " Now Saul thought to make David fall by the hand of the Philistines. <sup>26</sup> And when his servants told David these words, it pleased David well to be the king's son-in-law. Before the time had expired, <sup>27</sup> David arose and went, along with his men, and killed two hundred of the Philistines. And David brought their foreskins, which were given in full number to the king, that he might become the king's son-in-law. And Saul gave him his daughter Michal for a wife. <sup>28</sup> But when Saul saw and knew that the Lord was with David, and that Michal, Saul's daughter, loved him, <sup>29</sup> Saul was even more afraid of David. So Saul was David's enemy continually.

<sup>30</sup> Then the commanders of the Philistines came out to battle, and as often as they came out David had more success than all the servants of Saul, so that his name was highly esteemed.

## UNDERSTANDING THE WORD

1. Who in this story begins to side with David over Saul? What is Saul's reaction to each?
2. Consider vs 28-29, what does this tell us about Saul's character?

## REFLECTING ON THE SERMON

3. What was the main point of the sermon?
4. What has God been applying to your heart from the sermon?

## APPLYING THE POINT

5. How have friends helped you to live courageously for God? What do you think "makes" a good friend?
6. What type of things make you aware of God's presence in your life?
7. How do you find strength and courage in God when you're facing a difficult - and even dangerous - time?
8. What do you believe it means to "live for a cause that is greater than ourselves"? Why might that be important as we seek to live boldly for God and impact the world around us with His love and forgiveness?

## PRAYING & SHARING

1. How can you share what you have learned with... another believer? An unbeliever?
2. Share and pray for one another in your life group. How can you specifically pray for and encourage one another in response to this text?



## How to Use this Guide

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This guide is intended to help facilitate Promontory Small Groups as they meet to understand the Bible passage, discuss the sermon, and how to put it into practice in our lives. What is contained in this guide is not an exhaustive text analysis nor a full list of questions that can or should be asked during Small Group. This is simply a guide to help **start conversations that are centered on the Word of God**.

The Small Group Guide is separated into three main sections that are arranged with an intentional order: *Understanding the Word, Reflecting on the Sermon, and Applying the Point*. We want to first understand the Word of God, and then check that understanding by what has been preached, and then discuss how to put it into practice in our own lives. The order is intended to imitate the process of how the Word of God makes changes in our lives. Head, heart, hands, and all of it wrapped in prayer.

Our goal is not that you answer every question in this guide, but that you are able to discuss the Word of God in a way **that helps everyone follow Jesus together!**

*“Great are the works of the LORD,  
studied by all who delight in them.” - Psalm 111:2*