



1 SAMUEL 21:1-15

GETTING STARTED...

What is your top priority? Often we say that our top priority is faith, family, or friends. But what do we do when our priorities collide? Eventually we will come to a situation where our priorities are pitted against one another and we will have to figure out what is the best thing to do in each situation. As we continue on with the life of David we come across this problem, not with David but as the priest Ahimelech is tested what he will do as David is in need. Does he help David or keep the ceremonial laws? As Christians we will face similar situations and we are called to keep God's law of first loving God and second loving others. How we do that is the challenge through different situations and requires God's wisdom to do so well.

LENT GUIDE

This week marks the second week of Lent as we fast from Social Media. The marketplace of ideas has been moved online in our social media and it has become the place where most people communicate with each other and the world around them. However, as this communication has opened, so has the ability to gossip, slander, accuse, enrage, and hurt others. As we take on this fast, we do so in order to remove yourself from the echo chamber of social media for a week and to remind yourself of the importance of reflecting God's heart in the words we speak. Take the time this week to not login to social media or comment. Spend your time instead encouraging others in person and connecting with people. Replace our digital connections with personal connections focusing on encouraging one another with our words.

Readings: Proverbs 26:18-21, Ephesians 4:29, Matthew 12:36

READ THE TEXT: 1 SAMUEL 21:1-15

Then David came to Nob, to Ahimelech the priest. And Ahimelech came to meet David, trembling, and said to him, "Why are you alone, and no one with you?"
² And David said to Ahimelech the priest, "The king has charged me with a matter

and said to me, 'Let no one know anything of the matter about which I send you, and with which I have charged you.' I have made an appointment with the young men for such and such a place. ³ Now then, what do you have on hand? Give me five loaves of bread, or whatever is here." ⁴ And the priest answered David, "I have no common bread on hand, but there is holy bread—if the young men have kept themselves from women." ⁵ And David answered the priest, "Truly women have been kept from us as always when I go on an expedition. The vessels of the young men are holy even when it is an ordinary journey. How much more today will their vessels be holy?" ⁶ So the priest gave him the holy bread, for there was no bread there but the bread of the Presence, which is removed from before the Lord, to be replaced by hot bread on the day it is taken away.

⁷ Now a certain man of the servants of Saul was there that day, detained before the Lord. His name was Doeg the Edomite, the chief of Saul's herdsmen.

⁸ Then David said to Ahimelech, "Then have you not here a spear or a sword at hand? For I have brought neither my sword nor my weapons with me, because the king's business required haste." ⁹ And the priest said, "The sword of Goliath the Philistine, whom you struck down in the Valley of Elah, behold, it is here wrapped in a cloth behind the ephod. If you will take that, take it, for there is none but that here." And David said, "There is none like that; give it to me."

¹⁰ And David rose and fled that day from Saul and went to Achish the king of Gath. ¹¹ And the servants of Achish said to him, "Is not this David the king of the land? Did they not sing to one another of him in dances,

'Saul has struck down his thousands,
and David his ten thousands'?"

¹² And David took these words to heart and was much afraid of Achish the king of Gath. ¹³ So he changed his behavior before them and pretended to be insane in their hands and made marks on the doors of the gate and let his spittle run down his beard. ¹⁴ Then Achish said to his servants, "Behold, you see the man is mad. Why then have you brought him to me? ¹⁵ Do I lack madmen, that you have brought this fellow to behave as a madman in my presence? Shall this fellow come into my house?"

UNDERSTANDING THE WORD

1. Take a look at Leviticus 24:5-9 at what God had instructed the bread of the Presence to be used for. How does Ahimelech follow this command?
2. Read Matthew 12:1-8, how does Jesus understand and apply this narrative?

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 can we apply God's command to love one another (Matt 22:34-39) without justifying sinful actions? How can we make sure we are still focusing on love for one another without ignoring God's commands?
6. Share an example of receiving God's grace in your life that reminds you to worship?
7. What is something that causes you to fear? How can we fight our fears in the same way that David does? See Psalm 54.

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

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*