



Worship Guide for July 30, 2023

Sermon Notes

Faith Sustained in Covenant

1 Samuel 20 (pew Bible pgs. 243-244)

For every one of us, every day is filled with decisions. Some of those are small and seemingly insignificant issues with little at stake. Some days those decisions can change the course of our lives and the lives of people we care about. Most of 1 Samuel 20 is dialogue between David and Jonathan, and the language indicates the conversation and the decisions involved are life changing for both of them. Both must choose between conflicting loyalties; both must choose between personal ambition and gain or the will and purposes of God. How will they decide? What will be the basis of these decisions?

In 1 Samuel 20:8, David says to Jonathan, “deal kindly with your servant, for you have brought your servant into a covenant of the LORD with you.” “Covenant” is the basis of the decisions David and Jonathan make. The words and images of covenant love are throughout this passage. Based on God’s covenant relationship with David and Jonathan, and based on their covenant relationship with each other, God’s purposes and plans take priority over their own.

Last week, we saw the reality that faith can be shaken by fears and frustrations that assail us. We also saw the reality that faith can be strengthened as we see God protecting us. This week in David and Jonathan’s lives, the reality our faith is sustained by God’s covenant love for us. Therefore, like Jonathan and David, we can seek first God’s kingdom above our own (Matt 6:33) and trust him with the results.

Faith is sustained by covenant love that clarifies our confusion (20:1-11)

Faith is sustained by covenant love that secures our future (20:12-17)

Faith is sustained by covenant love that supersedes our personal ambitions (20:18-34)

Faith is sustained by covenant love that establishes our peace (20:35-42)

Life Group Preparation Guide

"Let the *Word* of Christ *dwell* in you(all) *richly*
teaching and *admonishing* one another in all *wisdom*..."

- *Colossians 3:16a*

Focus #1: GOD

1. What does this passage reveal about the character or nature of God?
2. What does this passage reveal about God's eternal plans and purposes?
3. What does this passage reveal about how God interacts with his creation?

Focus #2: ME

4. How does this passage reveal sin in my own mind, heart, or life?
5. In what ways does this passage help us to see how we need to be aligned with God's will?
6. What is one tangible and measurable way that the Spirit is leading me to respond to his Word?

Focus #3: OTHERS

7. What is one truth that I can share meaningfully with someone, and with whom?
8. How can I specifically encourage someone or everyone in my Life Group from this passage?

Three contributions (reflections, questions, observations, etc.) I plan to include in our next Life Group discussion:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Westwood Staff

Gerald Hodges: Lead Pastor
Jonathan Taylor: Associate Pastor
Jason Engle: Pastor of Students
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Deborah Rudd: Children's Ministry
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JULY

ALL MONTH - ELDER NOMINATIONS
31-August 4 Be Do Tell Summer Camp @ Ft. Caswell

AUGUST

6 Communion
25 AHG Talent Showcase @ 6pm
25 MEMBERSHIP CLASS @ 6PM
27 Communion
28 GriefShare: Loss of Spouse @ 6:30pm
28 AHG/TLU Open Houses @ 6:30pm