

Westwood Baptist Church *Grounded. Growing. Going.*



Worship Guide for July 30, 2023

Sermon Notes

Provision, Protection & Praise

1 Samuel 21; Psalm 56; Psalm 34 (pew Bible pgs. 244; 476; 463-464)

In great works of literature, there is always a story within a story, plots and sub-plots that eventually come together in the end according to the design and determination of the author. Within these plots and sub-plots, there are key themes and ideas that thread their way throughout the storyline.

The Bible is God's story. God wrote it and He is the main character. More specifically, the main character is God as He reveals Himself to us in the Person of Jesus Christ. The plots and subplots of the story all point to Christ and the redemptive plan of God that centers on Him.

There are several key themes and ideas that make up the complete Biblical picture. Many of these are summarized early in 1 Samuel by Hannah, a barren woman whose desperate situation is reversed by God's gracious provision. Hannah's prayer (1 Samuel 2) highlights these themes that include provision, protection, reversal, rescue, retribution, and resurrection. Her prayer ends with this confident declaration: "The Lord...will give strength to His king and exalt the horn of His anointed".

In 1 Samuel 21, it does NOT look like the Lord's anointed king, David, is strong and exalted. Instead, he is being hunted and pursued. 1 Samuel 21:10 summarizes this season of David's life: "And David rose and fled that day from Saul...". 1 Samuel 21 is not an easy chapter to read and understand. The story line is complicated and confusing, so it's important that we follow this basic hermeneutical principle: Scripture interprets Scripture. When we let Scripture interpret 1 Samuel 21, we see a story within the story. In the craziness of David's words and actions, we see the underlying story of God's care for His people, His provision, and His Protection. All this ultimately leads to the praise of God: *Oh, magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together!* (Psalm 34:3)

David and the Holy Bread: Provision from God (1 Sam 21:1-9, Matt 12:1-8)

David and the King of Gath: Protection from God (1 Sam 21:10-15)

David and the Songs He Wrote: Prayer & Praise to God (Ps 56 & 34)

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
& Discipleship
Deborah Rudd: Children's Ministry
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Yvonne Hager: Executive Assistant

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AUGUST

6 Communion
6 Trail Life Leader's Meeting @ 3:15pm
11-12 AHG Leader Training & Campout
16 Life Group @ 12:30pm @ WBC
18 Person High vs. Ben L. Smith High (Home) @ 7pm
25 AHG Talent Showcase @ 6pm
25 MEMBERSHIP CLASS @ 6PM
25 Person High @ Halifax Co. (VA) High @ 7pm
28 GriefShare: Loss of Spouse @ 6:30pm
28 AHG/TLU Open Houses @ 6:30pm