



Worship Guide for August 20, 2023

Sermon Notes

The King Who Can Declare, “God is My Helper”

1 Samuel 23

Last week we saw the stark contrast between the two “kings”. This week the divide between them is even greater, providing the backdrop to see the ever-increasing contrast between Saul and David. One seeks the Lord and His guidance; the other listens to himself and various unbelievers. One seeks to save, the other seeks to destroy. One is encouraged in the Lord by faithful friends who are willing to risk all for the sake of their covenant commitment; the other is alone in his sin and motivated by self-interest. One is hunted yet protected by God; the other is the hunter who is prevented by God from harming God’s anointed.

In three separate incidents in 1 Samuel 23, we see how David is protected by the Lord in different ways, so that when he reflects on this season of his life, he can proclaim, “Behold, God is my helper; the Lord is the upholder of my life” (Psalm 54:4).

**The King Who Saves and Is Saved:
Guided and Held by the Hand of God (1 Samuel 23: 1-14).**

**The King Who Is In Difficulty and Needs Encouragement:
Strengthened in God Through the Hand of a Friend (1 Samuel 23: 15-18)**

**The King Who Is Betrayed and Needs Deliverance:
Sovereignly Protected by the Hand of God (1 Samuel 23: 19-29)**

Applications:

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
Coordinator
Yvonne Hager: Executive Assistant

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AUGUST

21 Bethel Hill Charter School First Day of School
25 AHG Talent Showcase @ 6pm
25 MEMBERSHIP CLASS @ 6PM
25 Person @ Halifax Co. (VA) @ 7pm
28 Person County Schools First Day of School
28 GriefShare: Loss of Spouse @ 6:30pm
28 AHG/TLU Open Houses @ 6:30pm

SEPTEMBER

1 Person @ Northern Durham @ 7pm
3 6th Grade/Children's SS Teacher Recognition
4 Labor Day - Church Office Closed
8 Person vs. Salisbury @ 7pm