



Worship Guide for September 3, 2023

Sermon Notes

Mercy Given (2X) and Mercy Received

1 Samuel 25-26

Two weeks ago, we read this closing statement in chapter 23: *“So Saul returned from pursuing after David and went against the Philistines. Therefore that place was called the Rock of Escape. And David went up from there and lived in the strongholds of Engedi.”* (23:28-29)

Throughout this season of his life, David is in constant need of a “Rock of Escape” (lit: rock of parting/divide). During this time, David is protected by *the rock* that comes between him from Saul. Sometimes it is a physical rock, sometimes it is a spiritual barrier, but always it is God’s provision of protection. This is a recurring theme that bookends 1 and 2 Samuel:

*“There is none holy like the LORD: for there is none besides you;
there is no rock like our God. 1 Sam2:2
“The LORD lives, and blessed be my rock,
and exalted be my God, the rock of my salvation 2 Sam 22:47*

The physical rock is a picture of God, the spiritual Rock. As David reflects on his time in the wilderness, and indeed his whole life, he realizes that all along God has been like that mountain rock. God is the Rock between David and his enemies. God is also the Rock between David and David – between David and his own sin. In this section of 1 Samuel, we see the beautiful of God’s mercy. As we see God’s constant mercy and grace in our own lives, we should be quick to join David in this song:

*I love you, O LORD, my strength.
The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer,
my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield,
and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. Psalm 18:1–2*

God’s mercy given as we are protected from the enemy Ch 24 & 26

God’s mercy trusted as we share mercy with our enemies Ch 24 & 26

God’s mercy received as we are protected from our selves Ch 25

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
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Yvonne Hager: Executive Assistant

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SEPTEMBER

3 6th Grade/Children's SS Teacher Recognition
4 Labor Day - Church Office Closed
8 Person vs. Salisbury @ 7pm
10 Move Up Sunday
10 JT's 30th Anniversary Celebration
11 GriefShare begins @ 6:30pm
11 AHG/TL Troop meetings @ 6:30pm
14 Ladies Fall Bible Study begins @ 9:30am
15 AHG @ Relay for Life (Huck Sansbury)
15 Person @ Cedar Ridge High @ 7pm
19-22 LFDD Revival w Alex Donnelly @ 6:30pm
20 Church Member's Meeting @ 6:30pm