

THE CAVE OF ADULLAM.

A Discussion Guide for Groups or Individuals

Today's Theme Verse

“For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.” - 1 Samuel 16:7 ESV

Introduction: He would never forget that day. The flock was serenely grazing the Judean pastures when he saw him approaching, waving his arms wildly and shouting: “David! David! The prophet has come... he wants to meet you... now! I’ll take care of your sheep – you have to go; hurry!” David races to Bethlehem and all the way wondering “What! Why me?” Panting David bursts into the room filled with family, friends, a feast and anxious stares. Then the great prophet Samuel stands, and as he approaches Jessie’s youngest son the prophet’s face begins to radiate a smile. It’s the moment and the man that Samuel has been commissioned to seek. He commands young David to kneel and confidently the prophet anoints this young shepherd to be the new king of Israel. The sweet fragrance of the oil fills the room as it is poured over David’s head; if obedience had an aroma might it smell like this in the nostrils of God? Trouble is, Israel’s throne is already occupied. But King Saul’s rule has been soured by his ongoing and growing disobedience. The King and his God are growing further apart. Initially Saul was blessed by David, but that didn’t last long; King Saul, you see, has no interest in stepping aside or sharing the throne. **David’s anointing inaugurated a journey of following God’s path that would lead him to some very wild places.** Today we study one of those places – perhaps the wildest of places which had surprising results.

THE TEXT

Before you watch this session read the following passage:

- 1 Samuel 19-1 Samuel 22:5 (for context)
- Psalm 57
- Psalm 142

THE TEACHING

Watch the video, “Adullam”

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION – TO BE DISCUSSED BEFORE THE VIDEO

1. **Read 1 Samuel 21:10-22:2 & Psalm 142.** David's story is one of the Bible's best known; the shepherd who protected the flock from bears & lions and Israel from Goliath & the Philistines, a man after God's own heart. At times David soothes King Saul from harmful spirits with a musical instrument yet has to turn around and flee for his life given Saul's jealousy. What had David done to earn Saul's rage? Clearly from Psalm 142:1-4 David comes to the cave deeply discouraged; why did God bring him to this wild place? What might have been going through David's mind as he sat in the cave alone, reflecting? What might you be thinking?
2. It is not clear how long David was in the cave before his family joined him, but it is clear his brothers came. How important might that have been to David?
3. It was not just family who came to the cave, but all those who were in distress or in debt and discontented gathered around him. Refer back to 1 Samuel 22:2. What does their condition suggest about the rule of Saul? Why did they come to the cave and what was it about David that drew them?

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION – TO BE DISCUSSED AFTER THE VIDEO

4. How important is was it for David to have the support from his family and his followers. How important is it for you to have Christian support, and how important is it for you to be a support to other believers?
5. In 1 Samuel 13:14 and Acts 13:22, David is described as a man after God's own heart, willing to do His will. Talk about some of the characteristics of a person "after God's heart." Have you ever been blessed by someone like that? What are ways Christian men and women can cultivate a heart like David's for God?
6. What does it mean for us today, as Christ followers, to be "mighty men and women" of Jesus? Read the Beatitudes in Matthew 5:3-12 and discuss.