

The Heart of the Matter

17. David influenced his men, and generations beyond who followed the example he set out. If people followed your example, would they end up in a good place—or would following your example lead them to a bad place?

18. What can you do today—and on a regular basis—to strengthen your ability to strengthen yourself in the Lord?

19. David was unaware that his situation had completely changed. His enemy, King Saul, was dead—and God had things in motion that would lead to David becoming king—soon. How might God be doing that in our life right now? Can you think of a time when you could not see the light at the end of the tunnel—but God was already working things out for your rescue?

Praises and Prayer Requests

Life Group Study Guide

Sink or Swim

When You're Over Your Head...

Every Stroke Counts

1 Samuel 30

For the week of December 27, 2020

Getting Started

1. What idea, thought or application got your attention from this past Sunday's message?
2. When have you felt you were over your head in trouble? How did you respond from being overwhelmed and quitting?
3. What does it mean to “strengthen yourself in the Lord” as David did in 1 Samuel 30:6? Is all the responsibility on us to strengthen ourselves in the Lord, or does God help us with that? How does strengthening yourself in the Lord really strengthen your faith?
4. Why do we need to “practice the discipline” of strengthening ourselves in the Lord? Does our situation change or just our perspective?

Digging Deeper

5. Why were David's men so angry with David that they wanted to stone him (30:1-6)? How quickly did David need to strengthen himself in the Lord? Did he have the luxury of time? How does that reinforce the need to be practiced at strengthening ourselves in the Lord?

6. Does seeking the Lord and his direction always require massive amounts of time? When and how did David seek God's guidance (30:7-8)? What was God's answer to him?

7. Once David knew the next step of God's leading, how long did it take him to get moving (30:9-10)? How can we be more like that when we have a good idea of the "next step" God wants us to take? Is there something you need to move on now—but you've been stalling?

8. David acted quickly when he knew God's direction (30:10). And he was also very aware that the safety of his family was at stake. How might that perspective—moving quickly when God makes a next step clear—help protect your family or loved ones from the enemy?

9. A full third of David's men quit before they attained the goal, but David pressed on (30:10). And honestly, they were legitimately tired, overworked, underpaid, and emotionally exhausted. How can we help insure we won't quit—even when others do? How can we keep others from convincing us to quit?

10. Have you ever had friends or family or others try to get you to quit . . . to keep you in the ditch where they were? How did that situation turn out? How can you protect yourself from those influences?

11. David wouldn't have stopped for the Egyptian slave if he didn't need help (30:11-15). What do we do when God's clear direction gets lost somehow—or we get lost ourselves?

12. What helpful advice did the Egyptian slave give to David (30:13-15)? :Sometimes we need some expert or experienced help—just like David did. How might God have placed that expert right on your path?

13. The Egyptian slave was an unlikely expert . . . someone nobody would expect would be of value to the future king at all. What does that tell you about who to consider when you need direction, or when you've lost your way?

14. What did David and his men recover from the Amalekites after he defeated them (30:16-20)?

15. David credited the victory to God. How did that keep him from making a big mistake later—when some of his other men wanted to be rid of the 200 men who had dropped off (30:21-25)?

16. How else did crediting God with the victory actually work to David's advantage?