

Growth Group Leader's Guide

For the Week of June 13-19, 2010
"Seeing God in the Wilderness"

Announcements:

- Our Prayer and Praise Night is a powerful time of seeking God and asking for His power and plan to be revealed among us. These times of corporate prayer are vital for the growth and advancement of our church. Please encourage your group members to attend the next gathering on June 21st at 7 p.m.
- Please email your attendance and a brief summary of your meeting each week to pastorlarry@ccsalem.org.

Homework:

Before your Growth Group meets, take about 20 minutes on your own to complete the following...

Read Psalm 57. This was an honest cry of David for help. He seeks out God as his true hiding place. Write down some attributes of God mentioned in this psalm that make Him the safest place of refuge. Take some time to thank Him for being who He is.

Growth Group Discussion Questions:

The following questions are to be discussed when your Growth Group meets this week.

My Story: What's the smallest space you've lived in? What was it like?

Digging Deeper: Read 1 Samuel 24.

1. If Hollywood had written the story of Saul and David, the filmmakers probably would have scripted a fight scene in which David kills the wicked King Saul before taking his rightful place on the throne. Why would God have disapproved of that plot?

(God does not approve of us taking revenge ourselves. If David had done that, God would not have received the glory for placing David on the throne)

2. Why do you think that God commands us not to take our own revenge?

(We don't see the whole picture and don't have the wisdom and knowledge needed. Our revenge would not be an act of justice that is based on complete truth)

3. Why was it wrong for David to cut off a piece of Saul's robe?

(It was degrading to Saul and dishonoring to God for David to use the sword of Goliath, a Philistine, to cut off the robe of Saul, the king of Israel. Even though Saul was not wholeheartedly obeying God, he was still in the position as king of Israel. That is why David said that it was wrong for him to "touch God's anointed.")

4. In what ways does David's honest confrontation with Saul give you a positive example of how to deal with someone who has injured you? If this type of confrontation isn't possible, what could you do to bring closure to the situation?

(Just because the opportunity presents itself does not mean that we should take revenge. David honestly told Saul his feelings and humbly presented himself to Saul)

Living It:

When David spent time in the wilderness he spent some time hiding out in caves. One of those caves was the Cave of Adullam (1 Samuel 22:1).

1. Are you a "cave dweller" sometimes? What threatening enemies or situations usually force you into hiding?
2. What are your most comfortable hiding places, and why do you go there?
3. What if David had never left his hiding place? When does a cave become a prison?
4. David's cave became a haven for him, a place where he could pour out his heart to God and allow God to heal his wounds. We all need retreats like that, particularly when the storms of life rage and batter us. When was the last time

you planned a spiritual retreat for yourself? How can you make it a meaningful experience? If you can't leave home, how could you schedule some concentrated time with the Lord?