

Victoria Fellowship Church
International & Interdenominational
Bible Study Worksheet – August 7, 2022

Theme: Lessons from the life of David Topic: Importance of Seeking God

Main Texts: 1 Samuel 23:1-29

Key verse: 1 Samuel 23:4 – *‘Then David inquired of the LORD once again. And the Lord answered him and said, “Arise, go down to Keilah. For I will deliver the Philistines into your hand.”* (NKJV)

INTRODUCTION: This week, we are reminded that the Bible says David was a man after God’s heart. Despite David’s more “publicized” character flaws, most people want to take this phrase as a reference to the moral character of David. He came through a rigorous process of self-discovery and repentance for his failures. David was a man after God’s own heart in that he was committed and obedient to God’s ways and demonstrated abiding faithfulness to God’s Law. The attention David paid to steadfastly seeking God, inquiring of Him repeatedly, demonstrates what David’s expectations were, that God would speak to him in unmistakable and specific terms regarding the matter(s) brought before Him.

1. **Read 1 Sam 23:2,4,7,19; 2 Chronicles 15:2-4; John 15:5 (a) In what context(s) do these Scriptures portray Saul and David as God saw them? (b) On self-examination, in what light do we think God sees us? c) How do the life and example of David point us to discipleship?**

David’s life was a torrent of spiritual desire, and his psalms ring with the cry of the seeker and the glad shout of the finder. For Apostle Paul, his burning desire was *‘that I may know Him...’* (Philippians 3:10). And to this he sacrificed everything. Seeking God does not narrow one’s life but brings it rather to the level of highest possible fulfillment. God wants us to know that the modern church must get back to the practice of godliness and to that level of spiritual reality enjoyed by serious seekers after God from the days of the apostles. God wants us to imitate biblical characters like David. Some Christians think what God requires of them is impossible, so they stop trying in their heart, or they give up pursuing Christ altogether. They just get by... *“You should know this, Timothy, that in the last days there will be very difficult times. They will act religious, but they will reject the power that could make them godly. Stay away from people like that! Ever learning, and never coming to the knowledge of what is true.”* (2 Tim. 3: 1,5,7b – NLT). The apostle Paul had a certain mind-set that Christians are wise to emulate.

2. **Read Psalm 42:1-2, Philippians 3:8, 17, 1 Thessalonians 2:15, 1 Corinthians 11:1-2 (a) How was David’s longing (seeking) for God described, and how does it reflect the personality of God in David’s heart? (b) Discuss the things that people (including Christians) put above seeking God; does this include things within the church? (c) Paul is not afraid to call attention to his ways and habits; why do you think this is?**

There is an inferential character to the average Christian’s faith in God. To most people God is an inference not a reality. He is a deduction from evidence which they consider adequate, but He remains personally unknown to the individual. ‘He must be,’ they say, ‘therefore we believe He is.’ The Bible tells us that the Christian can know God with at least the same degree of immediacy as they know any other person or thing that comes within the field of their experience. David used the same terms to express the knowledge of God as are used to express knowledge of physical things. *‘O taste and see that the Lord is good’* (Psalm 34:8), *‘all Thy garments smell of myrrh, and aloes, and cassia out of the ivory palaces’* (Psalm 45:8).

3. **Read John 10:27, Matthew 5:8 (a) How do these verses take us beyond the level of inference to the level of reality? (b) What are the implications of Matthew 5:8 in our quest to achieve this move? (c) Read 1 Samuel 16:7 How does this Scripture further buttress our understanding of what God requires of us, and how David practiced it?**

Prayer: *Dear Father, please give me the grace to inquire repeatedly of You, knowing that You hear and desire to answer. May I be submissive enough to follow the examples set by Jesus and the many heroes of faith. In Jesus name. Amen!*