

Victoria Fellowship Church
International & Interdenominational
Bible Study Worksheet – March 5th, 2023

Theme: Servant Leadership Topic: Selfless Leadership

Main Text: 1 Samuel 30:1-25

Key verse: 1 Samuel 30:24 *“For who will heed you in this matter? But as his part is who goes down to the battle, so shall his part be who stays by the supplies; they shall share alike.” (NKJV)*

INTRODUCTION: We continue our quarter series on Servant Leadership. This time, we shall look at issues regarding selfless leadership, and how that impacts on servant leadership. David and his men provide the context for our study on selfless leadership. In our text, David and his men had been expelled from the ranks of the Philistines. When they returned to their base in Ziklag, they discovered that their base had been raided by the Amalekites, who had taken their wives and children captive, along with all their possessions. And they were all heartbroken – the men as well as David. But while the others were consumed by their loss, David was formulating a rescue plan. Like the saying goes, ‘selflessness is the hallmark of servant leadership.’

1. **Read 1 Samuel 30:1-8; Deuteronomy 9:13-21. (a) Compare and contrast David’s response to the tragedy which befell Ziklag to those of his men. What one word would you use to describe each response? (b) What is the immediate and future outcome of each response? (c) If you were to choose to be led by someone as described in (a) above, which would you choose and why?**

So, while his men were engrossed in their grief, David told Abiatha, the priest, “... *let’s ask God what to do.*” (1 Samuel 30:7 CEV). And the Lord instructed David to pursue the raiders, assuring him that he will overtake them and recover all that had been stolen. But along the way, two hundred of them became too tired and had to stay back to watch their supplies while David and the remaining four hundred men continued with the pursuit. God helped them and they were able to recover everything the Amalekite raiders had carried away – wives, children, goods, and animal – everything; nothing was missing, small or great (1 Samuel 30:18-20). And David accomplished that without losing any of his men! Yet, when these men returned to join their colleagues who stayed back, they were not willing to share the spoils of war with them. Their argument was that “*They didn’t go with us, so they can’t have any of the plunder we recovered. Give them their wives and children and tell them to be gone.*” (1 Samuel 30:22 NLT). These men who went with David felt more entitled to the spoils of the war over those who stayed behind to watch their supplies. But David proved to be a selfless leader. He insisted that “*The share of the man who stayed with the supplies is to be the same as that of him who went down to the battle. All will share alike.*” (1 Samuel 30:24 NIV).

2. **1 Samuel 30:6, 16-25; Psalm 16:8; Hebrews 11:27. (a) What difference do you notice between David’s attitude and that of his men in 1 Samuel 30:6? (b) How did depending on God impact the actions of the leaders mentioned in the referenced passages? (c) Let participants identify a current situation to which the lessons from this paragraph can be applied.**

It has been said that selflessness is the mother of courage, and courage the mother of all virtues. In 1 Samuel 30:6, David’s men were all about their pain and loss. But David was concerned for the entire community. Again in 1 Samuel 30: 21-24, David’s men who went into the battle field felt more entitled than their colleagues who stayed with the supplies. But David was all about what God accomplished for them and about the future of the nation. His share of the bounty would have been bigger had he agreed to the suggestion by the four hundred who went into the battle field with him. But by that selfless act, he established a rule that continues even today (1 Samuel 30:25) Imagine the impact on the individuals, families, and nation led by such selfless leadership. Even today, selfless leadership continues to draw the admiration of people across continents – Mother Theresa, Martin Luther King Jr., etc. And God continues to honor such selfless leadership.

3. **Read 1 Samuel 30:21-24; Philippians 2:5-8. What price did the leaders in the referenced passages pay in their selflessness? (b) According to management experts, selfless leaders are servant leaders who facilitate the success of others. How did this manifest in David’s men when you compare them in 1 Samuel 22:1-2 and 2 Samuel 23:8-13? (c) Let participants share an area or two where we need to adjust to be more selfless in our leadership.**

Prayer: “Our Dear Father, we are seeing the importance of selflessness in leadership. Please, have mercy on us in every area we have fallen short or failed as selfless leaders. Help us to be more sacrificial as leaders. Give us grace to seek Your counsel and prioritize the interests of others In Jesus’ Name we pray. Amen