SUNDAY HANDOUT FOR DISCUSSION AND APPLICATION

On the Run (1 Samuel 19-24)

It's hard to celebrate someone else when it feels like their success makes you look worse. In 1 Samuel 19–24, we see this jealousy consume Saul in his mad pursuit of David. Yet when David is given clear opportunities to take matters into his own hands or obey God, he shows us what we most need to obey: to have a God-sized view of God. Ultimately, Jesus, our Shepherd-King, provides the perfect example of this trust and obedience.

1. Saul's Threat (1 Samuel 19:1-10)

Proverbs 27:4 says, "*Wrath is cruel, anger is overwhelming, but who can stand before jealousy*?"

2. David's Escape (1 Samuel 19:11-23:29)

"Sometimes the clearest evidence that God has not deserted you is not that you are successfully past your trial but that you are still on your feet in the middle of it." – Dale Ralph Davis

3. The Opportunity that Reveals David's Heart (1 Samuel 24)

QUESTIONS (Pray, read the passage and pick 4-5 questions to discuss. Trust the Holy Spirit to guide.)

1. Consider Proverbs 27:4 and the example of Saul in 1 Samuel 19:1-10. How does jealousy show up in your life? Are there people whose success, blessings, or recognition you struggle to celebrate because you wish you had what they have? What does that reveal about your heart?

2. Where are you most tempted to compare what God has given you with what he has given others, and how has he taught you to find satisfaction in Him?

3. David models biblical lament by praying, "You have kept count of my wanderings; put my tears in your bottle" (Psalm 56:8). How does this kind of lament change the way we endure suffering?

4. David also models biblical lament by praying, "This I know, that God is for me" (Psalm 56:9). When has God's grace preserved you *in the middle of* suffering and wondering why things are happening?

5. David could wait for God's timing because he trusted God's promise. What promises of God do you need to remind yourself of when obedience is difficult?.

6. Read 1 Samuel 24:1-7. David was able to obey because God's honor and name mattered infinitely more to him than his own. How can you begin or continue cultivating this God-sized view of God in your life?

7. When you look at your life, what is one way that knowing Jesus as your Shepherd and King has changed what you love, what you fear, or what you're willing to sacrifice to obey God?