LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

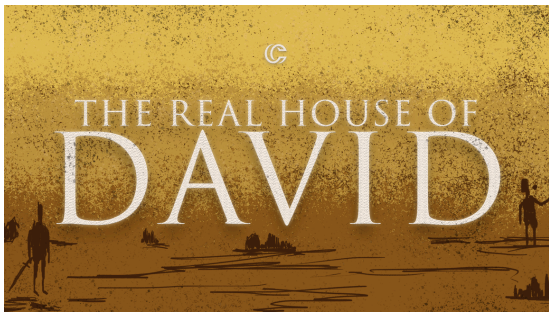
JULY 13 - JULY 19, 2025

1

WELCOME - (5-10 MINUTES)

Welcome Everyone. Introduce yourself and any new individuals.

Have a member read ALL of the group goals and ONE guideline.



BREAK THE ICE:

WELCOME BACK! What is something you did during the break that kept you connected in your faith?

What is a goal that you would like to accomplish this semester?
Fellowship Event?
Discipleship?
Serve Event?

2

WORSHIP ACTIVITY - (10-15 MINUTES)

Ask the Life Group to stand-up & sing together. If your group meets in public, ask a member to text out a song before the meeting and have everyone worship on the way!
THE JESUS WAY by Phil Wickham

3

WORD - (15-20 MINUTES)

Synopsis of 2 Samuel 2:1 - 3:39

After the death of Saul, David sought divine guidance, asking God if he should move to one of Judah's towns. God directed him to Hebron, where the people of Judah anointed David as their king.
Concurrently, Saul's son, Ish-bosheth, ascended to the throne over the rest of Israel, backed by Saul's army commander, Abner. This led to a national division: Judah followed David, while the other tribes pledged allegiance to Ish-bosheth.
A confrontation erupted at the pool of Gibeon when soldiers from both sides met. What began as a contest escalated into a fierce battle, resulting in a decisive victory for David's forces and heavy casualties for Ish-bosheth's army.
Later, a disagreement between Abner and Ish-bosheth prompted Abner to abandon Ish-bosheth and seek an alliance with David. Abner met with David, intending to unify all of Israel under David's rule. However, Joab, David's commander, harbored resentment because Abner had killed his brother in an earlier battle. Despite Abner's peaceful intentions, Joab deceptively confronted and killed him in an act of revenge. David publicly mourned Abner, demonstrating his disapproval of Joab's actions. This act showed David's commitment to justice and his respect, even for a former enemy.

QUESTIONS ON FOLLOWING PAGE

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3

continued

1. **READ 2 Samuel 2:1, 12-17.** What does David do before he decides to move to Hebron?
2. How do David's men and Saul's son's men act differently during their fight at Gibeon?
3. How does Abner's role in the story change from the beginning to the end?
4. Why is it important that David consult God before he moves? What does this show about him? (2 (Samuel 2:1-4)
5. Why do you think David praises the men of Jabesh-gilead for burying Saul, even though Saul had been his enemy? (2 Samuel 2:4-6)
6. Why was Joab so angry at Abner, even after Abner tried to make peace? What does this show about Joab's heart? (2 Samuel 3:24-27)
7. Has there been a time in your life that you waited on God's direction before making a decision?
8. How can we show kindness and forgiveness like David, even when people who have hurt us or have been against us?

4

WITNESS - (10-15 MINUTES)

BREAKOUT TIME: Break into smaller, like-gendered groups of 3-4. Address the following question(s):

- When have you had to show kindness or forgiveness to someone who has hurt you or acted like an enemy towards you?
- Is there a specific choice that you need to make this week?
- How can we be praying for you?

5

CLOSING ANNOUNCEMENTS & REMINDERS

- **Who's missing? Who hasn't been to Life Group in a while? This week, let's each take the name of someone we haven't seen in a while and reach out to them with a text, phone call, or note.**
- **SAVE THE DATE**: The **Life Group Connection Event** is Sunday, August 3rd. This event will be a fantastic opportunity to meet potential Life Group members and remind former members that they are welcome in your group.
- **FRIEND SUNDAY is taking place on Sunday, August 10th. BRING A FRIEND AND JOIN US AT ONE OF OUR LOCATIONS. For times and locations, visit, https://celebrationchurch.org/friendsunday/**
- Stay Connected by joining us on our Life Group Leader Facebook page.