

## *The Crown: Week 3*

### ***Enter The Unwavering King***

Big Idea: Even when life doesn't go as planned, God calls us to follow Him and trust Him with our Lives.

Read the Bible:

1 Samuel 24

### **STUDY**

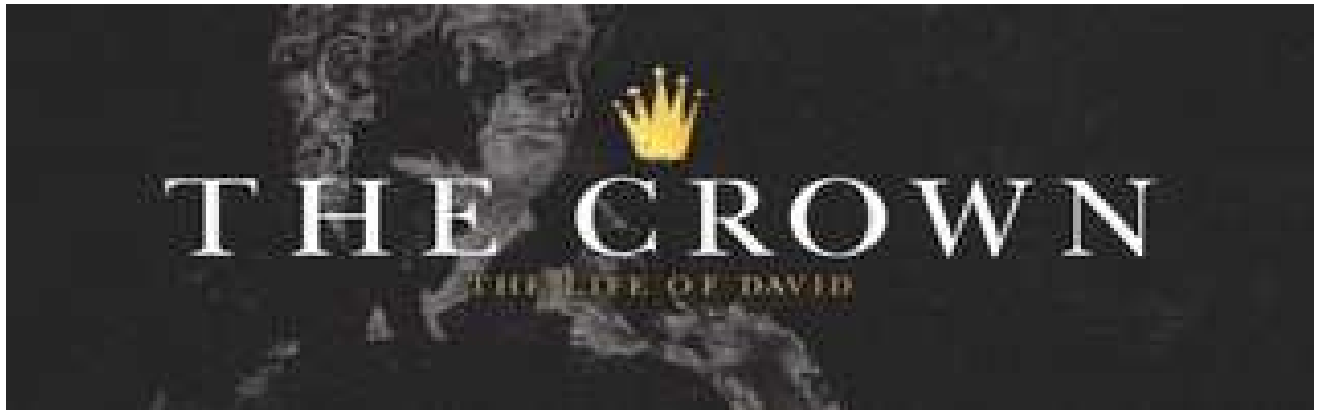
\*\*\* Before interacting with this guide, all leaders should study the referenced texts using the REAP Method. It's also important to encourage your group members to read the text using the REAP Method. \*\*\*

R: Read the text a couple of times through

E: Examine the text. What does the text say? What does the text mean?

A: Apply the text. How should the text change your life?

P: Pray to God in response.



### **Summary**

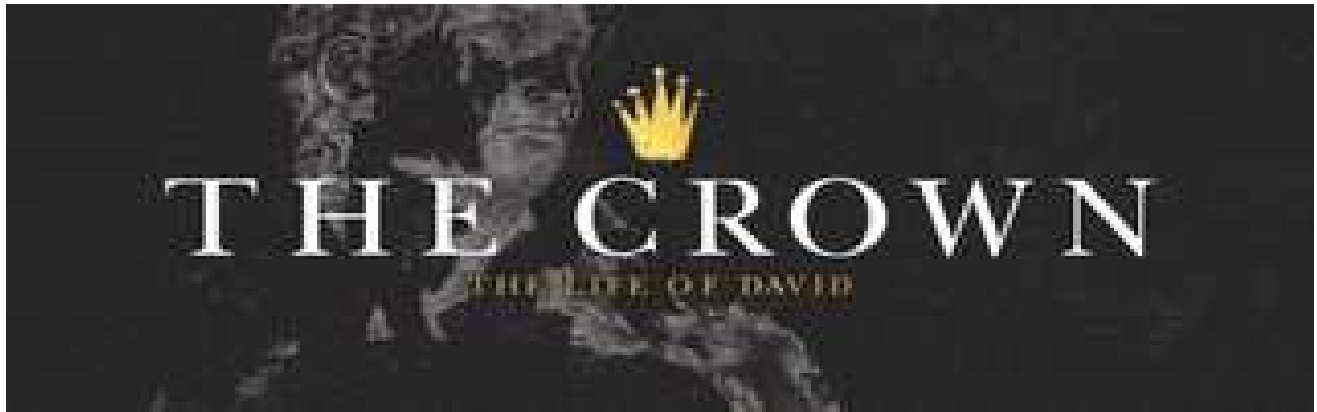
Things in David's life have not gone the way he thought they would after being anointed king in 1 Samuel 16.

If David was expecting a coronation parade, a ceremony, and massive fanfare to usher in his new kingdom, he was met with a harsh reality. After killing Goliath and being drawn into Saul's service as a warrior David's fame increases rapidly. David's rapid ascension led to King Saul becoming jealous for his throne and crown, despite David's faithfulness. So, one night when David was playing the harp for Saul, the King decided to try and murder David. Thus, David began to live as an outlaw. Despite his faithfulness, again and again in 1 Samuel we find Saul trying to hunt David down and kill him.

This is exactly the situation we come across in 1 Samuel 24. Saul and a search party are after David, who at this point has built a substantial following. Comically enough, Saul wanders into a cave to "relieve himself." In this moment, David's men urge the future king to put an end to the madness immediately, to take what was rightfully his, to kill King Saul and take his crown.

David however lives under a different rule, God's rule. David knows that God forbids such murder. So, David cuts off a corner of Saul's robe. Later he presents this to Saul as evidence, "If I wanted you dead, you'd be dead." In grief, Saul calls off the hunt, at least temporarily and David continues to live as an outcast.

Although the entertainment value in this story is high, it's worth noting why it's included in scripture. Here David shows us the pattern for the Christian life, we live under the Lordship of God, even when life's circumstances seem to be offering us up something better. No matter what's going on in front of us we are called to trust God, die to ourselves, and follow him. That includes the times when nothing in our life seems to be going as planned.



### **Major Lessons**

1. We don't look at life's circumstances to direct our path's. Instead, we seek God's will and obey his word even when it would be easy to do otherwise.
2. We must be willing to test God's word against life's circumstances to make sure we are following him. This is why time in God's word is so important.

1 John 4:1 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world.

3. God's will for our lives is sometimes to be patient and wait on the Lord.

## **Leading Your Group**

**Community Time – Start group by asking for Prayer requests and checking in on everyone.**

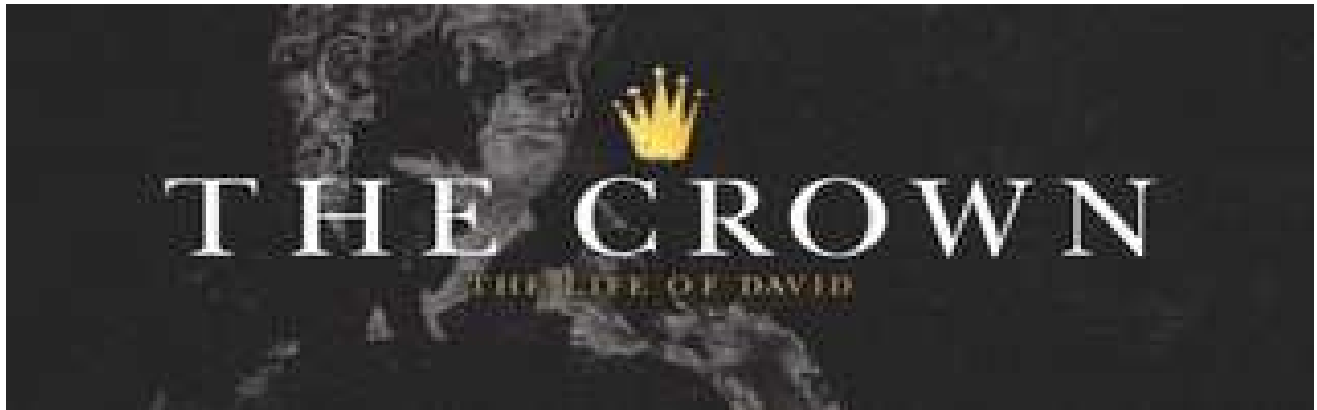
### **Bible Study**

\*\*\*Have everyone in your group read assigned scripture before meeting. \*\*\*

**Start Group by Reading 1 Samuel 24. (Split the Reading among the Group)**

**Discuss** (The following questions are meant as suggested questions to guide conversation.)

1. What did this passage teach you about God (Jesus)?
2. How do you tell the difference between life's circumstances and God's will? Has there ever been a time when life offered you one thing, but obeying God led in a different direction?
3. David showed a massive amount of patience in waiting for God's will instead of acting on his own. Would you consider yourself a patient person?



4. Have you ever experienced a situation like David's where life didn't go as you had planned?

### **Teaching**

1. Make sure to spend some time talking about David is an example of how a Christian should follow Jesus. Obey his word. Die to Self. Trust Him.
2. One of the main elements of this text is the virtue of patience. Teach your group about how important it is to be able to patiently wait for God to act instead of fighting our own battles in life.
3. God's plan was better than David's. Teach the group that even if they are like David and life isn't going as planned, God's plan is better than what they had planned.

## **Resources & Commentaries**

### **The Teacher's Bible Commentary**

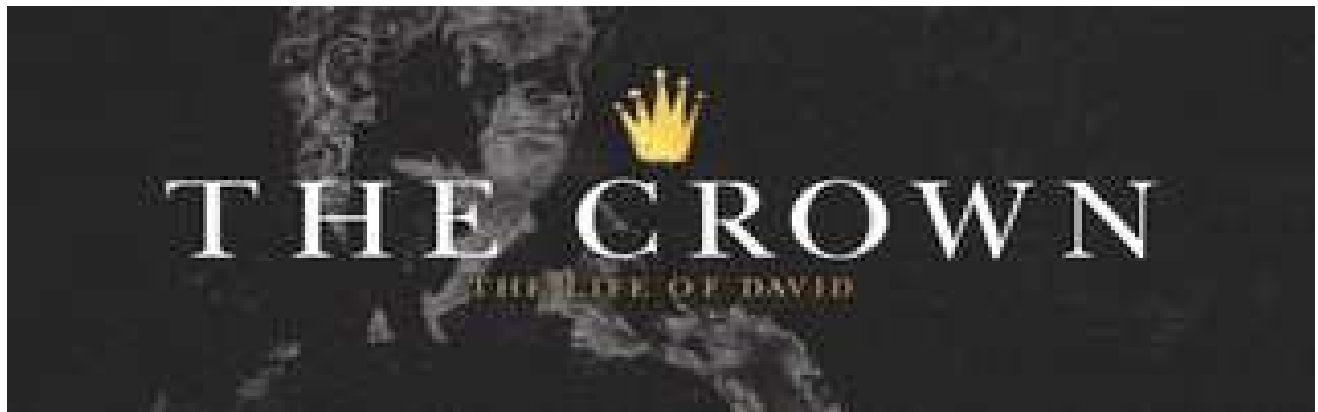
#### **Saul Delivered to David (1 Sam. 24:1–22)**

*The passage.*—In the struggle between Saul and David, the people of Israel were confronted with an agonizing dilemma. Their new government which had been established to help unify the nation was torn asunder by the bitter power struggle. The resultant division reopened the way for domination by foreign powers. Clearly the nation had to be united, but behind whom? Was Saul truly a demented autocrat senselessly pursuing an innocent man, or was David a political opportunist seeking to usurp power from the king?

The biblical author seeks to resolve this question in his account of the meeting between Saul and David in the cave at Engedi. With 3,000 crack troops at his command and with local citizens helping to locate his rival, the king seemingly had the upper hand. Once again, however, the Lord intervened—this time to deliver Saul into David's hands.

David now had the power, seemingly a God-given opportunity, to remove the one last obstacle blocking his and Jonathan's plan to restore stability to Israel's government (23:15–18).

David, however, was not anxious to assume personal control of matters under divine jurisdiction. He, therefore, restrained his men and cut off only the border of Saul's robe. If Saul



was to be deposed as king of Israel, God would have to provide his own means for removing him from office. David would not lift up his hand against the Lord's anointed.

Saul was forced to admit that his suspicions had been ungrounded and that David would indeed one day rule over Israel.<sup>1</sup>

## ***Bible Panorama: Chapter by Chapter Guide***

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### CHAPTER TWENTY-FOUR

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**V 1–4: CHANCE** As Saul pursues David in En-Gedi with 3,000 chosen men, David has a chance to kill Saul. David and his men are positioned in a cave when Saul enters the cave to relieve himself, unaware of their presence at the back of the cave. David's men urge him to kill Saul. Instead, David creeps up to cut a corner from Saul's robe. **V 5–7: CHOICE** David is even conscience stricken at having cut the corner from the cloak of the 'LORD's anointed'. He refuses to let his men attack Saul, who leaves the cave unaware either that his robe has been cut or that David is so near. **V 8–15: CHALLENGE** David follows Saul, but not with a sword. His humble challenge to Saul is moving. He bows and prostrates himself before the king and pleads with him to realise that he is not trying to kill him. **V 16–21: CHASTENED** Saul is chastened in his spirit by David's humility and weeps aloud. He admits that David has treated him well, but that he has treated David badly. He knows that David will be the king of Israel and asks David to swear that he will treat Saul's descendants well. David gives this oath to Saul and Saul returns home. **V 22: CHARY** Notwithstanding Saul's response at that time, David and his men go back to their stronghold, even though Saul goes home. David knows Saul well and is very aware of the possibility of his further mood swings. Saul will seek to kill David again before very long.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Philbeck, B. F. (1972). [1 Samuel](#). In H. F. Paschall & H. H. Hobbs (Eds.), *The teacher's Bible commentary* (p. 176). Nashville: Broadman and Holman Publishers.

<sup>2</sup> Chrispin, G. (2005). [The Bible Panorama: Enjoying the Whole Bible with a Chapter-by-Chapter Guide](#) (p. 136). Leominster, UK: Day One Publications.