

M CODE-NAME: MASHIYACH

Mashiyach. Anointed One. A man chosen by the LORD to lead His people and do battle for their deliverance.

This summer at Cowboy's Rest we'll be examining the early life of one such *mashiyach* in Scripture: David. Anointed at a young age, this lowly shepherd courageously stood-up to savage beasts, armored giants and a crazed king, all because he never lost sight of one truth: "the battle belongs to the LORD".

Like David, we also must learn to relinquish command of our lives to the mighty Warrior we call LORD. Whatever foes we may face, whatever spiritual giants may loom ahead, our heavenly Commander in Chief is greater than any power of darkness. He is *Mashiyach Melech ha-M'lachim* -- Messiah the King of kings. He is Jesus the Christ, and He has overcome this world.

So, join us this summer as we enlist in the spiritual army of *Mashiyach* and learn to carry out His orders. "Thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

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TEACHING SCHEDULE HIGH SCHOOL & YOUTH CAMPS 2019

Monday PM Worship & The Word -- David the LORD's *Mashiyach*

The life of Saul in review: 1 Samuel chapters 8-15

Key Passage: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

Key Event: David is anointed by Samuel.

Tuesday AM Cabin Devotions -- David the Court Musician

Key Passage: 1 Samuel 16:13-23

Key Events: David becomes Saul's harpist and armor-bearer.

Tuesday AM Worship & The Word -- David the Giant Slayer

Key Passage: 1 Samuel 17:1-58

Key Event: David slays Goliath.

Tuesday PM Worship & The Word -- David the Commander of a Thousand

Key Passage: 1 Samuel 18:1 - 19:24

Key Events: Saul grows jealous of David and attempts to kill him. God uses Jonathan, Michal and Samuel to protect David.

Wednesday AM Cabin Devotions -- David the True Friend

Key Passage: 1 Samuel 20:1-42

Key Events: David and Jonathan reaffirm their covenant. David flees Saul's court.

Wednesday AM Worship & The Word -- David the Fugitive

Key Passages: 1 Samuel 21:1 - 22:1 & 22:6-23

Key Events: David lies to Ahimelech. David feigns madness before Achish. Saul slays the priests of Nob.

Wednesday PM Worship & The Word -- David the Captain of Outlaws

Key Passages: 1 Samuel 22:1-5 & 23:1-29

Key Events: David's band of men multiplies. David rescues Keilah. God rescues David in the wilderness of Maon.

Thursday AM Cabin Devotions -- David the Righteous, Pt. 1

Key Passage: 1 Samuel 24:1-22

Key Events: David spares Saul's life at Engedi.

Thursday AM Worship & The Word -- David the Righteous, Pt. 2

Key Passage: 1 Samuel 25:1 - 26:25

Key Events: David spares Nabal. David marries Abigail. David spares Saul a second time at Hachilah.

Thursday PM Worship & The Word -- David the Doubtful

Key Passages: 1 Samuel 27:1 - 28:2 & 29:1-11

Key Events: David joins the Philistines and is given Ziklag. The Philistine commanders reject David.

Friday AM Cabin Devotions -- Saul the Rebellious

Key Passage: 1 Samuel 28:3-25

Key Event: Saul consults the medium at En-dor.

Friday AM Worship & The Word -- David the Victorious

Key Passage: 1 Samuel 30:1-31

Key Events: Ziklag is raided by Amalekites. David inquires of the LORD and defeats the raiders.

Friday PM Worship & The Word -- Saul the Defeated

Key Passage: 1 Samuel 31:1-13

Key Events: Saul and Jonathan die. The Philistines rout Israel.

Saturday AM Cabin Devotions -- David the Mourner

Key Passage: 2 Samuel 1:1-27

Key Events: David executes the Amalekite messenger. David laments both Saul and Jonathan.

Saturday AM Worship & The Word -- David the Melech

Key Passage: 2 Samuel 2:1-11

Key Events: God leads David to Hebron. David is anointed king over Judah. Abner sets-up Ish-bosheth as king of all Israel.

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A NOTE TO OUR GUEST SPEAKER

Thank you so much for your willingness to teach the Word of God to our students at Cowboy's Rest this summer! Our staff has been praying for you often throughout these past months, and we will continue to do so as camp rapidly approaches.

The lesson descriptions below are provided simply to aid you in your preparation for teaching. We want you to feel free to follow the Holy Spirit's leading as you study for each session. If you sense Him guiding you toward other Scripture references or differing points of application, that's fine. If the Lord grants you insight into how to make these sessions more age-appropriate and interactive, that's wonderful. And if He gives you some crazy, creative ideas for making all this information stick, awesome! We only ask that you cling to the Word.

With that said, it is important that we stay on track at camp with the schedule of "Key Passages". One of the goals of this curriculum is to cover the first half of the life of David while keeping the events in chronological order. Since we'll be teaching some of the episodes and chapters through cabin devotions each morning, we hope that you will stick to the provided schedule during the large group sessions. Just to clarify, you will be responsible for leading all ten "Worship & The Word" lessons (both morning and evening). The cabin devotions will be led by our counselors, although you are certainly welcome to participate in these small-group discussions if you like.

Thank you once again for joining our summer ministry team at Cowboy's Rest. We are so excited to see what the Lord will choose to accomplish this year, by His grace and for His glory. We look forward to partnering with you in serving His great Name!

God Bless!
The CR Senior Staff



A NOTE ON THE TERM "MASHIYACH"

The Hebrew word *ḥāshiyāḥ* or "mashiyach" (Strong's #4899) is used thirty-nine times in the Old Testament. Of these occurrences, exactly one-third (or thirteen total) are found in 1 and 2 Samuel. This is not surprising as these two books deal primarily with the establishment of the Israelite monarchy. *Mashiyach* is a noun translated "anointed one" or, more frequently, simply "anointed". Out of the books preceding 1 Samuel, the term appears only in Leviticus, and there it refers exclusively to God's anointed high priest.

When Saul and David arrive on the scene in 1 Samuel, the term is applied to them as the chosen kings of Israel. Specifically, both are referred to as "the LORD's anointed." The title *mashiyach* comes to represent a divinely appointed monarch whom God uses to judge and deliver His people.

Throughout the remainder of the Old Testament, the significance of this term only grows. It is sometimes applied to the chosen nation of Israel as a whole. And once, *mashiyach* is even used to describe Cyrus, a pagan king whom God uses greatly to accomplish His ends. (See Isaiah 45:1.)

However, the most important aspect of the word *mashiyach* is its connection with the second Person of the Trinity. In passages like Psalms 2, we learn that the ultimate *Mashiyach* is more than just a human king. He is the Son of God who will someday reign with perfect justice over the entire earth. In Daniel 9, the prophet records predictions for the distant future and specifically mentions "*Mashiyach Nagiyd*", a Hebrew phrase that is translated "Messiah the Prince". And so the concept of a divine, eternal and future Messiah is firmly established in the Old Testament.

In the New Testament, of course, that *Mashiyach* is revealed. Jesus of Nazareth is referred to over 500 times as *Christos* or "Christos" (Strong's #5547), the Greek word that carries the same meaning as *Mashiyach*. We often forget that when we use the phrase "Jesus Christ" we are literally saying "Jesus the Anointed One." God the Son is the long-awaited *Mashiyach* in the flesh, and all of the Messianic prophecies of the Old Testament apply directly to the Christ of the New.

Like the ancient Israelites, we still await the fulfillment of many of those prophecies today. In fact, the New Testament only heightens our anticipation of Messiah's coming kingdom. It's interesting to note that the final occurrence of the word *Christos* in Scripture is found in Revelation 20:6. In this passage, the returned, triumphant Christ is pictured reigning over this entire world with His resurrected saints enthroned beside Him. When the LORD's Anointed sits on

David's throne forever and rules the earth with infinite justice and peace, then all the promises of *Mashiyach* will finally be fulfilled.

So... how much of this information needs to be presented to campers at Cowboy's Rest this summer? Probably not much. Since our theme name includes the word *mashiyach*, students obviously need to understand what this term means and how it applies to David. The bridge between "Messiah" in the Old Testament and "Christ" in the New Testament also serves as a connection between David and Jesus. Without delving too deeply into typology or the Davidic covenant, campers should be introduced to the idea that David pre-figures Jesus in many ways. Most importantly, they need to understand that Jesus is the ultimate *Mashiyach*. Just as David fought on behalf of Israel, so our Lord desires to deliver us from our spiritual foes and grant us His victory.

In the lesson descriptions that follow, we will attempt to highlight these themes as they occur in the text of 1 and 2 Samuel.



DESCRIPTIONS OF LESSONS

☆☆☆ Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture quotations below are taken from the New American Standard version of the Holy Bible. ☆☆☆

Monday PM Worship & The Word

Saul, The People's Melech

Key Passages: 1 Samuel chapters 8-15 (the life of Saul in summary)

Key Points:

☆ As we open the Book of 1st Samuel, we need to review its historical context. It's been 400 years since God delivered the nation of Israel out of Egypt. Since that time, the LORD Himself has been reigning as King over His people, using men like Moses, Gideon and Samson to serve as divinely appointed Judges. Samuel the prophet is the last of these judges, and through him, God has accomplished a great victory over the Philistines. (1 Samuel 7:13) However, the Israelites now desire a human king (or "*melech*") to reign over them, like all of the nations around them. They have rejected God as their King because they want an earthly warrior to fight their battles for them. (1 Samuel 8:7 & 20)

☆ God grants the people's request and gives them a man who looks like an earthly king: Saul the son of Kish. Samuel anoints Saul, thereby making him "*mashiyach*", or the LORD's anointed. (1 Samuel 12:3, 24:6, 26:9, 2 Samuel 1:14) God's specific mission for Saul is to deliver His people from the hand of the Philistine oppressors. (1 Samuel 9:16)

☆ Saul starts out well by fighting against foreign invaders and relying on the LORD. (1 Samuel 11) However, he soon begins to do things his own way. He doesn't wait for Samuel to arrive before offering sacrifices, even though Samuel specifically instructs him to do so. (1 Samuel 10:8, 13:8-14) Then he only partially obeys the LORD when God sends him on a mission against the Amalekites. (1 Samuel 15) Saul thinks that he knows better than the LORD, and he always blames others for his disobedience. Worse yet, he thinks that giving God lip-service and making empty sacrifices is just as good as actually following God's commands. (1 Samuel 15:22)

☆ So, because Saul rejects God's word, God rejects Saul as king. Through Samuel, the LORD first tells Saul that He has "*sought out for Himself a man after His own heart, and ... appointed him ruler over His people.*" (1 Samuel 13:14) Later, God instructs Samuel to announce that He has torn the kingdom away from Saul and given it to Saul's "*neighbor, who is better than*" Saul. (1 Samuel 15:28)

As chapter 16 of 1 Samuel begins, we are awaiting this new *mashiyach* whom God has chosen to rule His people.

David, The LORD's Mashiyach

Key Passage: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

Key Event: David is anointed by Samuel.

Key Points:

★ From an earthly perspective, David is the least qualified of his brothers to be anointed king of Israel. He lacks stature, age, and military experience. However, God is not concerned with this *mashiyach's* height, but with his heart. After all, "man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart." (1 Samuel 16:7) The LORD has previously called David "a man after His own heart", but what exactly does this mean? In Acts 13:22, the Apostle Paul retells this story and he attributes the following words to God, "I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after My own heart, who will do all My will." So, having a heart patterned after God's own heart primarily means one thing: obedience. Unlike Saul, David will obey the LORD, because his heart fully belongs to God.

In 2 Chronicles 16:9, we learn that God is actively searching the entire earth for men and women whose hearts are completely His. He finds such a man in David. Although this young shepherd is far from perfect, his devotion and obedience to the LORD are wholehearted. Consequently, as the aforementioned verse in 2 Chronicles promises, God will "strongly support" David. We'll find out just how strongly in the lessons ahead.

Key Application:

★ Who is on the throne of my life? Have I yielded control to God as King, or am I still trying to do things my way? Like the children of Israel, am I rejecting the only One who can truly win the battles for me just because I want to fit in with everyone around me?

★ What does God see when He looks at my heart? Does He see someone like Saul who's just playing a religious game and disobeying Him all the while? Or does He see someone like David who is whole-heartedly following Him and genuinely seeking to obey His commands? Has my heart been cleansed and renewed by the blood of Christ? Has God exchanged my old, hard heart for a new, soft heart that is fully His? (Ezekiel 36:25-27) If so, then am I living like it?

Tuesday AM Cabin Devotions -- David the Court Musician

Key Passage: 1 Samuel 16:13-23

Key Events: David becomes Saul's harpist and armor-bearer.

Key Points:

★ When David was anointed, "*the Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon [him] from that day forward.*" (1 Samuel 16:13) This seems to be a unique occurrence in the Old Testament, as humans were usually only filled with the Spirit for brief periods of time in the midst of dire circumstances. (Judges 6:34, 11:29, 15:14, 1 Samuel 11:6) Even David sometimes feared that God would withdraw the Holy Spirit as a result of sin in his life. (Psalms 51:11)

Today, if we've believed in Jesus as our Lord and Savior, then we also have been anointed and filled with the Holy Spirit. (1 John 2:20 & 27) However, unlike David and the other saints of the Old Testament, we don't have to worry about the Spirit ever forsaking us. Ephesians 1:13-14 & 4:30 reassure us that we are "sealed in [Christ] with the Holy Spirit of promise" until the day of our redemption.

★ All of David's successes in this chapter (and in all of those which follow) are attributed to the fact that "*the LORD is with him.*" (1 Samuel 16:18)

Already he is gaining quite a reputation for strength, skill, wisdom and godliness amongst the children of Israel.

When the Spirit has His way in our lives, people won't be able to help but notice a difference in us. How awesome is it that God Himself dwells within us and has promised to never leave?

Key Application:

★ First off, do I know for certain that I've been in-dwelt with the Holy Spirit as a result of believing in Jesus? If so, then am I walking in the Spirit each day? (Galatians 5:25) How does the fact that God dwells within me change the way that I live? Can others look at my life and see that the LORD is with me? If not, why not?

Tuesday AM Worship & The Word -- David the Giant Slayer

Key Passage: 1 Samuel 17:1-58

Key Event: David slays Goliath.

Key Points:

★ This well-known story is all about representative combat. Goliath represents the Philistines as their intimidating champion. At first glance, David represents Israel as their laughable underdog. Yet, David realizes that "*the battle is the LORD's*". (1 Sam. 17:47) The youth trusts in YHWH Himself to fight this battle, and Scripture is clear that YHWH is the mightiest of all warriors. (Exodus 15:3, Psalm 24:8, Proverbs 21:30-31) He is "*the living God*" (1 Sam. 17:26 & 36), and both Goliath and his powerless "gods" are dead-meat when matched against Him. David is zealous for the LORD's glory, and he never forgets just how mighty his God is. Neither should we.

★ Of course, in this account David is also a symbol or type of Christ. As the LORD's *mashiyach*, he engages in combat with the enemies of God and delivers the LORD's people from their oppression. The divine Son of David, Jesus the Christ (or Messiah or *Mashiyach*), has similarly done battle against the enemy of our souls. By virtue of His life, death and resurrection, Jesus has conquered temptation, sin, the world, death and Satan. (John 16:33, 1 Corinthians 15:54-57, Hebrews 2:14-15 & 4:15) Christ has won the victory over each of these foes, and through Him, God the Father also grants victory to us, His children.

We will never be triumphant in our struggle against sin so long as it remains *our* struggle. Like the Israelite army, we will draw-up to the battle line again and again, and each time we'll only retreat in shame. (See Paul's personal description of this experience in Romans 7:15-25.) Only when we allow our *Mashiyach* to fight for us, only when we yield command of our lives to Him, only when we rely on His blood to make us clean; only then will we begin to share in His victory. Only then will we overcome the adversary. (Revelation 12:10-11) So, let's allow Jesus the Anointed One to be our representative warrior. Let's remember that the battle truly belongs to Him ... and, in fact, He's already won.

Key Application:

★ Am I experiencing victory in my struggle against sin? If not, is it possible that I'm trying to fight a battle which only the LORD can win? What other spiritual giants am I facing? How is the enemy trying to intimidate and discourage me? Do I really believe that Jesus Christ is more powerful than any situation, challenge or foe that I may encounter? Will I humble myself and ask Him to slay this giant in my life? Will I claim the victory that is only found in yielding my whole self to Him?

Tuesday PM Worship & The Word -- David the Commander of a Thousand

Key Passage: 1 Samuel 18:1 - 19:24

Key Events: Saul grows jealous of David and attempts to kill him. God uses Jonathan, Michal and Samuel to protect David.

Key Points:

★ In these two chapters, David continues to prosper greatly because the LORD is with him. If God is for us, who can be against us? (Psalm 56:9-11, Romans 8:31) When we abide in God's Word, obey His commands, and carry out the missions to which He assigns us, He will bless us with spiritual (though not always earthly) success. (Joshua 1:5-9)

★ Saul's jealousy is an awful thing. In a matter of verses, the old king's attitude toward David devolves from love (1 Samuel 16:21), to anger (18:8), to suspicion (18:9), to fear (18:12), to outright dread (18:15). At some point, Saul realizes that David is indeed the LORD's *mashiyach* and that he will be the next king. (24:20) However, this doesn't necessitate David becoming Saul's enemy. In fact, if Saul had desired to repent and seek God's will, he could have abdicated the throne to David at any time. Instead, he allows his pride and selfishness to ruin his life and the lives of most of his loved ones.

★ The LORD continues to fight the battles on David's behalf. Despite Saul's best efforts, neither the Philistines, nor the king's servants, nor the king himself can destroy David. God uses the diplomacy of Jonathan (1 Samuel: 19:4-7), the duplicity of Michal (19:11-17), and the deliverance of Samuel (19:18-24) to protect His servant from harm. And finally, the Holy Spirit Himself acts almost as a weapon by incapacitating Saul and his soldiers, thus allowing David a chance to escape from Naioth. (How sad that this is the last time Saul will ever experience the moving of God's Spirit.)

These chapters remind us that God doesn't need human weapons to protect and deliver His chosen ones. As David would later write, "*Now I know that the LORD saves His anointed [mashiyach]; He will answer him from His holy heaven with the saving strength of His right hand. Some boast in chariots and some in horses, but we will boast in the name of the LORD our God.*" (Psalm 20:6-7)

Key Application:

★ How do I respond when God blesses other people around me? With jealousy and pride, or with praise and humility? Do I "*rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep*"? (Romans 12:15) Or do I merely look out for my own interests? (Philippians 2:3-4) How similar am I to Saul when it comes to my pride? How does Christ want me to deal with the selfishness in my life?

★ Do I really believe that the LORD is guarding my life as one of His precious children? What does it mean that He has given His angels charge over me to guard me in all my ways? (Psalm 91:11) If I truly believe that God is my shield, defender and refuge, how should it change the way that I live?

Wednesday AM Cabin Devotions -- David the True Friend

Key Passage: 1 Samuel 20:1-42

Key Events: David and Jonathan reaffirm their covenant. David flees Saul's court.

Key Points:

★ The friendship of David and Jonathan is one of the closest and most inspiring in all of Scripture, and indeed, in all of history. There are three key factors found in this chapter that reveal why this friendship worked.

★ **Humility**. Both Jonathan and David treat the other man as more important than himself. Jonathan, the crown prince of Israel, has already given up his weapons and his royal robe to David, placing him in a position of superiority. (1 Samuel 18:4) Now, he submits to obeying David's orders (20:4), and prays for David's kingdom to be established at the cost of his own dynasty. (20:13-15, 20:31) For his part, David, the LORD's *mashiyach*, continues to refer to himself

as Jonathan's servant. (20:7-8) He submits to Jonathan's judgment of his character (20:8), and he even bows before his friend three times in respect and deep gratitude. (20:41) If only our relationships within the body of Christ were based on such humility and selflessness. (Philippians 2:1-8)

★ **Lovingkindness.** It's clear from the text that Jonathan loves David as much as he loves himself (1 Samuel 18:1), and as much as he loves his own life (20:17). However, the bond between the two friends goes deeper than mere human fondness and affection.

In 1 Samuel 20:14, Jonathan asks David to show him "the lovingkindness of the LORD". The Hebrew word for "lovingkindness" is "hesed" (Strong's #2617), and this term refers to God's loyal, unconditional, covenantal love which arises out of His very character. It is this faithful and unfailing love of the LORD that is celebrated throughout the Old Testament in passages like Psalm 136. However, in the very next verse, 1 Samuel 20:15, Jonathan uses the same word, *hesed*, to describe not God's lovingkindness, but David's. According to Jonathan, it's actually possible for one human being to show this divine degree of love to another.

Later, in the New Testament, we learn that this is in fact possible, but only when said human being is filled with the Holy Spirit. Unconditional, sacrificial love, or "agape" (Strong's #26), is one of the first virtues that the Spirit begins to produce in the life of a believer. (Galatians 5:22) Of course, Jesus shows us exactly what this love looks like through His death on our behalf. (John 15:13) He also commands His followers to show this degree of love for one another, and He desires for this love to become the trademark of His disciples. (John 13:34-35) It's interesting that even a thousand years before Christ, Jonathan sees God's brand of lovingkindness alive in David, whom we know is indeed filled with the Holy Spirit. And this leads us to the third and final factor of their friendship, and its very foundation...

★ **The LORD.** God's covenant Name is found on the lips of David and Jonathan thirteen times in this chapter. In fact, the last words that Jonathan speaks to David in this scene are, "The LORD will be between me and you, and between my descendants and your descendants forever." (1 Sam. 20:42) It's clear that their friendship is centered entirely on YHWH and on their mutual faith in Him.

The bond that believers share in Jesus should be even deeper. After all, each and everyone of us has the same Spirit dwelling within us. (Ephesians 4:1-6) If this is indeed the case, then why do we so often see such disunity in the body of Christ? The humble, loving, God-centered friendship of David and Jonathan really shouldn't be anything all that remarkable. Rather, shouldn't it be the norm for relationships between God's children?

Key Application

★ What do my friendships look like? Do I act humbly and considerately toward my friends? Or is it all about me?

★ Have I experienced the forgiving, unconditional love of God in my life? If so, am I now extending it to the people around me? Am I allowing God to love the unlovable through me?

★ How many of my close friendships are centered on Jesus? How many of my friends actually know that I'm a follower of Christ? How can I take steps to further involve my Lord in my everyday interactions and conversations?

Wednesday AM Worship & The Word -- David the Fugitive

Key Passages: 1 Samuel 21:1 - 22:1 & 22:6-23

Key Events: David lies to Achish. David feigns madness before Achish. Saul slays the priests of Nob.

Key Points:

★ David makes some very questionable decisions in this passage. First, he lies to Ahimelech the priest about why he's alone and why he isn't carrying any weapons. Some commentators suggest that when David speaks of a "king" who has sent him on an urgent mission (1 Samuel 21:2 & 8), perhaps he's referring to King YHWH, not King Saul. Therefore, their line of reasoning goes, he's not technically lying. Even if this is the case (and it seems like a pretty big stretch), David's intention is clearly to mislead Ahimelech. Rather than being straightforward about the fact that he is fleeing from Saul, David allows Ahimelech to believe that he is actually obeying an official order from Saul. This lie will have awful consequences for the entire city of Nob. If David had told the truth, perhaps Ahimelech would have assisted him in a more discreet manner, and perhaps great tragedy would have been averted.

As followers of Christ, we are commanded to stop lying. (Ephesians 4:22-25, Colossians 3:9-10) It's a symptom of the old self, and it's a habit that must be overcome by the power of the Spirit within us. After all, Jesus is *the Truth*, and the truth will set us free. (John 14:6, 8:32)

★ But David isn't done making bad choices. Next, he leaves behind the territory controlled by Israel and heads for the land of the Philistines. From an earthly perspective, this move actually makes sense. Saul has been fighting the Philistines since before David was born. So, perhaps David figures, "The enemy of my enemy is my friend." The only problem is that David has been anointed by the LORD to lead Israel. God has already specifically told him, "*You will shepherd My people Israel, and you will be a ruler over Israel.*" (2 Samuel 5:2) In leaving Israelite territory, it seems that David is turning his back both on God's revealed will and on God's calling upon his life.

And things definitely don't work out for him. Showing up in Goliath's former hometown carrying Goliath's sword, David is immediately identified as "*the king of the land*," and as the warrior who has slain tens of thousands of Philistines. (1 Samuel 21:11) To escape from Gath, David must degrade himself by slobbering, scribbling and raving ... not exactly conduct becoming the LORD's *mashiyach*. Finally, he comes to his senses and returns to territory controlled by Judah. And, lo and behold, circumstances start to improve for him, as we'll see in the next session.

For us, the application is clear. When we know God's will in a situation and we simply disregard it, then we are sinning, and we certainly can't expect His blessing. (James 4:17) Rather, we can look forward to fear, isolation, poor decisions, and humiliation. However, we serve a gracious God who is always ready to forgive us and to help us get back on track. David learned this lesson after he fled from Gath, and like him, our response to God's goodness ought to be praise. (See Psalm 34.)

★ As we leave David in the cave of Adullam, we turn briefly to the saddening account of Saul's slaughter of the priests of Nob. The king who was unwilling to obey the LORD and completely destroy the Amalekites (1 Samuel 15), now has no problem ordering his thug Doeg to annihilate every living thing in a city dedicated to the worship of the LORD. It seems that as Saul's paranoia and insanity grow, he's decided to add the LORD to his list of enemies. When all we live for is self, we too will eventually find ourselves at odds with God.

★ Finally, when David hears the news of the massacre from the sole survivor, Abiathar, he responds with grief and admits his fault in the whole affair. In fact, he takes responsibility for the deaths of every member of Abiathar's household. Unlike Saul, who always has an excuse when confronted (1 Samuel 13:11-12, 15:20-21), David simply confesses when he has indeed done wrong. This humility when convicted of sin and this quickness to repent are virtues that will remain with him for the rest of his life. Perhaps this is another mark of a man after God's own heart.

Key Application:

★ In all honesty, how truthful of a person am I? How great a struggle for me is the temptation to lie? What did Jesus mean when He prayed for His followers to be sanctified in the truth? (John 17:17) What are some steps that I can take to surround myself with more truth and with fewer lies?

★ Are there any areas in my life where I've wandered out of the will of God? Am I willing to ask the Holy Spirit to reveal any such failings to me? If God is convicting me of a specific sin right now, then what should my response be? (See 1 John 1:9.) Am I willing to confess this sin to Him, agree with Him that it's wrong, and then turn away from it in repentance? Do I truly believe that, because of Jesus' sacrifice, God the Father is waiting to welcome me back into fellowship with Him? Will I re-enter that fellowship today?

Wednesday PM Worship & The Word -- David the Captain of Outlaws

Key Passages: 1 Samuel 22:1-5 & 23:1-29

Key Events: David's band of men multiplies. David rescues Keilah. Jonathan encourages David. God rescues David at "the Rock of Escape".

Key Points:

★ Once David gets back on track with God's will by returning to Israelite territory, the LORD graciously supplies three blessings in his life: guidance, encouragement, and protection.

★ **Guidance** from God comes in the form of the prophet Gad, the priest Abiathar, and the linen ephod rescued from Nob (which possibly includes the Urim and Thummim). David inquires of the LORD regarding every major decision he makes in chapter 23, sometimes twice. It seems he's learned a lesson from his panic-stricken flight to Philistia: Wait on the LORD, seek His will, then take action. As David would later write in Psalms 37, "*Trust in the LORD, and do good; Dwell in the land and cultivate faithfulness ... Rest in the LORD and wait patiently for Him; Do not fret because of him who prospers in his way, because of the man who carries out wicked schemes.*" (vv. 3 & 7) An important factor in receiving guidance from God is our willingness to wait on His timing.

★ God also uses various people to provide His fugitive *mashiyach* with **encouragement**. First are the members of David's family who join him in his exile at the cave of Adullam. But they're not the only political refugees who flock to him. Soon, David finds himself the captain of 400 (and then 600) men, mostly misfits, malcontents and losers. Among this number are individuals who will prove to be great warriors, and who will one day be immortalized in the list of David's mighty men. Even at this early stage in David's career, the loyalty of these soldiers to their future king is unflinching. (See 2 Samuel 23:13-17 for the story of "the three" mighty men who break through Philistine lines to deliver a small taste of home to David while he's in the cave of Adullam.) Surely the camaraderie and dedication of these men boosts the morale of their formerly isolated captain.

Of course, one of the greatest sources of encouragement in David's life is Jonathan, and the LORD graciously allows these two best friends one last reunion. Although Saul searches daily for the son of Jesse to no avail, (1 Samuel 23:14), Jonathan providentially finds David with relative ease. Jonathan "*encouraged him in God*" by reminding David of the LORD's awesome promises. (23:16-17) David will indeed be king over Israel, against all odds, because God has declared it. Thus Jonathan provides the most important and effective form of encouragement that any friend can: encouragement based on God's Word.

★ Finally, God continues to bless David with dramatic, divine **protection** in this passage. The LORD delivers His anointed from the swords of the Philistines, from the treachery of the men of Keilah, from the schemes of the Ziphites, and from the swarming army of Saul. The scene at The Rock of Escape is an awesome one as a sovereign God coordinates the movements not just of Saul and David's

troops, but of the Philistine army and of a lone Israelite messenger as well, all to rescue David at the very last second. No matter how desperate a situation may seem, we can take courage in the knowledge that our God is on the throne, and nothing takes Him by surprise.

Key Application:

★ How fervently am I seeking God's guidance in my life? Am I willing to wait on His timetable to speak to me? Or do I get ahead of His plans because of my impatience? How many of my decisions do I bring before Him in prayer? Just the major ones? Or the mundane, everyday choices as well? In which category of decisions would God like to have a say?

★ How might the LORD desire to use me in the encouragement department? What are some practical ways that my friends and I can "*stimulate one another to love and good deeds...*" (Hebrews 10:24) Do I know God's Word well enough to encourage my fellow believers with its truths?

Thursday AM Cabin Devotions -- David the Righteous, Pt. 1

Key Passage: 1 Samuel 24:1-22

Key Events: David spares Saul's life at Engedi.

Key Points:

★ David waits on the LORD and trusts God to do his fighting. He will not take vengeance on Saul, but will await God's justice in God's time. Once again, the belief that the battle belongs to the LORD is played-out in a practical manner.

★ As followers of Jesus, we are commanded to love our enemies, to bless those who curse us, to do good to those who hate us, and to pray for those who persecute us. In all of these ways we are to imitate our Heavenly Father who unconditionally loves and blesses everyone on earth. (Matthew 5:44-45) It is only through faith in an infinitely just and merciful God that such love for one's enemies is possible.

Key Application:

★ Do I truly believe that the LORD is a God of perfect justice? Am I content to let Him avenge any injustices perpetrated against me? Can I admit that I don't always see the big picture, but that God does? Will I give up my quest to "get even" and to "pay back" those who have wronged me? Can I forgive those who have hurt me, just as Jesus has forgiven me?

Thursday AM Worship & The Word -- David the Righteous, Pt. 2

Key Passage: 1 Samuel 25:1 - 26:25

Key Events: David spares Nabal. David marries Abigail. David spares Saul a second time at Hachilah.

Key Points:

★ The rich and foolish Nabal repays David's good deeds toward him with evil. (1 Samuel 25:21) David intends to return evil for evil, but after a gentle reminder from Abigail, he recalls that vengeance belongs to the LORD. Thus, he is free to leave the situation in God's hands and thereby overcome evil with good. (See Romans 12:17-21.)

★ For her part, Abigail demonstrates the wonderful truth of Proverbs 15:1: "A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger." All of us sometimes need Abigails in our lives -- brothers and sisters in Christ who aren't afraid to gently correct or admonish us. Just as Nabal's discerning wife tactfully reminds David both of God's promises and of God's holy standards, so Christians are called to lovingly speak the truth to one another, even when that

truth might hurt a bit. (Ephesians 4:15) David's response to Abigail's words illustrates how a child of God should humbly and gratefully accept such reproof. After all, the willingness to heed godly correction from others is one of the marks of spiritual wisdom and maturity. (Proverbs 10:17, 12:1, 13:18, 15:31-33)

★ David has another opportunity to exercise his faith in God's justice when Saul's life is again placed at his disposal. This time, it would be so easy for David to enact vengeance and to end his wanderings as a fugitive without even getting blood on his own hands. (1 Samuel 26:8) Yet, he firmly believes that the LORD will "repay each man for his righteousness and his faithfulness". (1 Samuel 26:23) So David waits and prays for God's perfect judgment on both Saul and himself. Divine justice may be a long time coming from a human perspective, but we know that someday, complete and perfect judgment will be enacted on this earth. (2 Peter 3:7-13)

Key Application:

★ Are there any Abigails in my life who can "call it like it is" without fear of my temper? How well do I respond to correction from others? How well do I respond to reproof from God Himself? How can I cultivate an honest humility before God and men?

★ Once again, do I trust the LORD enough to leave vengeance in His hands? Am I convinced that in the end, everyone will receive perfect justice? Am I trusting in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ to justify me on that final judgment day?

Thursday PM Worship & The Word -- David the Doubtful

Key Passages: 1 Samuel 27:1 - 28:2 & 29:1-11

Key Events: David joins the Philistines and is given Ziklag. The Philistine commanders reject David.

Key Points:

★ David suffers another crisis of faith and concludes that if he remains in Israel, he will die at the hands of Saul. (1 Samuel 27:1) Turning his back on God's calling (and leaving God out of the equation for the next three chapters), he again heads toward Philistine territory. In David's exile at Ziklag, we see a picture of the child of God attempting to befriend and conform to the world. David must now lead a life of constant deceit and duplicity in order to please his new friends in Philistia. And, ultimately, it's all to no avail. David is eventually ordered to fight against both his and God's people as the Philistines prepare for war with Israel.

We too will always face such a conflict when we attempt to serve both the LORD and this world. Nobody can serve two masters, and we must remember that friendship with the world is hostility toward God. (Matthew 6:24, James 4:4)

The LORD ultimately uses the Philistine commanders' suspicions of David to graciously deliver His anointed from an impossible situation. Yet, these warlords' rejection of the Israelite *mashiyach* also illustrates the fact that, no matter how hard we try, we followers of Christ will never truly fit-in with this world. We are merely in the world, not of it. (John 17:14-16) We are simply aliens and sojourners passing through, and we should stand-out from the world's system of sin like brilliant stars in a dark sky. (Hebrews 11:13-16, Philippians 2:14-15) So, if it's dangerous and ultimately paradoxical for a Christian to blend-in with this world, why do we spend so much time and energy attempting to do just that?

★ NOTE: Perhaps this would be an appropriate evening to extend an **invitation of re-dedication** to the students. By God's grace, this passage of Scripture may speak powerfully to those who believe in Christ yet who desire to live for this world.

Key Application:

★ Am I a friend of God? (John 15:14-15) Or am I a friend of this world? I can't be both, so which is it?

Friday AM Cabin Devotions -- Saul the Rebellious

Key Passage: 1 Samuel 28:3-25

Key Event: Saul consults the medium at En-dor.

Key Points:

★ Before Saul falls militarily, he demonstrates just how far he's fallen spiritually. Because of the king's continued rebellion and stiff-necked retention of his throne, the LORD now refuses to answer Saul's queries or provide him with guidance. Indeed, the Spirit of the LORD has departed from Saul permanently. (1 Samuel 28:16)

As Christians, we are assured that the Holy Spirit will never leave us. Yet, we also know that when unconfessed sin and disobedience reign in our lives, our fellowship with God is broken and our prayers go unanswered. (Isaiah 59:2, James 4:3, 1 John 1:6-7) When we stubbornly place ourselves back on the throne of our hearts, we forfeit the many blessings that the anointed people of God should enjoy.

★ Once the guiding of God's Spirit is gone in Saul's life, the man who was *mashiyach* turns to the occult for answers. In so doing, Saul is breaking one of the LORD's earliest commandments, as well as betraying everything for which his kingdom once stood. (Leviticus 19:31, Deuteronomy 18:9-14, 1 Samuel 28:3)

As children of the one true God, we are forbidden from dabbling in fortune-telling, witchcraft, astrology, spiritism, divination, or any other occult practices. Not only do such activities expose us to very real forces of spiritual evil. They also exhibit a lack of trust in God and a contempt for the authority of Scripture in our lives. It is sin to look for spiritual revelation from any source other than the LORD, His work, His people, and His Word. Period.

Key Application:

★ How great a temptation is the occult in my life? Am I attracted to Wicca? Palm reading? Tarot cards? Horoscopes? Ouija Boards? If not, are there other outside sources to which I look for spiritual wisdom? What am I relying on to guide my decisions outside of the Bible and its Author?

★ Let's say I'm not struggling with the occult at all. Great. What about disobedience? According to 1 Samuel 15:23 (NKJV), those who commit witchcraft and those who commit rebellion are equally guilty before God. So, are there any commandments which the LORD has given me that I'm refusing to obey? What secret sin is sapping my joy and stifling my fellowship with the Father? Am I willing to humble myself and confess my sin in order to be cleansed from my unrighteousness? (1 John 1:9)

Friday AM Worship & The Word -- David the Victorious

Key Passage: 1 Samuel 30:1-31

Key Events: Ziklag is raided by Amalekites. David inquires of the LORD and defeats the raiders.

Key Points:

★ God has allowed David to duck his calling and live among the Philistines for nearly a year-and-a-half. Now the LORD simply allows raiders to destroy the Philistine home which David has obstinately built for himself. It takes the temporary loss of everyone he loves, not to mention a direct threat upon his life, to bring David back into a place of reliance upon the LORD.

In a similar way, God sometimes uses crises in our lives to first break us, and then mold us into the strong yet humble saints He desires. We need to remember that *"those whom the Lord loves, He disciplines"*. (Hebrews 12:6) Of course, not all trials and hardships are the result of divine discipline. But if we truly belong to Christ, and if we continually turn our backs on Him, we should be aware that He'll only let us stray so far before bringing us back ... by whatever means He deems necessary.

★ Whenever trials of any sort arise, we can strengthen ourselves in the LORD, just as David does here. (1 Samuel 30:6) At his lowest point in years, the young leader desperately turns to his God for both encouragement and guidance. And the LORD doesn't let him down. God restores everyone and everything that David and his men lost, plus all of the extra livestock the Amalekites had stolen from the surrounding areas. David ends-up richer and politically stronger after the crisis than before, and for this he gives all credit to the LORD. (1 Samuel 30:23)

We are not guaranteed that the trials in our lives will always end with financial or physical restoration. However, we are promised that God will use them to make us stronger and richer spiritually. (Romans 5:3-5, James 1:2-4, 1 Peter 1:6-7) Jesus Himself promises us that in the world we will have tribulation. *"But take courage,"* He concludes, *"I have overcome the world."* (John 16:33) When we rely on God for victory over the hardships, crises, and tragedies of this fallen world, we can go through them with the confidence that He walks alongside us. As the Apostle John reminds us, *"...whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world -- our faith."* (1 John 5:4)

Key Application:

★ Do I understand that God sometimes uses hardships to discipline His children? If I'm currently ignoring His Word, what will it take for Him to get my attention? Is there a "Ziklag" in my life that must be destroyed before I get back on track with God's will?

★ Am I undergoing a trial right now? Who or what am I relying on to get me through it? Am I viewing this hardship as an opportunity for the LORD to refine and prove my faith in Him? How might God desire to use this difficult situation to conform me more to the image of His Son?

Friday PM Worship & The Word -- Saul the Defeated

Key Passage: 1 Samuel 31:1-13

Key Events: Saul and Jonathan die. The Philistines rout Israel.

Key Points:

★ Saul ends his tragic life as a failure. He dies by his own hand which seems fitting since his own pride and disobedience have already destroyed his kingship and most of his relationships. After his death, the Philistines overrun the Jezreel valley and even Trans-Jordan, seizing several Israelite cities. (1 Samuel 31:7) If Saul's mission as *mashiyach* was to deliver the LORD's people from the Philistines (1 Samuel 9:16), then he failed miserably. The Israelites are worse-off at the end of Saul's career than they were forty years earlier when they had no human king.

★ This passage graphically illustrates the sobering truth of Romans 6:23: *"For the wages of sin is death..."* It's clear from 1 Chronicles 10:13-14 that *"Saul died for his trespass which he committed against the LORD..."* However, his isn't the only life lost as a consequence of his rebellion. Three of the king's sons -- Jonathan, Abinadab, and Malchi-shua -- along with *"all his men"* perish on the battlefield that day. (1 Samuel 31:6) The body count is terribly high, all because one man refuses to obey God and persists in walking outside of His

will. Saul could have yielded rulership to the LORD's chosen *mashiyach*, David. Instead, he stubbornly clings to his throne, and in so doing, destroys the lives of everyone around him.

We can expect much the same results when we reject the kingship of God's chosen Messiah, Jesus, and insist on ruling our own lives. Sin always leads to death, both physically and spiritually. And its consequences are rarely limited in scope merely to the individual sinner. This fallen world is full of suffering, oppression, conflict and darkness primarily because it is full of sinful, self-worshipping human beings.

Of course, Romans 6:23 offers not only the prognosis of the human condition, but also its cure. "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ [Mashiyach] Jesus our Lord." Jesus truly is the only hope that any of us have for life, both now and throughout eternity.

★ NOTE: Perhaps this would be an appropriate evening to extend an **invitation of salvation** to the students. Ideally, the gospel should be shared throughout the entire week of camp, but at some point (or points), campers should be formally invited to respond.

Key Application:

★ Who is reigning on the throne of my heart? Jesus or me? The rule of the One will bring abundant, eternal life. The rebellion of the other leads only to misery and death. Which king do I chose?

Saturday AM Cabin Devotions -- David the Mourner

Key Passage: 2 Samuel 1:1-27

Key Events: David executes the Amalekite messenger. David laments both Saul and Jonathan.

Key Points:

★ David's response to the defeat of Saul grants us another glimpse into his God-patterned heart. Although Saul's death was politically advantageous for David, the young *mashiyach* is much more concerned about God's glory than about his own earthly advancement. We might expect David to celebrate the news that the largest obstacle standing between him and the throne has been removed. Rather, he and his men mourn, weep, and fast all day because the people of the LORD have fallen by the sword. (2 Samuel 1:12)

In his song of lamentation, David forbids the Philistines to rejoice and exult in their victory. (2 Samuel 1:20) They are uncircumcised pagans, and their seeming triumph over God's chosen nation is temporary at best. Throughout this chapter, David's respect for Saul, the LORD's anointed, flows out of David's love and holy fear for YHWH Himself. No matter what transpires, the most important priority in David's life is bringing glory to God.

★ Of course, David also mourns for his best friend, Jonathan. The poetic stanzas he devotes to his fallen comrade are both beautiful and heartbreaking. It's always difficult to say farewell to those we love, even if the separation is only temporary. Yet, friendships built on Christ are guaranteed to last even beyond death. We can look forward to serving the LORD together with our brothers and sisters in Him throughout all eternity. (Revelation 7:15 & 22:3-4)

Key Application:

★ How zealous am I for the LORD's glory? Am I angered when the media mock Jesus or when individuals blaspheme His name? Am I saddened when His people fall into sin or when His church suffers dishonor? Of course, God is able to defend His own reputation and to uphold His holy name. But how dedicated am I to bringing Him honor? How much of my life reflects His splendor back to the world around me? Will I choose to live for His glory and not for my own?

Saturday AM Worship & The Word -- David the New Melech

Key Passage: 2 Samuel 2:1-11

Key Events: God leads David to Hebron. David is anointed king over Judah. Abner sets-up Ish-bosheth as king over all Israel.

Key Points:

★ David inquires of the LORD once again, and God confirms that he needs to return to Israel, very specifically guiding him to Hebron of Judah. David's comfortable life with the enemy in Ziklag has been destroyed, but the LORD has something much better in store for him.

When we earnestly seek God's guidance, He will reveal His plans to us, one specific step at a time. Rather than worrying about the big picture or grand scheme for our lives, sometimes we simply need to be obedient in the "small things" which the LORD has shown us through His Word. (Luke 16:10)

★ Almost immediately after David obeys God and relocates to Hebron, the men of Judah congregate to anoint him king. This is the second time in his life that David is anointed, and this time he actually assumes the throne -- at least over one tribe. David has been *mashiyach* for around fifteen years -- a rejected and exiled *mashiyach*. Now he is finally recognized as *melech* over a portion of the people that he should have been ruling all along. It will take seven-and-a-half more years, another major power struggle, and three more chapters in Scripture before David is enthroned as king over all twelve tribes. (See 2 Samuel 5:1-5.) This means that from his first anointing at around age 15 to his third and final anointing at approximately 38, nearly twenty-five years will have passed. Despite his decades of waiting, despite the rejection of his own people, and despite all his rivals to the throne, David will indeed be *melech* over all Israel, just as the LORD has promised.

The parallels with *Yeshua ha-Mashiyach* are striking. Jesus the Christ was rejected by His own nation at His first coming. However, His kingdom is now spiritually in our midst, and He is enthroned in the hearts of His worldwide Church. Yet, the Church is only a portion of humanity, and Christ is destined to reign over all creation. Someday, He will return physically to this earth to judge the nations while seated upon the throne of David. (2 Samuel 7:16, Isaiah 9:7) When He does so, He will be recognized by all peoples, Jews and Gentiles alike, as King of kings and Lord of lords. (Philippians 2:9-11, Revelation 19:15-16)

Key Application:

★ In the meantime, each of us has the opportunity to follow Jesus as King right here and right now. Those of us who have trusted in Him as the anointed Christ have in turn been anointed with His Holy Spirit. (2 Corinthians 1:21-22) God Himself dwells within us. He strengthens us, He encourages us, and He fights the battles for us. YHWH is the most powerful Warrior in the universe, and every giant must fall before Him. Let us worship our *Mashiyach* together and celebrate the victory that He has already won!