

David - Triumph and Tragedy

1. Have you ever been to Israel? Is it on your bucket list? Why or why not?
2. *God often prepares us in the hidden places of life, before placing us in the public arena.* **Discuss** situations in the bible where this happened. Do you know anyone who gained a sudden promotion and has been used by God in a special way?
3. Can you think of four occasions where David had a personal victory that was followed by rejection?
4. **1Sam 17:54** *David took Goliath's head to Jerusalem, but he kept Goliath's weapons in his own tent.* Why do you think that David took these two actions?
5. When David and his men returned from battle to find their town Ziglag burning, their families taken into captivity and their possessions stolen he "*strengthened himself in the Lord*" ... **1 Sam 30:6** . How would you have reacted in a situation like this? Can anyone **share a moment of crisis** and their reaction to it with the group?
6. King David's desire was to remove the Jebusite fortress from Mt Zion in Jerusalem. Here in the center of the Jewish world, existed a contrary force. Sometimes the enemy can have a stronghold in our lives or in our church that God wants to remove. Can you **give an example?**
7. Later on in David's life he encountered other giants. Most of these giants were related to the first Goliath! (2 of his children & his brother 1 Chr 20) We can have major victories in life, (over sickness, oppression, difficult people, or some other need) and believe that it was the Lord that delivered us from our Goliath. A few months or even years later, the old symptoms return and manifest worse than ever. These negative experiences can drain our faith. We wonder: '*did I lose my breakthrough*' or '*was I only deceiving myself the first time*' How can we trust God when these 'giants' return and it seems like God has let us down?

Discuss

8. **2 Cor 12:9** *My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness. "Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.* How can this verse help us in the above situation?
9. *Name a few of the signs of our times that you are you intimidated and frightened by? There are great challenges out there and great potential for the church today. Like David we can release the power of God and see Him gain the victory? (Isaiah 60:1-3) How do we do this in our daily lives?*

Pray for each other. For our city, our government and this land.