GROUP DISCUSSION

Questions for facilitating dynamic discussion

DAVID: The Making of a King

Week 6: Listening to Wise Advice 1 Samuel 25

Week of March 27, 2022 (Jeff Griffin, Senior Pastor)

Have you ever been labeled as stubborn? Or struggled to say you were wrong? Most of us have. It is hard to change our minds. This week, we're learning from David about how we can be receptive to wise advice in our lives.

Kicking it off:

What's one thing you are famously (or maybe even infamously) stubborn about doing — or not doing?

Discussion:

- 1. Jeff told the story of a man named George Arnold receiving good advice about halting the S.S. Eastland operations that he completely ignored, resulting in hundreds of fatalities. Have you ever ignored wise counsel? Or ... did you ever give some advice that was totally ignored? If so, what happened? Share that story with your group.
- 2. The Bible describes a wealthy man named Nabal as *crude* in 1 Samuel 25:3b. When you hear the words "stubborn" or "obstinate," what word picture comes to mind, besides a mule?
 - "But Nabal, a descendant of Caleb, was crude and mean in all his dealings." (NLT)
- 3. We see Nabal's hard-headed nature revealed in 1 Samuel 25:17 (below). Why do you think it's so hard for many of us to admit we're wrong and go another direction? What makes it a challenge for you personally?
 - "You need to know this and figure out what to do, for there is going to be trouble for our master and his whole family. He's so ill-tempered that no one can even talk to him!" (NLT)
- 4. What are some lessons we can learn from Abigail that help guide us to graciously respond and address someone's stubborn nature? (For more, see 1 Samuel 25:18-35.)
 - "Please forgive me if I have offended you in any way. The LORD will surely reward you with a lasting dynasty, for you are fighting the LORD's battles." (1 Samuel 25:28a, NLT)
- 5. Read 1 Peter 5:5, below. What principles from this verse could you apply today? What do you believe is the antidote to overcoming pride and stubbornness?
 - "In the same way, you who are younger must accept the authority of the elders. And all of you, dress yourselves in humility as you relate to one another, for 'God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." (NLT)

Wrapping It Up:

Where in your sphere of influence could God be leading you to respond to wise counsel with grace and humility? How can your small group encourage you in that aspect of your life?