

GROUP DISCUSSION

Questions for facilitating dynamic discussion

It's Not You, It's Me

Week 3: The Art of Encouragement
1 Samuel 23:15-18

Week of May 3, 2020
(Jeff Griffin, Senior Pastor)

Jonathan mastered the art of encouragement! He helped lift up his friend when his friend was at his lowest. We are all called to do the same. By following Jonathan's example, God will use us to help others "find strength in God."

Kicking it off: This coming Sunday (May 10) is Mother's Day. Any ideas on how to make Mother's Day special during a quarantine?

Discussion:

1. Reread *1 Samuel 23:15* While David was at Horesh in the wilderness of Ziph, he learned that Saul had come out to take his life.

What emotions were driving Saul's desire to kill David?

2. Reread *1 Samuel 23:16* Jonathan went to David at Horesh and helped him find strength in God.

What steps in "The Art of Encouragement" can be found directly or indirectly from this verse?

3. How can we help someone connect with God?

4. Reread *1 Samuel 23:17* "Don't be afraid," Jonathan said.

How can we cast vision for a discouraged friend?

5. Reread *1 Samuel 23:17* Jonathan said, "My father Saul will not lay a hand on you. You will be king over Israel, and I will be second to you."

When Samuel anointed the young shepherd with oil, he announced God's promise that David would be king. David desperately needed to be reminded of God's promise. Can you think of a promise from God's Word that encourages you?

6. Can you think of a time when God used someone to encourage you? If so, tell the group about it.

7. Read *Proverbs 17:17* "A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for a time of adversity."

Who is facing adversity and needs encouragement from you?

Wrapping It Up: Pray for the Spirit of God to lead you on a mission of encouragement in the next 24 hours.