

Are you wondering what it means to be a Christian?

Jesus said, "All that the Father gives me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will never drive away" (John 6:37). Jesus also said, "No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day" (John 6:44).

If you are feeling drawn to Christ, it is because God the Father is drawing you; it is not a desire we can or will create within ourselves. This also means that there is no sin too great to be forgiven, and no past too sinful to be overcome. You can trust Christ to receive you because it is God the Father who is drawing you to find true repentance and receive the gift of faith. You can know a new life in Jesus Christ.

We would love to talk and pray with you about this or any other spiritual needs you may have. Please see Pastor Mark or one of our elders after today's service to do so.

Are you interested in Baptism or Church Membership?

Please indicate your interest on the back of your Connection Card and Pastor Mark or one of the elders will be in touch with you this week to set up a time to meet with you.

GRIEF 2 Samuel 1

Main Thought: In 2 Samuel 1, we discover David's reaction to the death of Saul and Jonathan and from it we are led to reflect on some important principles for dealing with grief.

1. THE _____ OF SAUL RELAYED (vv 1-16)
 - 1) On the third day, a _____ arrives in Ziklag
 - 2) Where have you come _____?
 - 3) What _____?
 - 4) _____ mourns over Saul's death
 - 5) Where are _____ from?
 - 6) Why weren't you afraid to lift your hand to _____ the Lord's anointed?

2. _____ THE DEATH OF SAUL AND JONATHAN (vv 17-27)
 - 1) They were _____. (v 22)
 - 2) They were _____. (v 23)
 - 3) Saul brought _____. (v 24)
 - 4) Jonathan was a wonderful _____. (vv 25-26)

3. SOME _____ FOR DEALING WITH GRIEF
 - 1) Understand the _____ of grief: Shock, Reactions, Acceptance.
 - 2) Give yourself _____ to grieve.
 - 3) Grief is a _____ from God.
 - 4) Your path of grief is unique and there is no _____ timeline.
 - 5) Don't do it _____.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR GROWTH GROUPS

1. Read 2 Samuel 1 and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal God's truth to you as you read.

2. What do you learn about God (Father, Son, Holy Spirit) from this passage?

3. What do you learn about human beings/yourself from this passage?

4. What verse meant the most to you? Why?

5. What didn't you understand in the passage? What answers did you find for your questions?

6. What application(s) for your life do you take away from this passage?

Digging deeper:

7. How does the Amalekite's account of Saul's death (vv 6-10) differ from the biblical author's (See 1 Sam. 31)? Why would he lie?

8. What does he bring to David? What would he hope to win by ingratiating himself to David?

9. Which of David's responses to the news of Saul's death surprise you (vv 11-15)?

10. Why does David order the killing of the Amalekite? (vv 15-16)

11. What motivated David to so publicly and permanently record his lament for Saul and Jonathan?

12. Why does David call for censorship in Gath and Ashkelon (v 20; see 1 Sam. 31:8-10)? Likewise, why does David curse Gilboa (v 21)?

13. What kind of warriors were Saul and Jonathan (vv 22-23)?

14. What does verse 26 reveal about David and Jonathan's friendship?

15. Why do you think David doesn't say anything bad about Saul in his lament?