

# WHEN FEAR AND FAITH COLLIDE

1 Samuel 21

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This discussion guide is designed for Saylorville Church Community Groups as they live and learn together each week. The sermons and guides can be found at [www.saylorvillechurch.com/sermons](http://www.saylorvillechurch.com/sermons).

## CONNECT WITH YOUR GROUP (10-15 MINUTES)

- What's one current event (global, national, or personal) that has stirred up fear in your heart lately? How have you responded in this circumstance?

## APPLY THE BIBLE (45-60 MINUTES)

- **Remember** what you talked about last time. Is there anything you need to **follow up** on this week?
- **Review** your Sermon Notes together. What is **one thing** that sticks out to you about what you learned?
- **Read** this week's passage together. In his message, **Pastor Jason reminded that our decisions in difficult times either feed our fear or grow our faith.**

### Results of a fearful life:

#### 1. Fear of man leads to isolation (1 Samuel 21:1)

- Why was it so unusual and concerning for David to arrive alone at Nob? Where else in his life do we see David's propensity to pull away from people in stead of engage in community?
- Read Proverbs 18:1 as a group. How do you see this verse playing out in David's choice — and in your own life? When has fear tempted you to pull away from godly community or counsel?

#### 2. Fear of man distorts the truth (1 Samuel 21:2)

- In verse 2, David lies to Ahimelech. What are some "respectable" lies Christians are tempted to tell today? How does fear often distort truth (lies we tell, or lies we believe) in our own lives?
- Pastor Jason said, "When you and I let fear drive us to lie, deceive, or distort the truth, we're becoming more like the devil than Jesus." How does that truth hit you?

#### 3. Fear of man opens the door to compromise (1 Samuel 21:3-6)

- In verses 3–6, David takes the holy bread, which was reserved for the priests only. Which of the personal statements from the sermon (fear of rejection, loneliness, seen as "less than", etc.) resonated with you most?
- Be honest - share a story about a time when fear of man caused you to compromise in a specific area. What did you learn from that situation?

#### 4. Fear of man blinds us to God's merciful warnings (1 Samuel 21:7-9)

- David ignored God's "warning signs" — Doeg the "fearful one," and later, Goliath's sword. What are some ways God might warn us today when we're drifting away from faith and into fear?
- In 1 Samuel 17, David boldly trusted God instead of Goliath's sword. In chapter 21, he clings to the sword instead of God. What changed in his heart? What changes in ours when fear grows stronger than faith?
- How can remembering God's past faithfulness (like David's earlier victory over Goliath) strengthen your faith in the present?

#### 5. Fear of man mutes our witness...but faith in God will magnify it (1 Samuel 21:10-15)

- When fear and faith collide, there are open doors to share the gospel. Talk about some of the opportunities you've noticed over the past few weeks. Have you had any specific open doors?

***Receive and Respond: What will I do because of what I just heard?***

## PRAY TOGETHER (5-15 MINUTES)

- Pray that your group and your church would be marked by faith in God's promises, not fear of man — even in an anxious world.

