

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.

CONNECT WITH YOUR GROUP (10-15 MINUTES)

- Talk about a time in your life when you felt like your faith was most real, your worship was deepest, or your relationship with Jesus was the closest you can remember. What was happening in your life during that time that brought you closer to the Lord? How would you explain the depth of your faith today?

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 Colton pointed out the slow slide of skepticism that we see in the life of David in 1 Samuel 27.**

The Destination of the Life that Doubts God:

1. The Skeptic's Slide Leads to "Safety" (1 Samuel 27:4)

- In verse 4, we find out that Saul stopped chasing David when David fled to Philistia. Even though David was "safe", he wasn't following God's direction. Talk about a time in your life when you pursued safety, convenience, or comfort instead of God's will.
- Who are some people you look up to as a Christian - some "heroes" of your faith? From what you know, have those individuals pursued a "safe" life, or have they stepped out of their comfort zone?
- Is there a step of faith that God is asking you to take right now that you aren't taking because it doesn't seem safe? Ultimately, is it really safer to obey God or to disobey God?

2. The Skeptic's Slide Leads to Settling (1 Samuel 27:3-7)

- The original word for "settled" is used three times in verses 3-7. It's a theme in David's life - he often retreats to a place of "settling" instead of sacrifice. Fighting against the enemies of God, obeying His Word, and living for Jesus takes work. Talk with your group about the difference between sacrifice and investment.
- Read Matthew 13:44-46. How might you apply the principle in this parable to your life this week?

3. The Skeptic's Slide Leads to Slavery (1 Samuel 27:5 and 12)

- David sought *safety*, so he *settled* in the land of his enemies...and he ultimately became a *slave* of those same enemies. In what ways does Satan lure people into slavery without them even realizing it? Has that ever happened to you?

How to Defeat the Skeptic's Slide:

1. Remember, Your Father is Waiting at the Bottom of the Slide!

- God isn't mentioned at all during the entire narrative of 1 Samuel 27, but He was preparing to fight David's battles for Him (see chapters 28-29). How has God been faithful to catch you when you've wandered down the slide of skepticism in the past?

2. Don't Get on the Slide in the First Place!

- This same David once wrote Psalm 56. Skim through that Psalm and highlight all the ways that God was faithful to David, and has been faithful to you too. How might remembering God's faithfulness prevent you from getting on the slide of doubt in the future?

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

PRAY TOGETHER (5-15 MINUTES)

- Pray that faith will overcome doubt in your life and in the life of your group!

