

### **Message Study Guide**

(Scriptures & quotes from this week's message are available on [thorncreek.church/live](http://thorncreek.church/live))

#### **Warming up**

1. What is forgiveness to you?

#### **Digging Deeper & Application**

Take your time reading the scripture given. If possible look up the verses in different versions and pause at each verse and discuss it.

2. Have you ever been in a situation where someone repeatedly offends you? How did you handle it?
3. What are your thoughts about his quote from Jim Cymbala? "The sign of a proper vertical relationship with God is always proved by how we relate horizontally to people." Which relationship (horizontal or vertical) do you think is easier, and why?
  - a. Did Jesus ever say anything that supported this principle? Where was it? Please read it.
4. King Saul and David are examples to us of what love, grace, and jealousy looks like. In 1 Samuel 17 we read about David killing Goliath. But, in the next chapter, we see how Saul processes David's accomplishment. Please read 1 Samuel 18:1-16. Share thoughts.
5. Chapters 18 to 20, is all about Saul's jealousy toward David. Do you see anything in chapters 18 and 19 that demonstrate Saul's jealousy?
6. According to 1 Samuel 20:1, what did David do? Compare David's response to this quote from Henry Cloud, "Boundaries define us. They define what is me and what is not me. They help us keep the good in and the bad out.
7. Rick Warren said, "If someone hurts you repeatedly, you are commanded by God to forgive them instantly, but you are not expected to trust them immediately, and you are not expected to continue allowing them to hurt you." Please share your thoughts.
8. David is forced to leave at the age of 20 years old. Chapters 21 to 26 reflect David's exile years. He leaves his home and is chased by Saul. For ten years, David lived in exile. He was a fugitive during these days, a type of Robin Hood. But, he was also confused and exhausted. God prepared him during this season. During this time David wrote a few psalms. These are the Psalms

David wrote during these 10 years of exile: Psalm 18, 34, 54, 56, and 57. Take a look at these psalms and find one verse in each psalm that speaks to you.

9. One of the famous stories of David during these exile years is found in 1 Samuel 24:1-15. Please read it and share thoughts.
  - a. Why didn't David kill Saul when he had an opportunity?
  - b. What did David's men want him to do?
  
10. Compare David's attitude with 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13, and Hebrews 13:17.
  - a. Who are these leaders that these two passages are referring to?
  - b. What kind of attitude does God want us to have toward His anointed?
  - c. What does anointed mean to you?
  
11. Saul eventually dies in 1 Samuel 31. According to 2 Samuel 1:11-18, how did David respond to Saul's death?
  - a. What did he do?
  - b. What does this say about David's character?

### **Application**

Below are some of the points or quotes shared in the message.  
Discuss how they apply to your life.

- "If someone hurts you repeatedly, you are commanded by God to forgive them instantly, but you are not expected to trust them immediately, and you are not expected to continue allowing them to hurt you." – Rick Warren
- Forgiving someone who continues to hurt you is a challenge that requires effort on our part.
- Forgiveness does not mean you accept bad treatment.
- The devil wants to put a filter on your eyes.
- "God, give me wisdom to see what you see."
- The easiest way to release (forgive) someone who repeatedly offends you is to pray for them.
- It's not your responsibility to play God.
- Forgiving someone is a choice to not take revenge and to leave that person in God's hands.