

What have you learnt from reading this passage?

In what way have you been helped or challenged in your relationship with God and/or your relationship with one human being?

## Pray

This study has been written to accompany a sermon series at St Columb's Anglican Church Hawthorn. It is written for small group and personal study. It is meant as a resource so feel free to select the parts that are most useful to you or your group. It is advised that you at least do the section "Getting Inside the Passage," some parts of "Personal Application" and "Pray." The section "Going Further" will take you further into the 1 Samuel and the Bible as a whole.

With acknowledgement and thanks to Rev. Peter MacPherson  
St Alfred's Nth Blackburn



# 1 Samuel 18 Small Group Study Material

## Jealousy

### Context

After his victory over Goliath David becomes famous in Israel and loved by two of Saul's children, Jonathan and Michal. The universal affection for David causes Saul to feel jealous and afraid. Saul's plots against David come to nothing because "the LORD was with David, but had left Saul" v12

### Getting Inside the Passage

#### 1-16 Love & Jealousy

What might have attracted Jonathan to enter into a 'covenant' with David? v 1-4 ( eg 14: 6 & 17:34-37 suggest that they may share a similar trust in Yahweh)

What is the cause of Saul's jealousy? v5-9

How would you describe the spiritual, moral, emotional, psychological state of Saul? v 10-16 ( Regarding v 10 the word 'prophesied' literally means 'raved'. David's harp-playing is meant to sooth Saul's ravings but sadly only invites further trouble. see also 19:10)

Note the repeated phrase 'the Lord was with David' v 12, 14, 28. In what sense was the Lord with David? How do you understand Saul's relationship with God and God's relationship with Saul at this point?

17-30 The risks of marrying into Saul's family.

The slayer of Goliath has been promised Saul's daughter in marriage (17:25). Why does David then refuse to marry Merab? v 17-19

What are Saul's intentions in trying to get David to marry one of his daughter?

David is 'successful' in both love and war. v 20-30. But might we get the wrong idea about David from this? The word that is translated 'success' is connected in Hebrew with the idea of wisdom. (Chafin, Kenneth. 1, 2 *Samuel, Mastering the Old Testament*. Dallas: Word, 1989 pp 152)

If we re-read the following verses in this light we might get a different feel for the sort of person David is.

1 Sam 18: 5

1 Sam 18:14-15

1 Sam 18:30

Notice how the placing of these verses at the start, middle and end give a thematic coherence to the whole chapter. Verses 14-15 are a summary of the changing relationships of the three main protagonists. Yahweh (the LORD) David & Saul.

### **Going Further**

We are not told the details of the 'covenant' between David and Jonathan. see 1 Sam 18:8, 13-16, 41-42; 23:18 the covenant between them is described in terms of loyalty, friendship and protection. See 1 Sam 22:8 for Saul's reaction. The tragedy for Jonathan is that he is caught between his covenant to David and his loyalty to his father.

There is godly jealousy and ungodly jealousy. Read the following to ensure you understand the difference. It is clear that Saul's jealousy is ungodly and harmful. The person it harms the most is himself.

- God is jealous for his people. He has promised to love us. He wants our undivided love and worship in return ( Ex 20:5, Ps 78:58, 1 Cor 10:20-22) Paul has a godly jealousy for the Corinthian church ( 2 Cor 11:1-3)
- There are many places where ungodly jealousy is condemned ( Prov 27:4, Acts 5:17 & 13:45, Rom 13:13, 1 Cor 3:3, 2 Cor 12:20, Gal 5:20)

### **Personal Application**

Discuss any personal experiences of jealousy ( remember whatever is discussed in your small group is to remain confidential to the group)

Are you aware that the Lord is with you?

Christians know that when they repent, believe in Jesus and are baptised they are given the gift of the Holy Spirit ( Acts 2:38 – 39, 19:2). This is a promise from God. Also see Mt 28:20 'And surely I (Jesus) am with you always, to the very end of the age' This is an objective truth and yet sometimes we are subjectively aware that the Lord might seem to be 'more' with us than at other times.

Discuss this from your personal experience.

"This is a section filled with wild contrasts. It tells of the beginning of the lifelong friendship of Saul's son with David, of the love of Saul's daughter for David and of Saul's first attempt to kill David... The whole range of emotions is experienced in this chapter: friendship, love, celebration, envy, deceit, violence and fear." (Chafin, Kenneth. pp 149)