

# LIFE APP

July 18-19, 2020

## VACATION

### EN GEDI

**1 Samuel 24:1-6 NLT:** After Saul returned from fighting the Philistines, he was told that David had gone into the wilderness of En-gedi. So Saul chose 3,000 elite troops from all Israel and went to search for David and his men near the rocks of the wild goats. At the place where the road passes some sheepfolds, Saul went into a cave to relieve himself. But as it happened, David and his men were hiding farther back in that very cave! “Now’s your opportunity!” David’s men whispered to him. “Today the Lord is telling you, ‘I will certainly put your enemy into your power, to do with as you wish.’” So David crept forward and cut off a piece of the hem of Saul’s robe. But then David’s conscience began bothering him because he had cut Saul’s robe. He said to his men, “The Lord forbid that I should do this to my lord the king. I shouldn’t attack the Lord’s anointed one, for the Lord himself has chosen him.”

#### LIFE GROUP / PERSONAL STUDY:

This week we’re going to visit En Gedi - a beautiful spring and waterfall in the midst of the Wilderness of Judea. The story we’re looking at involves David - the future anointed King of Israel, who was desperately trying to flee from King Saul, the current King of Israel, who wanted David dead. David and all of his men were hiding and resting in this remote area, when they were suddenly presented the opportunity to take matters into their own hands and kill King Saul - who was in a very vulnerable position. David’s response to this temptation is fascinating to see and we can learn some incredible lessons about trusting God and His Timing and not giving in to taking matters into our own hands.

1A) In 1 Samuel 24:4, what did David’s men say and how did David respond?

1B) How do verses 5 and 6 reveal that David had firmly established God as his priority over self-fulfillment?

2A) According to Micah 6:8, what requirements has God given us to follow?

2B) How did David reveal that these things were priorities that he had established?

2C) PERSONAL: Have you placed God and His requirements as a priority in your life? If so, how can others tell that these are your priorities?

3A) How do David's actions and attitude also reveal that he had embraced his position at the time?

3B) PERSONAL: David was in a time of transition - between the position of shepherd boy and King. We now find ourselves in a time of transition as our world is trying to come out of the CoVid-19 pandemic and get back to normal life. How do you think you have embraced the position you find yourself in at this time?

**Read Psalm 37:3-9, 23-24:**

4A) PERSONAL: How does this Psalm written by David give you encouragement?

4B) PERSONAL: How do you think following the words of Proverbs 3:5-6 can help you to embrace each position you find yourself in?

**Read Psalm 57:**

5) Write a list of the things David asked God for during this time in the cave, the difficulties he was dealing with, and how he praised God as he endured the process.

**Read 1 Samuel 24:7-12:**

6) What did David do next and how can we see the truth of Romans 8:28 revealed in David's life?

7) PERSONAL: How does this example from David's life help you understand the truth of James 1:2-4?

**ACT:** If David had chosen to follow the advice of his men and given in to the temptation to take matters in his own hands instead of trusting in God, this story at En Gedi would have had a much different ending. Thankfully David had Established that God and God's Way and God's Timing were his priority. He was willing to Embrace his current Position and follow the steps of God along the way and he was willing to Endure the Process and Trust in God's Will for his life. The lesson for us is to follow his example - especially as we find ourselves in a time of transition that is difficult to understand. We need to obey God's Word and leave the outcomes to Him.

**Daily Devotional:** It always helps to look at the context of the passage. Then try to answer the following questions about the passage. Who is involved? What is going on? Where is the action taking place? When? How can this concept apply to my life? Why is it important? Also look for Commands, Warnings, and Examples to follow or not to follow.

- This week let's look at passages that describe the priorities that God wants us to have.

## **Monday:**

### **Deuteronomy 6:5-6 NLT**

And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength. And you must commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these commands that I am giving you today.

## **Tuesday:**

### **John 14:15 NLT**

"If you love me, obey my commandments."

## **Wednesday:**

### **Galatians 5:16 NLT**

So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves.

## **Thursday:**

### **Ephesians 6:10-11 NLT**

A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil.

## **Friday:**

### **Colossians 3:15-17 NLT**

And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body you are called to live in peace. And always be thankful. Let the message about Christ, in all its richness, fill your lives. Teach and counsel each other with all the wisdom he gives. Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to God with thankful hearts. And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father.

## **Saturday:**

### **1 Thessalonians 5:16-22 NLT**

Always be joyful. Never stop praying. Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus. Do not stifle the Holy Spirit. Do not scoff at prophecies, but test everything that is said. Hold on to what is good. Stay away from every kind of evil.

## **Sunday:**

### **2 Timothy 2:15 NLT**

Work hard so you can present yourself to God and receive his approval. Be a good worker, one who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly explains the word of truth.

