

HOW TO TREAT AN ENEMY

JIM NICODEM | JANUARY 29 & 30, 2022

1 SAMUEL 26:1-25

Introduction

1. Resist the _____ to get _____.
2. Trust God to _____ with your _____.
3. Look for the _____ in people who _____ you.
4. _____ and _____ pursue _____.

Conclusion

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR FAMILY, FRIENDS & GROUPS

1. Describe someone whom you might consider to be your enemy (or, at least, an antagonist or opponent). How do you feel about this person?
2. Read I Samuel 26:1-8. Pretend that you are Abishai and make an argument for thrusting your spear into Saul. What are some ways that people get revenge on their enemies? (Be creative!)
3. Read I Samuel 26:9-12. Why doesn't David take advantage of his opportunity to get revenge on Saul? How does David imagine that God might deal with Saul (v.10)?
4. What do Romans 12:19 and I Peter 2:23 teach us about the alternative to seeking revenge? Why is this a better option? How might this change our attitude toward an enemy?
5. In what sense was David's opportunity to kill Saul a "test"? How would you know whether or not you were trusting God to deal with an enemy?
6. Read I Samuel 26:13-15. Make a case for Abner not being all bad. What good traits do we see in Abner in II Samuel 3:6-12, 17-21? Why do we tend to vilify our enemies? What are the dangers in doing that?
7. Read I Samuel 26:17-25. How does David "respectfully and humbly pursue peace"? Who does Jesus say should be the first to pursue peace in Matthew 5:23, 24? Who does Jesus say should be the first to pursue peace in Matthew 18:15? Taken together, what do these two references teach us about our responsibility to pursue peace with others?
8. What was Saul's response to David's peace initiative? What was David's response to Saul's response and what lesson can we learn from David in this regard?