

GROWTH GUIDE – Sugar River UMC

For the 11th week of November 20, 2011

Fall Session –Week 11

Readings: 1 Samuel 16-18, 24, 31; 2 Samuel 6, 22; 1 Chronicles 17, Psalm 59

This is our eleventh week at Sugar River of our Fall Session for Growth Groups. Growth Groups are a central focus of our church as we seek to Connect, Grow and Serve in our relationship with God and others.

Getting to know you:

1. In your childhood, when a team was chosen, were you closer to the first one chosen or the last?
2. Which of the following would you most want to be known as?
 - A person of faith
 - A person of joy
 - A person of peace
 - A person of integrity

Why?

Digging Deeper:

3. When Saul disobeyed God at the end of chapter ten (The Story, p.143, 1 Sam.15:3-9), Samuel told Saul that the LORD had sought out a man after God's own heart and appointed him as the ruler for His people. What does it mean to be a man or woman after God's own heart based on David's example? (see Acts 13.21-22)
4. In his battle with Goliath, "David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet him." (pg.149, 1 Sam. 17:48). When

have you had the courage to face down an impending conflict?

5. What was the fundamental reason for David's choice to spare Saul's life in their encounter at En-Gedi (p.153, 1 Sam. 24: 3-7)? How does this choice reflect David's view of submission, and of God?
6. What do you learn about God's character and His ways from the episode of David and the ark? (p.156-160, 2 Sam. 6:12- 7:29) (For further insight, see Ex. 25:14 and Num. 4:15.) Would you characterize your own worship as reserved or unbridled?
7. In humility David offered to build a house for God, but instead God promised to build a "house" for David. What prompted David's concern for God's dwelling place?
8. Through no merit of his own, David received God's grace through God's covenant with him. (p.159, 2 Sam. 7: 5-16). What specific covenant promises did God make with David? How is this covenant with David later fulfilled in Christ? (Lu. 3:32-33)
9. Identify some episodes from David's life that demonstrate David's clear view of God's Upper Story. How were his choices influenced by that macro view?

Taking it home:

10. From 1 Sam. 16:18 describe David's qualifications. How was each of these important for his success as a king? Reflect on how these qualifications might be developed in your life.

11. Read 1 Samuel 17:45, 47 again. Do you ever feel like you're lining up for battle? What or who is the Goliath you face in your life? Ask God to help you get to the place where you can speak these words to your Goliath.

PRAYER GUIDE

Praise & Thanksgiving:

Family gatherings

Maybe make a list to honor God of the things for which we are thankful, this week.

Pray for healing:

Josh, Ellen Williams-Masson's son is suffering from concussion
Marian Maldonado-Pagan's brother, Moises, from Cleveland
Luis Alvarado, 26-year-old son of Rev. Sonia Alvarado, pastor of Moline (IL) Bethel-Wesley UMC, and Rev. Julio Alvarado, pastor of Moline Bethel-Wesley and Silvis (IL) UMC's, who is stationed in Afghanistan, was injured in a road side bomb.

Pray for:

Each week we pray for a UMC from our district, this week: Milton, their pastor, Patrick Schultz and the 264 members

Mission Guatemala

Blessed Thanksgiving Service at Verona Performing Arts Service on Tuesday

Safe travels for those visiting families this week

Those who do not have enough to eat here in the U.S and around the world-and how we might aid them

Sugar River United Methodist Church SERMON OUTLINE for Sunday, November 20, 2011

The Story: God Forms A People From Shepherd to King

Text: 1 Samuel 17:32-40

Pastor Gary Holmes

(Week 11: 1 Samuel 16-18, 24, 31; 2 Samuel 6, 22; 1 Chronicles 17, Psalm 59)

- 1. Why David as King?**
- 2. Not everyone saw David as King**
- 3. The importance of a real friend**
 - a. Jonathan (1 Samuel 18:1-4)**
- 4. The anointed one**
 - a. Jesus is the Passover Lamb (Exodus)**
 - b. Jesus and Joshua mean the same: Savior**
 - c. Jesus is the ultimate "deliverer" (Judges)**
 - d. Jesus is the Redeemer (Ruth)**
 - e. Jesus is the anointed one (David's lineage)**

Points of the Story:

- The Lord does not look at the outward appearance but at the heart.
- Military might, represented in the giant Goliath, means nothing if you fight the Lord.
- David, though anointed for the kingship, was willing to wait for God's perfect timing and was unwilling to dishonor God's anointed one.
- David and Jonathan's friendship presents a timeless picture of covenantal love.
- David's royal line would one day produce a Son to sit on an eternal throne.

- Adam Barr

Resources: *The Story*; *Exploring the Story*, Adam T. Barr; *NIB* Vol. 2; *WBC*.