

ROCK SOLID: The God of the Psalms

"Our God is My Refuge" Psalm 56 | July 10-11, 2021

This provides about one hour of focused reading and discussion following the points of Pastor Dary Northrop's message. Feel free to use the portions you find most helpful.

1. A story of **betrayal**

- Read **1 Samuel 23:19-20**. Saul always had positive experiences with David, but something changed his perception of him. What do you think motivated that?
- What are a few of the ways we can betray people in our own lives? What excuses do we use when we are tempted to betray a trust?
- If you have been betrayed, how did you overcome your hurt and frustration so that you could move forward? Read **Philippians 1:14-17** and **Philippians 2:3**.

2. A story of **aggression**

- Read **1 Samuel 24:1-2** and **Ephesians 4:25-27**. Anger, jealousy, and pride can lead to a "get even" mentality. We see it in children who naturally want to hit back. When authority and power get added to this mix (like we see with Saul), scary outcomes are possible. What areas do you have authority or power that could be dangerous if left unchecked? How do you manage that? How might your thoughts lead to actions that you may regret?

3. A story of **mercy and grace**

- Read **1 Samuel 24:4-7**. When David had the chance to retaliate, he decided to do the right thing instead. How might his life have changed if he had taken revenge on Saul?
- Read **Psalms 35:11-17**, **Proverbs 25:21-22**, and **Romans 12:19-21**. How do you respond to those who oppose you? Share about a time when you had a chance to get even or be gracious - how did you handle that, and what was the result?

4. A story of **repentance**

- Read **1 Samuel 24:16-18**. David's grace and mercy revealed to Saul how brutal he had become, and this led to a real change of heart for Saul.
- Read **Exodus 34:6** and **Romans 2:3-4**. What stands out to you as you read these passages?
- What are some parallels between David's example and **Romans 5:8**?
- What are some other passages in scripture about the value of mercy?

5. A story of **deliverance**

- Read **Psalms 54** and **Psalms 86:11-17**. What can we learn from David when we are faced with trouble? How might praise be a part of the process?

Close with a theme-related song, "**See a Victory.**"

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jEK6_rz26z0

If you have a prayer need, ask a friend or two here to pray with you and to support you in prayer this week.