



David Finds Strength in God: Mercy leads to being Merciful (1 Sam 29-30)

Notes: Week Seventeen

Achish Sends David Back to Ziklag - [1 Samuel 29:1-11](#)¹

Topics: [Citizenship](#), [Confidence](#), [Criticism](#), [Enemies](#), [Insecurity](#), [Leadership](#), [Loyalty](#), [Motives](#), [Obedience](#), [Partnerships](#), [Reliability](#), [Reputation](#), [Trust](#), [War](#)

Open It

1. *How strong does ethnic and family loyalty tend to be when one group feels attacked by another? Why?
2. If you were a military commander, what qualities would you look for in an ally?

Explore It

3. What forces were gathering for battle? ([29:1](#))
4. Where did David and his men find themselves as the Philistines lined up against Israel? ([29:2](#))
5. *What was the primary basis for the suspicions against David? ([29:2-3](#))
6. On what basis did Achish defend David's presence in the fighting force? ([29:3](#))
7. How did the Philistine commanders feel toward Achish? ([29:4](#))
8. *What was the fear of the other commanders about David's presence at the front? ([29:4-5](#))
9. How did Achish frame his first request that David return home? ([29:6-7](#))
10. How did David respond to Achish's request that he leave the front? ([29:8](#))
11. *What was Achish's final decision about David's involvement in the battle? ([29:9-10](#))
12. Where did David and his men go? When? ([29:11](#))

1. *Adult Questions for LESSONMaker*, (Austin, TX: Wordsearch, 1992), WORDsearch CROSS e-book, Under: "Achish Sends David Back to Ziklag - 1 Samuel 29:1-11".

Get It

13. *Why didn't David's presence among their troops make sense to the Philistine generals?
14. What is good or bad about considering a person's recent behavior above his or her past history when evaluating that person's trustworthiness?
15. Why might David have objected when he was first asked to leave the Philistine army?
16. What is good or bad about taking the advice of the many over the few?
17. *How is it possible to see God's providence at work when we are rejected by others?

Apply It

18. *How do you see God's hand at work in the decisions of the people above you in the chain of command?
19. How can you improve your judgment of the character of other people?

David Destroys the Amalekites - [1 Samuel 30:1-31](#)²

Topics: [Abundance](#), [Answers](#), [Arguments](#), [Benefits](#), [Bitterness](#), [Celebration](#), [Children](#), [Correction](#), [Despair](#), [Disagreements](#), [Emotions](#), [Enemies](#), [Equality](#), [Family](#), [Generosity](#), [Gifts](#), [Greed](#), [Guidance](#), [Hardheartedness](#), [Law](#), [Leadership](#), [Materialism](#), [Mercy](#), [Mourning](#), [Perspective](#), [Possessions](#), [Rebellion](#), [Selfishness](#), [Success](#), [Unity](#), [Wealth](#), [Wisdom](#), [Wives](#)

Open It

1. What qualities keep a leader in office even through hard times?
2. *What rules governing your life or work do you consider unfair?

Explore It

3. What did David and his men find when they returned to Ziklag, the city in Gath where they had been living? ([30:1-3](#))
4. What was the reaction of David and his troops to the destruction of their city? ([30:4](#))
5. What was David's personal loss in the Amalekite raid? ([30:5](#))
6. What was the attitude of the troops toward David when they returned to find their families gone? ([30:6](#))
7. How did David handle his own loss and the criticism of others? ([30:6](#))
8. As a leader, what first step did David take with regard to his dilemma? ([30:7-8](#))
9. What did the Lord reveal to David through Abiathar and the ephod? ([30:8](#))
10. *Why did some of David's men stay behind at the Besor Ravine? ([30:9-10](#))
11. What method did David use to locate the troops that had captured his family and subjects? ([30:11-15](#))
12. What did David and his men find the Amalekites doing? ([30:16](#))
13. What was the outcome of David's battle with the Amalekites? ([30:17](#))
14. To what extent were the Israelites able to recover their families and property? ([30:18-19](#))
15. How had the attitude of the fighters changed toward David after the battle? ([30:20](#))

2. *Adult Questions for LESSONMaker*, (Austin, TX: Wordsearch, 1992), WORDsearch CROSS e-book, Under: "David Destroys the Amalekites - 1 Samuel 30:1-31".

16. *What did some of David's men want to do about the two hundred troops who had not gone into battle? ([30:22](#))
17. *What was David's perspective on the sharing of the spoils of war? ([30:23-25](#))
18. To whom did David send presents from the plunder of the Amalekite raiders? ([30:26-31](#))

Get It

19. What is or isn't fair about holding a leader responsible for the misfortunes that befall the group?
20. What is the best first step for a believer before beginning any enterprise?
21. *What were some positive leadership qualities exhibited by David on the occasion of the recovery of the plunder of Ziklag?
22. *Why is an extreme concern for fairness sometimes a camouflage for greed?
23. To what extent was God's word to David fulfilled in the course of this story?
24. What seems fair or unfair about David's decree regarding the division of spoils?
25. Why did David feel that to punish those who had to stay behind would not be honoring to God?
26. What might have prompted David to send some of his share of the plunder to friends in Israel?

Apply It

27. *The next time you find yourself obsessed with an issue of fairness, how can you check your heart for greed and uncharitable thoughts?
28. What reminders can you use to pray for your church and civil leaders this coming week?