



REFLECTION / DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Pick a few questions from below and reflect this week, or choose 4-5 to discuss in your home group.

- Have you ever been unfairly displaced from your ideal situation? What was that like for you? What thoughts do you think were running through David's mind as he fled?
- When have you found yourself living in between your ideal and reality? What questions would you like to ask God about that time period?
- At least part of David's survival and success depended on deception. (Hushai, Zadok/Abiathar) Do you believe lying is always wrong? Why?
- Compare 2 Samuel 16:1-4 with 19:24-30. Who do you think is truly loyal to David? Why? Have you ever been confused as to who was a true friend and who was not?
- According to 1 Chronicles 27:33, what was the difference between Ahithophel and Hushai? In what ways does the difference matter?
- What have you learned from adversity lately? What have you learned about yourself? In what ways can you see the adversity you're facing help you become more Christlike?
- Read 2 Samuel 16:5-14. Why do you think Shemei demonstrated such public derision for David? What do you think of David's response? Have you ever been subjected to a similar tirade? How did you respond? Is there anything you can learn from how David handled Shemei's explosion?
- Why do you think Ahithophel committed suicide? What parallels do you see between the experiences of David and Ahithophel in chapters 16-17. What contrasts do you see? What do you think is the difference?
- When have you seen a longshot materialize because you allowed God to work?
- Spend time praying for those in your group who find themselves in an "in between" season.



THINK ABOUT IT

2 Samuel 16-17: In Between

OVERVIEW

Absalom's rebellion now has David on the run. In 2 Samuel 16-17 the people David encounters during his escape to the Jordan Valley are a diverse lot. Ziba maneuvers for his Mephibosheth's wealth. Shemei unleashes curses on David. Ahithophel commits suicide when Hushai's advice is followed over and above his.

Providence, along with a little help from his friend, Hushai, allows David to narrowly escape ambush. Through it all, David is again the remarkable leader of earlier years, humbly trusting God for his fate, and treating even his enemies with respect and dignity.

SERMON OUTLINE & SCRIPTURES

In Between

I. The Players

- A. Ziba & Mephibosheth: 2 Samuel 16:1-4
- B. Shemei: 2 Samuel 16:5-14
- C. Hushai & Ahithophel: 2 Samuel 16:15-17:14
- D. Zadok & Abiathar: 2 Samuel 17:15-29

II. God specializes in longshots: 2 Samuel 16:23, 17:14

III. God uses the in between times to reveal His faithfulness: Psalm 20:7, 37:5, Proverbs 3:5