

ALTARS

Title: ALTARS

Date: January 28, 2024

Leader's Notes:

1. Start and end the life group on time.
2. Facilitate discussions with your group and **give all attendees opportunities to share their thoughts**. Encourage participation.

Life Group Discussion Proper

WORSHIP: (15 mins)

Option 1: In person - Home gatherings

Suggestions: Assign someone to lead worship or play two praise & worship songs from You Tube.

Option 2: In person gatherings at a public place (at the park, school campus or café) or Online home gathering (via Zoom or other online meeting platform)

Suggestions: Ask three to four people to share testimonies of answered prayers or ask the question: Ask the group, "What are you thankful to God about this past week?"

Main Text: 2 Samuel 24:18-25 NLT

Intro: David is not just known for his exploits in the battlefield, especially his legendary victory against the 10-foot giant, Goliath. He is also known for his great sins against God and others. (see 2 Samuel 24:1-1). When he took a census to count the fighting men of Israel, it angered the LORD because, instead of trusting God who had given him everything, he looked to his military capability as his security. David's decision to conduct a census was seen as an act of pride, a lack of trust in God's provision and a lack of trust in God's protection for Israel. It reflected a desire to count his military strength and resources, rather than relying on God's guidance and blessings.

WELCOME:(15 mins): IWC - Introduce yourself. Welcome guests/first-time visitors. Cheerfully call someone to do the same.

Ice-breaker: Ask the group and give time for participation.

Q: Do you sometimes sense that I'm not "blessed enough" by God? (That you're experiencing God's favor or blessings) but rather feel like (sometimes) I am facing punishment due to feelings of guilt from sin?

WORD (30-45 mins)

Let's find the answer we are looking for from the life of one of God's great servant, King David:

1. David was truly repentant – Read vv.10-17

David took full responsibility for his sin and was willing to take the consequence as well. When David repented, he acknowledged his sin against God and doesn't blame others for it. Passing the blame gets as nowhere near God, like what Adam and Eve did after they sinned. David's repentant heart pardoned his sin and turned the heart of God to look at him favourably again.

Discussion Questions:

Q: Would you share an experience when you had to admit your mistake before people?

Q: How did that kind of situation help you with regards to taking responsibility rather than passing the blame on others?

With God, just saying sorry is not enough. We must take full responsibility for our sin/s and acknowledge that we directly hurt the heart of God. David sinned greatly against God and others but when he repented, he did it the right way.

Continuation:

2. He gave to God whatever cost was required of him – v.24

“But the king replied to Araunah, “No, I insist on buying it, for I will not present burnt offerings to the Lord my God that have cost me nothing. So David paid him fifty pieces of silver for the threshing floor and the oxen.” v.24

David, realized the consequences of his sins with 70,000 people already dead and the possibility of many more to die made him realize that the lives of innocent men, women and children is at stake. He insisted on paying the full price of the field of Araunah. He didn't want to make a burnt offering to God that expresses his sincere repentance by not paying the full price from Araunah. It seemed like to David, my sins cost the lives of innocent people then the place for the burnt sacrifice must cost me the full price.

In the same way, Jesus paid for everything that was needed. He sacrificed His life to pay for the penalty of our sins, but He expects us to give our all in return to live for Him after our surrender to the Lordship of Jesus.

Discussion Questions:

Q: Would you share a situation that you took responsibility of a bad situation rather than passing the blame on others?

Q: Did you think about what would people say or think about you during that moment? Why or why not?

Conclusion:

David was called by God as a man after His heart *“But God removed Saul and replaced him with David, a man about whom God said, ‘I have found David son of Jesse, a man after my own heart. He will do everything I want him to do.’”* Acts 13:3 NLT

David's commendation came directly from God and not from human sources which is the only validation that matters. His status as a man after God's own heart is attributed not only to his exploits of faith but also to his dedicated pursuit of pleasing the Lord.

Despite his shortcomings, David remained committed to bringing joy to God. This is why, in spite of his grave sins, he still found favour in the eyes of God and that's why he is called, ***“a man after my own heart.”***

*“But now your kingdom must end, for **the Lord has sought out a man after his own heart.** The Lord has already appointed him to be the leader of his people, because you have not kept the Lord's command.”* 1 Samuel 13:14

Q: What is your understanding of the term, “a man/woman after God's own heart?”

WHAT IS YOUR BIGGEST TAKE-AWAY FROM THE LESSON?

Tell your group to partner with someone and ask this question to their partner.

Q: What impacted you the most from this lesson?

WORK: The Challenge & Closing prayer (15 mins.)

1. Memorize a verse from your devotions this week and be prepared to share it on our next gathering.
2. Please take time in your smaller groups to pray for one another. If there are specific needs, take time to lift them up to God in prayer as well. Ask each other, ***“what can I pray for you?”***

Leader's Notes:

1. Please remind your group of your next gathering and ask them to invite a friend.
2. Please encourage the group to remember to pray for one another during the week.
3. Assign someone to share from his/her devotion to the group next week. (*min. of 5mins.*)