CHURCH OF THE VALLEY
IMMERSE — KINGDOMS | WEEK #7
A 5-Day Series-Ending Devotional

The Rise of David and the Fall of Saul

“The LORD is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit.” — Psalm 34:18

David’s wilderness years reveal how we respond when life becomes unfair, uncertain, and uncomfortable. He makes mistakes, receives encouragement, resists revenge, and learns to entrust his future to God. These five days invite us to follow David’s example of dependence while looking to Jesus, whose humility and sacrifice bring us grace, mercy, and new life.

01 When Fear Tempts Us to Hide the Truth

“Therefore, each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor.” — Ephesians 4:25

David lies to Ahimelech to make a frightening situation feel safer. The priest helps him, unaware of the danger connected to David’s story. When Saul later orders the priests killed, David grieves and takes responsibility.

Fear can tempt us to tell only part of the truth so we can control how others respond. But honesty gives people the dignity of making their own choices. In a Jesus-centered community, truth protects trust and strengthens our life together.

REFLECT

When am I tempted to misrepresent the truth to make life easier?

PRACTICE

Choose honesty today, even when telling the truth feels uncomfortable.

PRAYER

Lord, give me courage to speak truthfully, even when I feel afraid. Help me value trust more than comfort and care for others with honesty. Amen.

02 Find Comfort in God During the Wilderness

“The God of all comfort… comforts us in all our troubles.” — 2 Corinthians 1:3–4

David is driven into the wilderness and hides in caves. Isolation and uncertainty wear on him, yet he continues to pray and seek God’s direction. God does not always remove discomfort immediately; He can shape us through it.

Our world trains us to expect instant relief. But God’s purposes are larger than the moment we are in. He also sends people like Jonathan and Abigail to encourage and guide us. We can receive their support while learning to rest in Christ.

REFLECT

Where do I need God’s comfort while I wait for circumstances to change?

REACH OUT

Who could I encourage—or ask to encourage me—in this season?

PRAYER

God of all comfort, meet me in the places that feel lonely or uncertain. Give me patience as You work, and help me receive the encouragement You provide through others. Amen.

03 Let God Handle Vengeance

"Do not take revenge… but leave room for God's wrath." — Romans 12:19

David has opportunities to kill Saul, the man pursuing him, but repeatedly refuses to take revenge into his own hands. He chooses to honor God rather than satisfy his desire to defend himself.

Trusting God does not mean pretending injustice is acceptable. It means refusing to let revenge rule our response. We can seek what is right while leaving judgment to God, whose purposes and justice reach beyond what we can see.

REFLECT

Where am I tempted to get even or prove myself right?

RELEASE

Name that situation in prayer and entrust justice to God.

PRAYER

Father, when I am hurt or treated unfairly, keep bitterness and revenge from ruling my heart. Help me act with courage and humility, trusting You with what I cannot control. Amen.

04 Choose Humility Over the Need to Win

"In humility value others above yourselves." — Philippians 2:3

Even after Saul's pursuit brings deep pain, David mourns Saul and his dear friend Jonathan. He recognizes the tragedy of their deaths instead of celebrating the downfall of those who have hurt him.

David's response points us toward Jesus. Though He is Lord, Jesus humbled Himself and gave His life for us. His way challenges our desire to win every argument or see others fail. In Christ, we can grieve what is broken and still desire good for people.

REFLECT

Do I want healing and what is right—or simply to see someone lose?

FOLLOW JESUS

Take one humble step toward peace, compassion, or forgiveness.

PRAYER

Jesus, shape my heart through Your humility. Help me see people with compassion, refuse pride, and seek what is good even when I have been hurt. Thank You for Your grace and mercy. Amen.

05 Trust God's Plan and Hold On to Hope

"Yet I am always with you; you hold me by my right hand." — Psalm 73:23

David's future calling does not erase the pain of his present. He continues to trust God through uncertainty and loss. Psalm 73 offers hope when the state of the world feels discouraging and faithfulness is difficult.

Our hope rests ultimately in Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. He identifies with our brokenness and offers grace, mercy, and new life. We may not understand every circumstance, but we can entrust ourselves to the Savior who has shown us the depth of God's love.

REFLECT

What discouraging circumstance do I need to place in God's hands?

REMEMBER

Read Psalm 73 and name one truth about God that renews your hope.

PRAYER

Savior, when the world feels broken and my future uncertain, anchor me in Your love. Help me trust Your plan, follow Your way, and live with the hope You have secured for me. Amen.

IMMERSE — KINGDOMS • WEEK #7 CLOSING THOUGHT

TELL THE TRUTH. TRUST GOD IN THE WILDERNESS. REFUSE REVENGE.