

CONNECT GROUP NOTES

# **ChARAcTEr** **in the midst of trouble**



Encourage the group to take turns reading and answering questions. It is best to ask the questions as they appear instead of waiting till the end

**TOPIC : Character in the midst of Trouble**

To find this sermon visit

[www.outlookchurch.co.za/sermons](http://www.outlookchurch.co.za/sermons)

**TIME TO PONDER:**

If we are to study the History of Israel - God's chosen people we see how little by little they began to drift away from God's perfect plan for them leading to the people of Israel starting to covet their neighbour's idols and gods. Joshua presents the Israelites with an

ultimatum to serve God and not idols.  
Knowing that God is always faithful.

Israel however did not listen, but fell into moral chaos and this resulted in them being judged. As shown in the book for Judges. Judges show Israel's progressive fall into moral degradation.

The result was Israel calling for a king to rule the nation. The first two kings of Israel were Saul followed by David, who is known as a man after God's own heart, but life was not smooth sailing for David.

*1 Samuel 30:1-4*

*David and his men reached Ziklag on the third day. Now the Amalekites had raided the*

*Negev and Ziklag. They had attacked Ziklag and burned it, 2 and had taken captive the women and everyone else in it, both young and old. They killed none of them, but carried them off as they went on their way.*

*3 When David and his men reached Ziklag, they found it destroyed by fire and their wives and sons and daughters taken captive. 4 So David and his men wept aloud until they had no strength left to weep.*

David and his men returned home after battle to find everything that they valued had been taken away. David's men were bitter and angry with him. David however went straight to the Lord and found strength in Him.

**Question 1: What do you think it means to find strength in the Lord? Have you ever had an experience where God has strengthened you?**

**TIME TO REFLECT:**

**1. Finding strength in the Lord.**

It's the result of an inner relationship with God. See how David kept his eyes on the Lord at all times.

*Psalm 56:3-4*

*When I am afraid, I put my trust in you.*

*In God, whose word I praise—  
in God I trust and am not afraid.*

*What can mere mortals do to me?*

*Psalm 121:1-2*

*I lift up my eyes to the mountains—  
where does my help come from?  
2 My help comes from the Lord,  
the Maker of heaven and earth.*

We are strengthened when we are in close proximity to God in prayer.

We need to cultivate our relationship with God. This means spending time with him. If we lose the connection we lose sight of who He is - the Faithful Father

## **2. Realise that God places people around us to help us even in seasons of trouble.**

*1 Samuel 30:11-15*

*11 They found an Egyptian in a field and brought him to David. They gave him water to drink and food to eat— 12 part of a cake of pressed figs and two cakes of raisins. He ate and was revived, for he had not eaten any food or drunk any water for three days and three nights. 13 David asked him, “Who do you belong to? Where do you come from?”*

*He said, “I am an Egyptian, the slave of an Amalekite. My master abandoned me when I became ill three days ago. 14 We raided the Negev of the Kerethites, some territory belonging to Judah and the Negev of Caleb.*

*And we burned Ziklag.” 15 David asked him, “Can you lead me down to this raiding party?”*

God placed a man in David’s path to show him where to go to get his family back. We need to trust God for those divine encounters even in the midst of trouble.

We need to be aware of how we treat people in the face of our own struggle. If we treat people well it will make an impact on those around us and open up God's hand to us. We are to open our eyes and see God's hand in the situation.

**Question 2: How good are you at seeing God’s hand in even the darkest situations and trusting for those He has sent to help us?**



## TIME TO DISCUSS:

**3. When God's deliverance comes and in the face of hardships, we are called to share whatever God has blessed us with.**

*1 Sam 30:21-23*

*21 Then David came to the two hundred men who had been too exhausted to follow him and who were left behind at the Besor Valley. They came out to meet David and the men with him. As David and his men approached, he asked them how they were. 22 But all the evil men and troublemakers among David's followers said, "Because they did not go out with us, we will not share with them the plunder we recovered. However, each man may take his wife and children and go."*

*23 David replied, “No, my brothers, you must not do that with what the Lord has given us. He has protected us and delivered into our hands the raiding party that came against us. They shared the plunder even with the men who were unable to go with to help retrieve their families. David realised that the victory was in God and meant for all His people.*

**Question 3: Are we prepared to share what we have, even when times are tough and people are difficult with us?**

## **ACTION STEP**

### **The Challenge**

- Find strength in God

- Open your eyes to see who God has sent to help you.
- Share the blessings you receive from God, no matter how hard fought it was to get them.

Let's fix our eyes on Jesus the author and perfect of our faith.

Follow Jesus's example. He found strength in God to lay down his life.

### *Luke 22:41-43*

*41 He withdrew about a stone's throw beyond them, knelt down and prayed, 42 "Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done." 43 An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him.*

Even Jesus needed strengthening and God sent an angel to help him.

Jesus shared his life without withholding anything from us.

Let us now follow in Jesus' footsteps and live in the presence of the King, equipped by Him to serve and be a blessing to those around us.

To listen to other sermons

<https://outlookchurch.co.za/sermons>