

## WEEK

4

### Welcome & Open with a Brief Prayer Icebreaker

#### Key Scripture (Please read it to the group):

1 Samuel 18:12-16 — “Saul was then afraid of David, for the LORD was with David and had turned away from Saul. Finally, Saul sent him away and appointed him commander over 1,000 men, and David faithfully led his troops into battle. David continued to succeed in everything he did, for the LORD was with him. When Saul recognized this, he became even more afraid of him. But all Israel and Judah loved David because he was so successful at leading his troops into battle.” (NLT)

#### Overview:

The saga continues between David and King Saul. It’s the story of the “now and the not yet.” David has been promised the throne, but events don’t seem to be moving in that direction. In fact, circumstances look very bleak. King Saul is jealous, treats David terribly, and desires to see David die. To that end, Saul sends David into battle, tries twice to kill David with a spear, and asks for a bride price from David that involves killing 200 Philistines. David stays the course and does what Saul asks of him. David not only survives but receives favor from the Lord and the Israelites! David exhibits faithfulness in the face of injustice and jealousy because He trusts the Lord to bring about His promises. This week let’s unpack how the “now and the not yet” might relate to us.

#### Watch Video

1. In our culture, how do you see people dealing with waiting for the “not yet?” Do you think this issue is more difficult today than it was in David’s time?
2. Is God’s timing usually our timing? Why or why not?
3. Why do you think God sometimes causes you and me to wait?
4. Are you currently, or have you been, in the place of the “now and the not yet?” Can you share your experience with the group?
5. Paul urges us in 1 Corinthians 16:13, “Be on guard. Stand firm in the faith. Be courageous. Be strong.” (NLT) What does this scripture mean to you?
6. What steps can you take to stand firm in the coming week and hold on to what God has promised to bring to pass in your life? How might Psalm 28:7 tie into standing firm?

**To Consider:** In the week ahead, notice situations where you might not be trusting God to meet your needs or what situations prompt you to compare yourself to others. Be kind to yourself but ask yourself and ask God why those situations bring up trust issues and

Ask for prayer requests. (Remind the group to share only request per person due to time.)  
Closing Prayer—Include those requests in your closing prayer.

## QUESTIONS

## PRAYER