**COUNTING ON GOD IN A CRISIS**

**1 Samuel 23:1-14**

***Sermon Review***

*What was the Main Point of the Sermon from Sunday?*

*What part of the Sermon did you find to be the most beneficial?*

***SMALL GROUP LESSON***

1. What method or methods do you use to make decisions in your life?
2. When was the last time you “trusted” God in a difficult, challenging, or crisis situation?

**1 Samuel 23:1-14 (NLT)**
1  One day news came to David that the Philistines were at Keilah stealing grain from the threshing floors. 2  David asked the LORD, “Should I go and attack them?” “Yes, go and save Keilah,” the LORD told him. 3  But David’s men said, “We’re afraid even here in Judah. We certainly don’t want to go to Keilah to fight the whole Philistine army!” 4  So David asked the LORD again, and again the LORD replied, “Go down to Keilah, for I will help you conquer the Philistines.” 5  So David and his men went to Keilah. They slaughtered the Philistines and took all their livestock and rescued the people of Keilah. 6  Now when Abiathar son of Ahimelech fled to David at Keilah, he brought the ephod with him. 7  Saul soon learned that David was at Keilah. “Good!” he exclaimed. “We’ve got him now! God has handed him over to me, for he has trapped himself in a walled town!” 8  So Saul mobilized his entire army to march to Keilah and besiege David and his men. 9  But David learned of Saul’s plan and told Abiathar the priest to bring the ephod and ask the LORD what he should do.
10  Then David prayed, “O LORD, God of Israel, I have heard that Saul is planning to come and destroy Keilah because I am here. 11  Will the leaders of Keilah betray me to him? And will Saul actually come as I have heard? O LORD, God of Israel, please tell me.” And the LORD said, “He will come.” 12  Again David asked, “Will the leaders of Keilah betray me and my men to Saul?” And the LORD replied, “Yes, they will betray you.” 13  So David and his men—about 600 of them now—left Keilah and began roaming the countryside. Word soon reached Saul that David had escaped, so he didn’t go to Keilah after all. 14  David now stayed in the strongholds of the wilderness and in the hill country of Ziph. Saul hunted him day after day, but God didn’t let Saul find him.

***EXPLORE***

* 1. What was David’s first response to the news that an Israelite town was being attacked by an enemy? ([23:2](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+23%3A2))
	2. How did the Lord answer David’s specific request for guidance? ([23:2](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+23%3A2))
	3. Why were David’s men hesitant to follow him into battle? ([23:3](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+23%3A3))
	4. How did God reassure David when he came the second time for guidance? ([23:4](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+23%3A4))
	5. What action did Saul take immediately upon learning of David’s whereabouts at Keilah? ([23:8](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+23%3A8))
	6. Why was Saul unable to catch David? ([23:14](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+23%3A14))

***APPLY***

* 1. How did David show his leadership qualities by considering an attack when he heard the news about Keilah?
	2. How did David show humility by the order in which he proceeded with his plans? What was good about the way David made his decisions?
	3. What would be difficult or easy about believing that God would deliver a city with a ragtag band of misfits?
	4. Why is it important to seek God’s guidance before embarking even on an errand of mercy?
	5. How would you compare the way Saul and David arrived at their respective decisions about what to do next?
	6. What are some of the ways that Christians can help one another "find strength in God"?

**Additional Thoughts:**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**