

SERMON STUDY GUIDE

TUG-OF-WAR

**WEEK 3:
FEB. 19-24, 2023**

Loving God,
thank you for speaking
to us through your
servant David.
Help us to apply the
lessons from his life
to our own.
May we
continually remember
the importance
of pulling together.
Amen

PULLING TOGETHER

1 Samuel 29:1-7

The Philistines gathered all their forces at Aphek, and Israel camped by the spring in Jezreel. 2 As the Philistine rulers marched with their units of hundreds and thousands, David and his men were marching at the rear with Achish. 3 The commanders of the Philistines asked, "What about these Hebrews?"

Achish replied, "Is this not David, who was an officer of Saul king of Israel? He has already been with me for over a year, and from the day he left Saul until now, I have found no fault in him."

4 But the Philistine commanders were angry with Achish and said, "Send the man back, that he may return to the place you assigned him. He must not go with us into battle, or he will turn against us during the fighting. How better could he regain his master's favor than by taking the heads of our own men?"

5 Isn't this the David they sang about in their dances:

"Saul has slain his thousands,
and David his tens of thousands?"

6 So Achish called David and said to him, "As surely as the Lord lives, you have been reliable, and I would be pleased to have you serve with me in the army. From the day you came to me until today, I have found no fault in you, but the rulers don't approve of you. 7 Now turn back and go in peace; do nothing to displease the Philistine rulers."

GETTING STARTED

- Welcome each other.
- Inquire as to anyone who is missing. Is follow-up needed?
- Reflect on your experiences as a team player. What was expected of you? Of your teammates?



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SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Share some examples of events that could shift a relationship of cooperation to one of opposition. What are some sources of these shifts?
- When you were in a conflict situation, have you ever had an “Achish” offer advice? What happened? What lessons, if any, resulted?
- How can we discern what we need to hear from what we might like to hear? What are critical actions to take? How challenging are they?
- What were your reactions to the takeaways and ripple effects from the story of David?
- Relate some experiences concerning the hard work of pulling together with people. What helps?

PRAYER REQUESTS

