

# Going Deeper

Your weekly guide to understanding God with others

## David - Part 5 - Chasing grace over chasing revenge

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### Introduction

Fill in the blanks:

My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to \_\_\_\_\_;

slow to \_\_\_\_\_ and slow to become \_\_\_\_\_. (James 1:19)

David and his army were in need of food and refreshment. He approached Nabal, a wealthy pasturer, for assistance. David reminded Nabal that his army did not take advantage of his shepherds and had in fact protected them. Nabal rudely reviled David, who reacted angrily and was about to attack his household. Abigail, Nabal's wife, intervened and interceded for her husband to prevent this.

### Read 1 Samuel 25:1-35

### Discuss

1. What reasons did Abigail give to persuade David not to take revenge? What can we learn from this?
2. We all have experienced injustice and offence in our lives. Without going into details of the past events, how did you react to the offensive situation? In hindsight, how could you have responded differently?
3. James 1:19 and Proverbs 15:1 provide wise counsel on how to communicate. How can we communicate in times of conflict to avoid an escalation of the situation?
4. Apart from the story above, who else in the Bible was treated unjustly and suffered for it? How did they respond? Specifically, how did Joseph (in Genesis) and Jesus respond? What can we learn from that?

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5. Abigail is often seen as an intercessor who interceded on behalf of Nabal for David's forgiveness. How can we do the same if we are caught in a crossfire of misunderstanding? How can we be peacemakers?
6. Forgiveness is a fundamental spiritual value and practice of a believer (Colossians 3:13, Ephesians 4:32, Matthew 6:12). Why are believers able to forgive others?
7. What may happen when a person chooses not to forgive, continues to hold a grudge, or takes revenge? How can such behaviour be counterproductive? See Hebrews 12:15.
8. Read Psalms 24:3-6, Proverbs 25:21-22, Romans 12:19. Why is it better to trust God to bring justice in a grievous situation?

### **Respond**

Forgiveness does not imply that an offence is unimportant, untrue or insignificant. However, we can draw healing from God and find grace to forgive others who offend against us. We may also recognise that we have caused offense to others and would also like to be forgiven for our mistakes.

Are there past offenses that still impact you today? If you would like some support in this area, ask the Life Group to pray for you to receive healing and restoration from God, and commit the matter to him. What steps of forgiveness can you take this week?