

## SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

### Comparison Game

John Stone | I Samuel 18 | October 27, 2019

#### DISCUSSION

1. Read 1 Samuel 18:1-4. It was extraordinary that Jonathan, as heir to the throne, would form such a close friendship with David, who would eventually take the throne instead of Jonathan. Describe a time when someone sacrificed for your benefit.
2. Read vv. 5-9 and v. 18. a) Contrast the reactions of David and Saul to David's successes. b) Share a time when you, or someone you know, were tempted to jealousy. Did the reaction compare more to that of David or Saul?
3. Read Philippians 2:5-11. How can marveling that Jesus gave up His divine privileges for your sake help you connect with God?
4. When we are jealous of others like Saul was of David, how often do we get the desired outcome? If we do get the desired result (e.g., recognition by people), what do we gain and what are the risks?
5. Read 1 Samuel 18:10-11 and v. 17. The seed of jealousy can produce erratic behavior. Describe Saul's downward progression. What was God's role?
6. Saul's issues began when Israel rejected the Lord in desiring a human king instead of God (see 1 Samuel 8:6-8).  
Read James 4:4-10. How can we fall into that same trap? What is the remedy?

#### APPLICATION

7. Where are you allowing comparisons and jealousy to separate you from others? What hinders you from adopting a posture of humility right now?
8. In what practical ways could you show love and acceptance in those comparative relationships?

## COMPARISON GAME

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**Comparison** can be **revealing**.

I Sam 18:5-7; Micah 6:7;  
Rom 12:3

**Proud** reactions create **separation**.

I Ssam 18:8-30; 20:30-31;  
Matt 5:21-22

**Humble** reactions create **connection**.

I Sam 18:1-4; 13:19, 22;  
Jn 3:30; Phil 2:5-11