

**Victoria Fellowship Church**  
**International & Interdenominational**  
**Bible Study Worksheet – July 17, 2022**

**Theme: Lessons from the life of David    Topic: Handling Resentment**

**Main Texts: 1 Samuel 18:1 - 16**

**Key verse: 1 Samuel 18:14** – *‘And David behaved wisely in all his ways, and the Lord was with him.’* (NKJV)

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**INTRODUCTION:** Last week we saw how David won a decisive victory over Goliath the giant. That victory also heralded a bigger victory over the Philistines, who had been a torn in the flesh of the Israelites. And at a personal level, the victory catapulted David into prominence – first with king Saul, then with his son, Jonathan and with all the people. But before long, things turned sour and the king became murderously resentful of David! The Oxford Dictionary defines resentment as a feeling of anger or unhappiness about something that you think is unfair. It is usually felt towards or against someone. Some synonyms of resentment include bitterness, jealousy, and envy. In keeping with our quarter theme, our study today explores how David handled the resentment from king Saul and lessons we can learn from him on how to handle ourselves should we end up at the receiving end of resentment.

- 1. Trace the buildup to king Saul’s resentment of David in 1 Samuel 18: 1-9 (a) What were the progression to his resentment? (b) Was he justified in his harboring those feelings towards David? (c) Could king Saul have stopped his feeling from getting out of hand? Give examples of how he could have managed his emotions better.**

Have you ever caught yourself struggling with a touch of jealousy of someone occasionally? Truth be told, everyone struggles with jealousy and resentment at times. How about being at the receiving end of jealousy or resentment. David had taken his life in his hands when he went out to confront Goliath. God had honored David’s faith and granted him victory over a most formidable foe. Everyone rejoiced, the crown prince, Jonathan enters a covenant friendship with David. He surrenders to David his royal robe, tunic, sword, his bow, and his belt. These clothes and weapons were symbolic of Jonathan’s position as heir to the throne. Giving David these items was symbolic of Jonathan passing on to David his right to the throne. To make matters worse, the common people in their victory song, attribute more honor to David than to the king. That was perhaps too much for a king to absorb. And that made king Saul very angry and unhappy (1 Samuel 18:8).

- (a) In 1 Samuel 18:10, David, despite his great military success, is at his duty post serving the king. What does that tell you about the character of David? (b) David had a spear thrown at him twice by the very man he was serving. Yet we are not told that he complained. What does he teach us in his attitude and response? See also 1 Samuel 17:37. (c) How would you use this principle in handling any similar situation you might be experiencing?**

Despite the king’s resentment, David continued to serve diligently. With every new task or mission, God granted David success. This fueled king Saul’s resentment to the extent that he demoted him from overseeing the soldiers to a mere battalion commander (1 Samuel 18:5,8). This must have been quite confusing for one as young as David was at this time, especially that the resentment from his master was not due to any misdeeds. Every now and then, we would find ourselves at the butt of someone’s feelings of jealousy or resentment. What are we to do?

- (a) Read 1 Peter 2:23. How did David exemplify the virtues advocated in this verse? (b) What other practical guide does Romans 12:14-21 offer on how to handle resentment? (c) Let some participants share their main takeaway from this study**

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**Prayer:** *Dear Father, Your grace upon my life can make me a target of envy and resentment by those around me. When that happens, help me to remember that they hated You without cause and please protect my heart from becoming embittered. Rather, may I remain focused, continuing diligently in pursuing Your will for my life. In Jesus name. Amen!*