

AN ENVIOUS KING

Better Days | Family Devotion | Week 3

The Passage

I Samuel 18:6-16

Questions

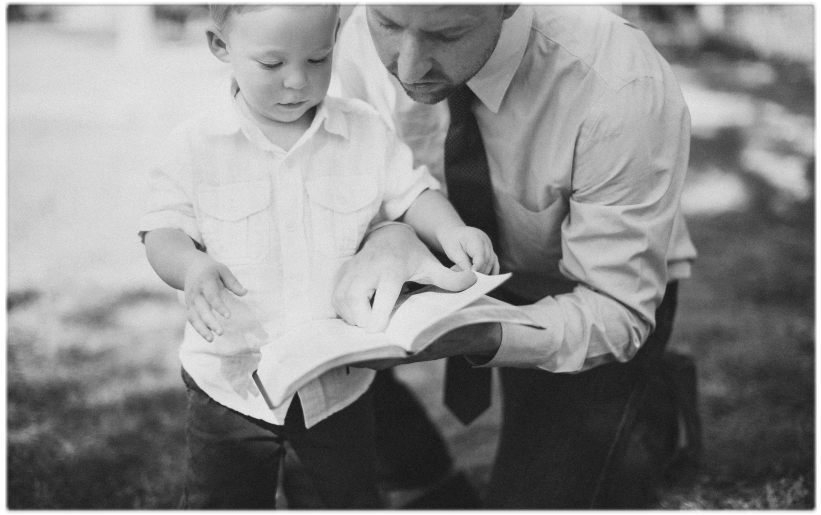
If you could have anything in the world, what would that be?

Where do we begin to see Saul make mistakes in this story?

How can our family recognize and fight jealousy and envy in our own hearts?

Prayer

God... Our family is yours. We want to be consumed and led by You. Help us to not be distracted with wanting what others have or wishing we were more than we are. We want to be a family that values you above all else, no matter what anyone else has. Help us, Father.



The Story

As the dust begins to settle, the Israelite army emerges victorious. Faced with an impossible situation, the army has seen God defeat a massive champion, leaving His people to reap the rewards. And with a fantastic twist, the person God used to carry out this victory was not the king but a young shepherd who heard God's call. Now the army returns to a nation celebrating the victory. The scene is a madhouse, with the people singing, dancing, and enjoying what David has accomplished. But not everyone is in that mood. Saul, a man whose failures have caused the Lord to withdraw His favor, sits in the corner, watching the party and hating every moment. Rather than celebrating what God has done, Saul can only see one thing, that this "boy" is stealing the spotlight Saul so desperately craves. By this point, Saul is a man driven to obsession by two sins: jealousy and envy. Jealousy is the sin of entitlement, the wanting of something that we believe should be ours. Envy is that look over the fence, the desperate desire for what someone else has. Saul, as the story goes on, becomes more and more consumed by both. He is jealous of the attention David has received and envious of the fact that the Lord is favoring this young upstart. If we take the time, we can find one or both of these sins lurking below the surface of our lives. The heart that should be celebrating what God has done is found glancing sideways at what others have and what we should. If we are honest, this is a place we need to take a long look inside.