1. The story in 1 Samuel 26 should sound familiar. It is similar to the one found in 1 Sam. 24. List the things that are similar. What things are different?

Similarities:

Differences:

1. This story tells us that David had a second chance to kill Saul. Why would there be a repeat of virtually the same scenario?

The Chase Ensues Again – 26:1-5

1. Read 1 Samuel 24:17-21. What does Saul say? Does he seem intent on chasing David anymore?
2. In 1 Samuel 26 Saul is back on the chase? Why is this?
3. Read 26:1 and 19. Read Ps 54. What light do these verses shed on the question?

**Lesson: The people who exalt you can be the people who control you.**

1. To what extent do people influence you?
2. Are you ever so powerful that people do not control/influence you? Why makes you say this?
3. Is there a correlation between power and peer pressure?
4. How do we keep from letting others have such power over us?

Everyone Gets the Point (except Saul) 26:6-16

1. David again finds himself in a position where he can kill Saul if he wanted. Why doesn’t he?
2. What does David believe about God? (v. 10)
3. David takes the spear. Why does he choose this as a token of choice?
4. How would you summarize David’s words to Abner in verses 15-16? Is this simple information or is there more to it?

**Lesson: The Lord is supreme.** The heathen are powerless before God & He mocks them in their futility.

1. What benefits are there to knowing God is in complete control?
2. Do you find mockery to be appropriate? If so, when? If not, why?
3. Where was the spear located? Why do you think the text mentions this?
4. Imagine the scene that is described in verses 7-12 (or draw a picture). How does this picture enhance David’s kingly stature? (Romans 14:11 or Psalm 72:11 may help)

Lesson: The Lord’s Anointed will be victorious. Every earthly power will one day be prostrate before him. Most of all, he will crush Satan’s head and bring all evil to an end.

1. How does this encourage you? How does it make a difference in the way you share the gospel?

Two Men Go their Two Ways

1. What do you make of Saul’s repentance in verse 21? Is it genuine?
2. Saul gets the last word in 25. This is the last bit of conversation David & Saul have. What is special about it? How would this affect David?
3. Do you think that David loved Saul? Why do you say this?
4. How does David display his trust in God?

Lesson: Hope reigns supreme for God’s people

1. Similarities

* David spied out, Saul spared, David outnumbered,

Differences

* David enters the camp
* Different place, time, action taken against Saul

1. Saul confessed David’s right of kingship and made a covenant with David to preserve his linage. It would seem that Saul has “given up the fight” knowing that it was certain destiny
2. & 4. It was likely the pressure of the Ziphites that roused Saul to action. Saul had gained power by the people. Now these same people demonstrated their power over him.

5-8. Scripture says that the fear of man is a snare. When we put our advancement and place of prominence first in our lives, we will find that we will be trapped and entangled in the wishes of others. We will be driven to do things that we would not otherwise want to do because we know keeping our place/position requires it.

This is idolatry and we must be willing to lose our job/position at any time. We must be careful who we become associates with, what kinds of favors we receive, etc.

9. David trusts the Lord in His timing. David understands that Saul is sacred (though evil minded). Saul still is fighting the Lord’s battles and has a divine call on his life. By not killing Saul, David is later able to unify the tribes under his own crown. More than that, it sets an example of how people ought to regard him when he does come to power.

10. God lives & has complete control over history. David doesn’t know when the Lord will do what he has planned, but he believes despite the fog. He acts on what he does know to be true.

The Bible tells us that God’s word is a light unto our path. In ancient times the footpath light would be a candle that gave just enough light for the next step. It wasn’t like today’s high powered flashlights that can help you see a good distance down the road. So, the light of God’s word gives us enough understanding to take the immediate steps. We might not know the whole plan or see all the road God has laid out, but we may live in obedience right now. That is faith.

11. The spear was kind of like Saul’s scepter. It was a symbol of his power to reign. It also shows that Saul has been stripped of his power. David exposes Saul’s utter impotence.

In a way, this reminds us that the gates of hell shall not prevail. Satan is completely powerless in the grand scheme of things. The Lord’s dominion & the victory of Christ is a guaranteed reality.

12. David’s words are a taunt and a warning. He mocks them and reminds them that he has regarded Saul’s life with greater reverence than they have.

13-14. Answers will vary.

15. There is a sense in which this points to the crushing of the head in Gen. 3:19. Add to this the fact there are two lines that seem to be emphasized (Abishai is David’s nephew; Abner is Saul’s cousin). We have echoes of the battle between the seed of the woman and the seed of Satan.

16. All the men are lying down (prostrate) before David. It is a picture of the final day when every knee will bow.

17. Answers will vary.

18. Saul has been willing to admit his wrongs, but has never truly demonstrated real repentance (sorrow for sin, turning to God). He may be sorry he did what he did, but his heart does not turn to God. True repentance is when you have a deep grief and hatred for sin and you turn from it TO GOD and endeavor after new obedience.

19. It is another confirmation of David’s rule.

20. David could have taken matters into his own hands, but he learned the lesson of Nabal. God will do as He wills in His own timing.

All in all, we may trust in God and have hope that His victory is sure.

1Sa 26:1-25 ESV

Then the **Ziphites** came to Saul at Gibeah, saying, "Is not David hiding himself on the hill of Hachilah, which is on the east of Jeshimon?" 2 So Saul arose and went down to the wilderness of Ziph with three thousand chosen men of Israel to seek David in the wilderness of Ziph. 3 And Saul encamped on the hill of Hachilah, which is beside the road on the east of Jeshimon.

But David remained in the wilderness. When he saw that Saul came after him into the wilderness, 4 David sent out **spies** and learned that Saul had indeed come.

5 Then David rose and came to the place where Saul had encamped. And David saw the place where Saul lay, with Abner the son of Ner [Saul’s Cousin], the commander of his army.

Saul was lying within the encampment, while the army was encamped around him.

6 Then David said to Ahimelech the Hittite, and to Joab's brother Abishai [David’s Nephew] the son of Zeruiah, "Who will go down with me into the camp to Saul?" And Abishai said, "I will go down with you."

7 So David and Abishai went to the army by night. And there lay Saul sleeping within the encampment, with his *spear stuck in the ground at his head*, and Abner and the army lay around him.

8 Then Abishai said to David, "God has given your enemy into your hand this day. Now please let me pin him to the earth with one stroke of the *spear*, and I will not strike him twice."

9 But David said to Abishai, "Do not **destroy** him, for who can put out his hand against the ***LORD's anointed*** and be guiltless?"

10 And David said, "As the LORD lives, the LORD will strike him, or his day will come to die, or he will go down into battle and perish.

11 The LORD forbid that I should put out my hand against the ***LORD's anointed***.

But take now the *spear* that is at his head and the jar of water, and let us go."

12 So David took the *spear* and the jar of water from *Saul's head*, and they went away.

No man saw it or knew it, nor did any awake, for they were all asleep, because a deep sleep from the LORD had fallen upon them.

13 Then David went over to the other side and stood far off on the top of the hill, with a great space between them. 14 And David called to the army, and to Abner the son of Ner, saying, "Will you not answer, Abner?" Then Abner answered, "Who are you who calls to the king?" 15 And David said to Abner, "Are you not a man? Who is like you in Israel? Why then have you not kept watch over your lord the king? For one of the people came in to destroy the king your lord. 16 This thing that you have done is not good. As the LORD lives, you deserve to die, because you have not kept watch over your lord, the LORD's anointed. And now see where the king's spear is and the jar of water that was at his head."

17 Saul recognized David's voice and said, "Is this your voice, my son David?" And David said, "It is my voice, my lord, O king."

18 And he said, "Why does my lord pursue after his servant? For what have I done? What evil is on my hands? 19 Now therefore let my lord the king hear the words of his servant. If it is the LORD who has stirred you up against me, may he accept an offering, **but if it is men**, may they be cursed before the LORD, for they have driven me out this day that I should have no share in the heritage of the LORD, saying, 'Go, serve other gods.' 20 Now therefore, let not my blood fall to the earth away from the presence of the LORD, for the king of Israel has come out to seek a single flea like one who hunts a partridge in the mountains."

21 Then Saul said, "I have sinned. Return, my son David, for I will no more do you harm, because my life was precious in your eyes this day. Behold, I have acted foolishly, and have made a great mistake."

22 And David answered and said, "Here is the spear, O king! Let one of the young men come over and take it. 23 The LORD rewards every man for his righteousness and his faithfulness, for the LORD gave you into my hand today, and I would not put out my hand against the ***LORD's anointed***. 24 Behold, as your life was precious this day in my sight, so may my life be precious in the sight of the LORD, and may he deliver me out of all tribulation."

25 Then Saul said to David, "Blessed be you, my son David! You will do many things and will succeed in them." So David went his way, and Saul returned to his place.