

Big Idea: Without Christ Life Is Empty

"Everything of God gets expressed in him, so you can see and hear him clearly. You don't need a telescope, a microscope, or a horoscope to realize the fullness of Christ, and the emptiness of the universe without him. When you come to him, that fullness comes together for you, too. His power extends over everything." colossians2/9>t0TM

¹ Now it happened, when David and his men came to Ziklag, on the third day, that the Amalekites had invaded the South and Ziklag, attacked Ziklag and burned it with fire, ² and had taken captive the women and those who were there, from small to great; they did not kill anyone, but carried them away and went their way. ³ So David and his men came to the city, and there it was, burned with fire; and their wives, their sons, and their daughters had been taken captive. ⁴ Then David and the people who were with him lifted up their voices and wept, until they had no more power to weep. ⁵ And David's two wives, Ahinoam the Jezreelitess, and Abigail the widow of Nabal the Carmelite, had been taken captive. ⁶ Now David was greatly distressed, for the people spoke of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and his daughters. But David strengthened himself in the Lord his God." 1samuel30/1>6nkjv

¹ I waited patiently for the LORD; he turned to me and heard my cry. ² He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; he set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand. ³ He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see and fear and put their trust in the LORD." psalm40/1>3

***We'll go through times of loss vs1-3**

***We'll go through times of mourning vs4**

***We'll go through times of abandonment vs6**

*We must learn to strengthen our self in the Lord

***Waiting on God**

***Being Patient with God**

Fusion Group Study Guide

This Fusion Group study guide is designed to help you apply the message to your life and grow in Christian maturity. We encourage you to make it a priority to be part of a Fusion Group on a regular basis. Our Fusion Groups are where faith and practice, where friendships with others, where learning and lifestyle are Fused Together. You can listen to our messages on our website: www.acts176.com by clicking on the "Resources" link. You can get info about our Fusion Groups from our website as well, or by emailing info@acts176.com.

Celebrate (celebrating who God is, and what He is doing)

Imagine you go to work one day, only to find on your return, that your house was robbed and your family taken. To make things worse, the same thing happened to all your friends and they blame you. They are headed to your home to kill you. Talk about your bad days.

1. What would your first reaction be?
2. How did David deal with this same situation in 1Samuel 30:6?
3. Why is it so important to Celebrate God in times of trouble?

Contribute (contributing to God, His Church, and others)

Read 1 Samuel 30:7-16

1. What are some ways David contributed to God's kingdom and to God's people?
2. How did others benefit from David's contribution?
3. How did David benefit from his contribution?

Connect (connecting with God and others)

Read Psalm 40:1-3

1. What was the key to unlocking God's promises in Psalm 40? (Hint – answer found in verse 1)
2. Notice how David describes his situation in the Psalm. What does that mean for our own lives?

3. Why is it so hard to wait patiently on the Lord, especially in times of trouble?

Sometimes we end up in the “mud and mire” because we forget to Connect with God when times are good. Discuss why it can be so hard to connect to God in the good times.

4. Why is it so important to stay connected to God?

5. In vs 1-2, when we find ourselves in the “mud and mire” what does God promise?

Create (Creating other Christ Followers, and creating God’s Kingdom on earth)

Vs. 3 gives us two powerful, promised creations from connecting to God in times of trouble.

1. What are they?

2. Discuss the deeper impact of these creations on your life, the lives of others and the community you serve.