



## WEEKLY STUDY

### Week Three

In week three of our series The Comeback, Pastor Mark shared the back and forth battle between David and Saul. David learned the importance of having God in his corner. Having God in our corner allows us to get back up when we are knocked down.

If you are studying with your Providence Small Group, you can share from daily readings as well as the additional questions at the bottom of this guide. If you would like to get connected to a Providence Small Group visit [prov.church/signup](http://prov.church/signup) and click on Small Groups.

Find a time each day to read the passage of scripture. Follow the daily prayer prompt and then pray this or your own prayer.

God,  
Thank you for remaining with me even when I didn't realize it.  
You are the strength I need to go on after difficult times.  
In you I place my confidence.  
In you I place my hope.  
To you I yield my own plans.  
To you I yield my life.  
Amen.

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### DAILY STUDY

#### MONDAY: 1 SAMUEL 18.12-16

*Saul was afraid of David, because the LORD was with David but had departed from Saul. <sup>13</sup> So he sent David away from him and gave him command over a thousand men, and David led the troops in their campaigns. <sup>14</sup> In everything he did he had great success, because the LORD was with him. <sup>15</sup> When Saul saw how successful he was, he was afraid of him. <sup>16</sup> But all Israel and Judah loved David, because he led them in their campaigns.*

- Twice in these few verses we read that God was with David. God's presence with David led to Saul's fear of him, and to David's great success. Sometimes we might wonder if God is indeed with us. Our vision might be too narrow or strained to be fully aware of God's presence in our corner. It was both Saul and the writer of 1 Samuel that revealed that truth in David's life. Who points out God's presence for you?

- *Thank God for the people in your life who God uses to reveal his presence with you.*

## **TUESDAY: 1 JOHN 4.2-4**

*This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God,<sup>3</sup> but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.*

<sup>4</sup> *You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.*

- There are forces of darkness in this world. There are voices that seem to be on God's side but do not acknowledge Jesus. Those who profess Jesus Christ as the Son of God, are assured that he dwells in them. And Jesus, living in us, is far greater than any of the darkness of this world.
- *Confess, reaffirm or ask God for faith in Jesus Christ as the Son of God, our Savior, our Rescuer.*

## **WEDNESDAY: PSALM 118.5-7**

*When hard pressed, I cried to the Lord;  
he brought me into a spacious place.*

<sup>6</sup> *The Lord is with me; I will not be afraid.  
What can mere mortals do to me?*

<sup>7</sup> *The Lord is with me; he is my helper.  
I look in triumph on my enemies.*

- In the rounds of difficulty that we face on a regular basis, we can feel the need to retreat to our corner and stay there. But God brings us into "a spacious place" where we can live in confidence that God, our helper, is with us.
- *Pray for awareness of the spacious places God is inviting you into now.*

## **THURSDAY: ISAIAH 41.10**

*So do not fear, for I am with you;  
do not be dismayed, for I am your God.  
I will strengthen you and help you;  
I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.*

- Fear, dismay, and weakness are conditions we experience in times of great struggle. Through the prophet Isaiah, God promises that God is the answer to each of these conditions. We don't have to fear or be dismayed, and we are made strong in our weaknesses as God holds us up.
- *Pray with your right hand in the air. As you pray through the difficulties ahead of you today, imagine God keeping your hand up for you. God's strength is getting you through.*

## FRIDAY: MATTHEW 28.19-20

*Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,<sup>20</sup> and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”*

- Why does God remain with His imperfect people? Because, as Jesus tells his disciples, we are here for a purpose. Our purpose is to share the Good News of Jesus Christ and invite others into this life of discipleship. We need God with us in the form of Jesus Christ and Holy Spirit if we are to live out our purpose.
- *Pray for an opportunity to share Jesus Christ with one other person today.*

## SATURDAY: ROMANS 8.31-35

*If God is for us, who can be against us?<sup>32</sup> He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?<sup>33</sup> Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies.<sup>34</sup> Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.<sup>35</sup> Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?*

- Do you ever get caught up counting those people and situations that seem to be against you instead of noticing who is on your side? When we live out of gratitude for Jesus’ gift of new life, we might fall down from time to time, but we will never be alone.
- *As you pray, picture all of those who are with you in this life. Thank God for God’s promise to never leave you alone.*

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- See reverse for Small Group Discussion -

## **SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION**

Pastor Mark shared the story of a Providence Church member who recently completed 24 rounds of treatments for cancer. The language of “rounds” being used to name these treatments is telling. As in boxing, you might get knocked down in one round, but have to get up and fight the next one. When have you found that God's presence with you in the middle of some kind of battle helped you to fight on and reach victory?