



# DISCUSSION GUIDE

## UNCHAINED FROM COMPARISONS

### GETTING STARTED

What is one thing you are thankful for this week and what is one thing we can pray for you this week?

How can false or faulty comparisons become chains that prevent us from running the race God has called us to? How can the "comparison game" rob us of joy, peace and purpose?

### QUICK REACTIONS FROM THE MESSAGE

How would you summarize/paraphrase the message in your own words?

What point/idea resonated most with you? Why?

What would it look like for you to "strip off the weight" of comparisons? How do you see it affect your normal everyday life and your spiritual walk with God?

What "measuring sticks" do we often use that God doesn't use? How does God measure us? What does it mean for you that God does not judge by appearance or height, but looks at the heart? What would that mean for me?

How does God measure wealth, value and purpose?

In what way would focusing or fixing our eyes on Christ help us establish new patterns and comparisons to measure ourselves?

### EXPLORE THE PASSAGE [1 Samuel 18:1-29]

(Yes, these questions can seem silly, however, good discussion and interpretation of the Bible begins with having a proper understanding of the basic facts; who, what, when, and where in the text.) Work through this quickly, the answers are fairly obvious.

How does this passage describe the bond between David and Jonathan? (18:1)

How did Jonathan cement the covenant between David and himself? (18:4)

How did the officers and people of Israel respond to David's successes and promotions? (18:5)

What refrain was heard in the streets when Saul and David returned from the battle in which Goliath was slain? (18:7)

How did Saul feel about David's popularity? (18:8-9)

When did Saul make his first attempt on David's life? (18:10-11)

How have the patterns of Saul's life caught up to him (18:10)

Why was Saul afraid of David? (18:12)

How did David fare when Saul sent him out to lead the war campaigns? (18:14)

What was Saul's reaction to David's successes? (18:15)

How did "all Israel" feel about David the commander? (18:16)

What was Saul really hoping for when he offered his daughter in marriage to David in exchange for feats of bravery in battle? (18:17)

What was David's attitude about the rewards and honors offered him by King Saul? (18:18)

How was David persuaded to pursue the "price" of Saul's second daughter? (18:21-25)

What two facts galled Saul most about David? (18:28)

What was Saul's attitude toward David from his marriage onward? (18:29)

## **QUESTIONS THAT HELP US UNDERSTAND THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE TEXT**

Why might David have been lauded as more of a hero than Saul from the time of his very first exploit?

Why did Saul bestow honors on David even though he resented him?

Why might we just wish for something bad to happen to a rival rather than choosing actually to harm him or her ourselves?

How did David express humility and deference to King Saul?

Why was Saul afraid of David even though Saul was king?

What conclusion do you think Saul drew from the fact that his son and his daughter both loved David?

What were some evidences that "the Lord was with David"?

What one thing can you do (an attitude, pattern, or sin) to surrender to God to avoid the comparison trap that Saul found himself in?

## **APPLY THE PASSAGE**

What do we learn about God and about ourselves in this passage?

What do you need to stop, start or do differently as a result of reading this passage?

How can we pray for each other?