**David - Triumph and Tragedy**

1. Have you ever been to Israel? Would you be interested in going on a trip to Israel? Why or why not?
2. *"God often prepares us in the hidden places of life, before placing us in the public arena"*. **Discuss** situations in the bible where this happened. Do you know anyone who gained a sudden promotion and has been used by God in a special way?
3. Can you think of four occasions where David had a personal victory that was followed by rejection?
4. **1Sam 17:54** *David took Goliath's head to Jerusalem, but he kept Goliath's weapons in his own tent.* Why do you think that David took these two actions?
5. When David and his men returned from battle to find the Ziglag burning and their families taken into captivity and possessions stolen he "*strengthened himself in the Lord* "... **1 Sam 30:6** *.* How would you have reacted in a situation like this? Can anyone **share a moment of crisis** and their reaction to it with the group?
6. King David's desire was to remove the Jebusite fortress on Mt Zion in Jerusalem. Here in the centre of the Jewish world, existed a contrary force. Sometimes the enemy can have a stronghold in our lives that God wants to remove. Can you **give some examples?**
7. Later on in David's life he encountered other giants. Most of these giants were related to the first Goliath! (2 were Goliath's children & one was Goliath's brother 1 Chr 20)We also can have major victories in life, (over sickness, oppression, difficult people, or some other need) and believe that it was the Lord that delivered us from our Goliath. A few months or even years later, the old symptoms return and manifest worse than ever. These negative experiences can drain our faith. We wonder: '*did I lose my breakthrough' or 'was I only deceiving myself the first time'* How can we trust God when these 'giants' return and it seems like He’s let us down? **Discuss**
8. **2 Cor 12:9** *"My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.* How can this verse help us in the above situation?
9. Are you intimidated and frightened by the signs of our times? *Name a few.* There are great challenges, there is great potential for the church of today. Like David we can release the power of God and see Him gain the victory (Isaiah 60:1-3) *How do we do this in our daily lives?*
10. Pray for each other. For our city, our government and this land.