

# “Be Encouraged!”

David and his men reached Ziklag on the third day. Now the Amalekites had raided the Negev and Ziklag. They had attacked Ziklag and burned it,<sup>2</sup> and had taken captive the women and everyone else in it, both young and old. They killed none of them, but carried them off as they went on their way.<sup>3</sup> When David and his men reached Ziklag, they found it destroyed by fire and their wives and sons and daughters taken captive.<sup>4</sup> So David and his men wept aloud until they had no strength left to weep.<sup>5</sup> David’s two wives had been captured—Ahinoam of Jezreel and Abigail, the widow of Nabal of Carmel.<sup>6</sup> David was greatly distressed because the men were talking of stoning him; each one was bitter in spirit because of his sons and daughters. **But David encouraged himself in the LORD his God.** 1 Samuel 30:1-6

To encourage yourself in the Lord, like David did...

## 1. Call Out to God.

*...and David inquired of the LORD, "Shall I pursue this raiding party? Will I overtake them?" "Pursue them," He answered. "You will certainly overtake them and succeed in the rescue."* 1 Samuel 30:8

### a. In the process of calling out to God, talk to yourself.

*Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise Him, my Saviour and my God.* Psalm 42:5

*Praise the LORD, my soul; all my inmost being, praise His holy name.* Psalm 103:1

### b. See that God is in control.

*The LORD who rescued me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will rescue me from the hand of this Philistine." Saul said to David, "Go, and the LORD be with you."* 1 Samuel 17:37

*The LORD is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life—of whom shall I be afraid?* Psalm 27:1

## 2. Remember God’s faithfulness.

### a. God’s faithfulness in past deliverances.

*He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and He will deliver us again. On Him we have set our hope **that He will continue to deliver us,*** 2 Corinthians 1:10

*For you, LORD, have delivered me from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling, that I may walk before the LORD in the land of the living.* Psalm 116:8-9

### b. God’s faithfulness to His promises and calling.

*For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.* Romans 11:29

*The Lord is trustworthy in all He promises and faithful in all He does.* Psalm 145:13

### c. God’s faithful love.

*The LORD is merciful! He is kind and patient, and His love never fails.* Psalm 103:8

## 3. Rejoice in God’s Provision and Victory.

*David recovered everything the Amalekites had taken, including his two wives. Nothing was missing: young or old, boy or girl, plunder or anything else they had taken. David brought everything back.* 1 Samuel 30:18-19

### a. Give glory to God for what He has done.

*David replied, “No, my brothers, you must not do that with what the LORD has given us. He has protected us and delivered into our hands the raiding party that came against us.”* 1 Samuel 30:23

### b. Celebrate in community.

*When David reached Ziklag, he sent some of the plunder to the elders of Judah, who were his friends, saying, “Here is a gift for you from the plunder of the LORD’s enemies.”* 1 Samuel 30:26

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