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# 1 SAMUEL 26

## 1 Samuel Series

We're in the middle of a study in 1 Samuel and the goal is to look at God's word and take practical principles that we can apply to our lives. That's our objective. So I'm going to lead us in prayer now. I'm going to ask as I do that you try to focus in now on God's word as something that you're anticipating. What might God say to you in the midst of this next thirty minutes or so?

Let's pray together.

[PRAYER] Heavenly Father, we ask that you would do something miraculous as you often do when we open your word, that you touch our hearts. Lord, we know that in the midst of experiences that we have that sometimes we bring our own ideas and solutions that aren't the best. We need your wisdom and your guidance and your leadership in our lives. So I pray for each of us, on behalf of my brothers and sisters here, we're coming to you and asking you to teach us something new. Give us greater insight into who you are and what you want to in our lives this morning. In Jesus' name, amen.

Would you please stand with me as we read this passage of scripture? It's a passage that ties together both action and belief and faith. Action and faith together. That's going to be a piece of the lesson that God wants us to learn in our study today in 1 Samuel. So let me read these verses to you from God's word.

*James 2:14-19 – What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds." Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds. You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder.*

You may be seated.

I'm going to share with you one idea. When I prepare a message for you, I look at the passage and I think about the end. The end is what are we going to do to take Jesus home? So I'm always asking the question, what are we going to walk away from? What are we going to use when we leave here? So as I'm thinking about the end, I'm looking in the passage then, what is God going to teach us to take us to that end? That's my goal.

Scott Turansky - Calvary Chapel Living Hope

Now today I'm going to share with you the end first and then we're going to look at the passage and see how it unfolds because I think by doing that it will make the truth that we want to walk away from more clear.

I want to share with you one idea today. This one idea is something that makes leadership work really well. If you're trying to be a leader, you want this idea. It's also an idea that helps you overcome personal challenges. If you're struggling under the weight of something, you need this one idea. If you're tempted to get involved in pleasures that are not good for you... Young people, I would just suggest some of these new exotic drugs that are out today that people are trying and then just getting killed. I mean many people are dying today because they're trying these new exotic drugs. I'm telling you there's ways to prevent yourself from getting involved in that. The idea we're going to share today will do that for you.

This one idea is so powerful that it really helps us understand life and do what we need to do. That idea is to develop convictions. Develop convictions. We're going to see this idea developed in the passage, but let me define a conviction for you first of all so you understand what a conviction is. It's being so thoroughly convinced that something is absolutely true that you take a stand for it regardless of the consequences. Ask yourself today, what conviction do I have that I hold onto that I'm willing to take a stand for, maybe even die for? Something that's so important to me that I'm willing to take this stand. Convictions.

Now this idea of developing convictions is what's going to make David successful in our passage today. So I'm going to look at the passage now and I want you to be able to see this develop. In our passage, remember, we're looking at David who is a man after God's own heart. He's a man who's going to be the king, but he's not the king yet. He's facing a number of challenges as he's moving in that direction. So we get an inside look at this guy and what's happening inside of him. And then we take ideas and apply them to our lives.

Let's start by reading parts of the passage to you. This comes from 1 Samuel 26. We'll get into the story now, and as we do, we'll understand more about the principle we want to take away.

*The Ziphites went to Saul at Gibeah and said, "Is not David hiding on the hill of Hakilah, which faces Jeshimon?"*

*So Saul went down to the Desert of Ziph, with his three thousand select Israelite troops, to search there for David. Saul made his camp beside the road on the hill of Hakilah facing Jeshimon, but David stayed in the wilderness. When he (David – because now we're going to see this story from the perspective of David) saw that Saul had followed him there, he sent out scouts and learned that Saul had definitely arrived.*

*Then David set out and went to the place where Saul had camped. He saw where Saul and Abner son of Ner, the commander of the army, had lain down. Saul was lying inside the camp, with the army encamped around him.*

So it appears the story is taking place at sunset. At least David can see that the camp has formed. There are 3,000 select troops all sleeping there. Saul is in the middle. Which makes sense. They put the leader in the middle protected by all these troops. That's the layout of the plan.

But I want you to think for a minute about David. Look at this from David's perspective. I can imagine him saying something like this: "I can't believe this is happening again. I thought I dealt with this." Remember in the story before we talked about him challenging Saul at the cave and Saul decided to go back and go home. Now we're back at the same thing again.

Now I know you can relate to that. There's some times in our lives where we feel discouraged. We say, "I can't believe I'm in this same place again." It may be dealing with a health issues. "I'm dealing with the same thing again." I work with parents a lot in helping them to change, and sometimes parents are discouraged. Why are you discouraged? "I can't believe we're in this same place again. We're not moving out of this same place." That is a common concern. I think that we can relate to David who must be thinking, "Oh no. Here we go again."

There's a reality about life that we face challenges. This is not optional, folks. We all experience trials in our lives. If we're going to be the kind of people who mount up on wings like eagles, or run and not be weary, or walk and not faint, then we are going to be people who have something going on different inside because life is going to continue to throw us curve balls. We're going to continue to have challenges in our lives. Something needs to change on the inside and that's what's happening with David. We're going to see some stuff inside of him that's revealed.

It's really good because we can ask ourselves the question: What makes a man after God's own heart? We can come to some conclusions based on what we see in David's life. Well we want to be this kind of person that doesn't get overwhelmed by the circumstances. David is facing the challenges, He's seeing what's going on. It could be discouraging, but he goes on from that.

*David then asked Ahimelek the Hittite and Abishai son of Zeruiah, Joab's brother, "Who will go down into the camp with me to Saul?"*

*"I'll go with you," said Abishai. So David and Abishai went to the army by night, and there was Saul, lying asleep inside the camp with his spear stuck in the ground near his head. Abner and the soldiers were lying around him.*

*Abishai said to David (now I'm sure he whispered given the fact that there's 3,000 soldiers all around them and they're in the middle), "Today God has delivered your enemy into your hands. Now let me pin him to the ground with one thrust of the spear; I won't strike him twice." I'm sure he wouldn't. Very passionate guy.*

Very interesting in the story here because what we have is an idea. An idea comes to David through Abishai to meet his challenge, to help him address the challenge that he's experiencing in his life.

I don't know about you, but sometimes I experience this: Sometimes the first idea that I have isn't the best idea that comes down the road. Sometimes the immediate idea that comes isn't the

one that I really need to take advantage of. In fact I would suggest that when you're trying to decide how to meet a challenge or try to make a decision about your life, that there's a process that you go through in order to try to figure that out that involved the Lord and praying and getting advice and all kinds of things.

In this story we have the idea presented by a man. Let me make this statement. Let me suggest that Satan often presents his best before God presents His best. Oh wow. Could it be that sometimes we impulsively jump on the first idea that comes and in so doing we find ourselves in more trouble than it's worth and we make the wrong decision? That if we had waited a little bit longer God may have revealed His plan, but we jump so quickly because we can only see this one idea. It seems we might as well deal with the problem here, so we jump on it.

It reminds me of Abraham and Sarah. God had made a promise to Abraham and Sarah that they would have a child and this child would be this seed that would produce this tremendous blessing for the world, that all these children and descendants. The problem was Sarah was very old, past the childbearing age. She had an idea. The idea was why don't you come into my handmaiden Hagar and have a child with her. Then she can kind of be like mine and the seed will be produced through him. Wow. Interesting idea. It so happens that they follow up on that idea and when they did, well they missed out on something. At least they didn't wait. Because God had another plan. He wanted to do a miracle. He was going to bring about Isaac in a miraculous way.

I just want to suggest that sometimes if we wait a little bit, allow God to work, good things can happen. Abishai had an idea. The interesting thing for me is that Abishai was a man of conviction. He had a conviction, he had a belief, he had an idea. I'm sure that had he enacted on his idea he would have done it with passion and they would have run out of there quickly. A man of conviction.

Isn't it interesting that his conviction is based on a belief that's wrong? Ah. Very interesting. Because I think sometimes we can have convictions, but sometimes the convictions are based on the wrong thing. So it's not good enough to have a conviction. That's going to be a key to understanding the principle we're going to take away today. That convictions are only valuable if they're based on the right thing. So Abishai has a conviction in this story. David we're going to see also has a conviction.

Let's read on in the story. It says – *But David said to Abishai, "Don't destroy him! Who can lay a hand on the Lord's anointed and be guiltless? As surely as the Lord lives..."* Now here he's going to give some alternatives based on a conviction that he has. The conviction is this: God is in control. But he's going to give him three ideas about how God might work out the plan. *"As surely as the Lord lives," he said, "the Lord himself will strike him, or his time will come and he will die, or he will go into battle and perish.* (Well none of those do take place in the story, although Saul does eventually die. We'll read more about that in future chapters as we go forward.) *But the Lord forbid that I should lay a hand on the Lord's anointed. Now get the spear and water jug that are near his head, and let's go."*

David had a conviction that drove his decision-making here. I think it would be good for us to take on his convictions, this particular one. I think it's a valuable one. This conviction is that God

is in control. Wow. Very interesting idea. When we start taking control of things in our lives and using our emotion or using our power or whatever it might be to start manipulating situations, God is in control. So David is convinced of that. So he's saying, "I'm going to let God work this out." There's something that we enjoy as Christians that's different than non-Christians and that thing that we enjoy is the fact that God is at work and know He's at work in our lives. So we can allow Him to be part of our decision-making in our life and we don't have to solve all of the problems on our own. Because we are Christians, we think differently than non-believers.

One of the questions that I find myself addressing sometimes by young people has to do with bullying. Where a young person has been bullied at school, or even in the family by an older brother, or somebody is bullying them. So I share with the young person this. I say there are three tools and a secret weapon I'm going to give you. I'm just going to quickly go over this because it's really the secret weapon that we need to understand.

When bullying takes place there are three tools: You can ignore it, you can confront the person, and you can get help. You need to do those things. Do as much as you can, but I've got news for you folks. There are sometimes in life when you do all of those things and they don't work. Okay? Those of us who have been around for a while realize that injustice takes place in our lives. Unfair things happen. We can take all of the steps that we want, but we still have to live with the injustice. That's when we all need a secret weapon. So for kids it's really important for them to understand the secret weapon.

The secret weapon is found in 1 Peter 2:18-25 where it's talking about servants who are treated harshly by their masters. Unjust treatment. So God is giving some advice to those servants who are being mistreated. He shares with them in one of the verses in verse 19 – *For grace is clearly at work when a person accepts undeserved pain and suffering and does so because he is mindful of God.* Mindful of God.

There are some times when all of the things that happens in our lives that are the unfair things, we can't control them we get so upset by them. But if we can turn them over to the Lord and slow Him to work them out, then we can offload them from ourselves and then we can enjoy joy even in the midst of painful situations.

Do we need to do those three things? Yes. I think that doing our part is important. But there's a point in which we need to turn this over to the Lord or it's going to mess with us and we're going to turn into a person who's really messed up inside. We're going to be angry and upset and a victim and so on. We can follow this kind of an idea that's taught, the secret weapon, and children can understand this idea. It's so great when we do because now they're aligning themselves with God and what He wants to do in their lives.

I find that sometimes people who've been hurt deeply in their lives develop something very valuable that other people don't get in their lives. But a person who's been hurt deeply or suffered unjustly and responded well to that develops a compassion for other people, a willingness to care for someone else, or give people the benefit of the doubt. There's something that happens inside of a person.

Can children benefit from that? Certainly they can. Can teenagers understand this? Yes. And as Christians we have a spiritual resource that other people don't have.

What does that mean on a practical level? Well if we continue on in the 1 Peter 2 passage it says about Jesus – *When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, here's what He did. Here's what we need to do in our lives when we've done what we can and we're still being mistreated. We need to be like Christ who entrusted himself to him who judges justly.*

"I can't handle this. I need to turn this over to someone else. This isn't something I can manage." David is saying something similar in the passage. What he's saying here is, "This is not a job for me. This is a God problem." In fact I think he would say, "I can't take this problem on. This is a God problem." So he has this conviction about God being in control that's rather powerful for him to be able to make that statement to Abishai and reject the first idea that comes along.

Let's continue in the passage. *So David took the spear and water jug near Saul's head, and they left. No one saw or knew about it, nor did anyone wake up. They were all sleeping, because the Lord had put them into a deep sleep.*

*Then David crossed over to the other side and stood on top of the hill some distance away; there was a wide space between them. He called out to the army and to Abner son of Ner, "Aren't you going to answer me, Abner?"*

Now if you're tracking me on this bullying plan that I just outlined for you, you'll recognize this as the confrontation step. So it's interesting to see that David has a good balance between confronting and also relying on the Lord and letting God solve the problem. In fact all three of those are skills that we help children to develop. To ignore something without becoming bitter inside, to be able to confront without doing it in a mean or angry way, or to be able to get help without tattling or whining about it all the time. So those are skills that children can develop.

So David is confronting in the midst of this situation. He says to Abner, "What's going on, Abner? Where are you? What's happening?"

*Abner replied, "Who are you who calls to the king?"*

*David said, "You're a man, aren't you? And who is like you in Israel? Why didn't you guard your lord the king? Someone came to destroy your lord the king. What you have done is not good. As surely as the Lord lives, you and your men must die, because you did not guard your master, the Lord's anointed. Look around you. Where are the king's spear and water jug that were near his head?"*

Saul pipes up and recognizes David's voice. *Saul recognized David's voice and said, "Is that your voice, David my son?"*

Now David is using a tool here based on a conviction that he has. A tool that we can use as well. He uses mercy. Instead of killing him he uses mercy and he uses kindness, which, by the way, is

something we can teach young people to do in the face of bullying. Sometimes bullies are people who have problems. So caring for them or loving them can be doing something that I remember Jesus talked about. Loving your enemies or praying for your enemies. Loving those who persecute you. Those kinds of things.

Isn't it fascinating that that's the tool that David is choosing to use in this situation to be kind, to be merciful to him. It's a tool that is also amplified in Proverbs 25. In Proverbs 25 it says this – *If your enemy is hungry, give him food to eat; if he is thirsty, give him water to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head* (that is, his conscience will bother him because you're doing something kind for him it will make him feel uncomfortable like burning coals on his head) *and the Lord will reward you.* Wow.

God is going to do something. So David is taking off on this next principle or this next conviction that he has in order to assess and deal with the challenges that he has in his life. You might try that in relational challenges. Being kind to people is a tool that God has placed for us to be able to use.

As we continue in the passage it says – *David replied, “Yes it is, my lord the king.” And he added, “Why is my lord pursuing his servant? What have I done, and what wrong am I guilty of? Now let my lord the king listen to his servant’s words. If the Lord has incited you against me, then may he accept an offering. In other words, if this opinion of me that you have is coming from the Lord, then I’ll make a sacrifice, an offering. I’ll deal with it. If, however, people have done it, may they be cursed before the Lord! They have driven me today from my share in the Lord’s inheritance and have said, ‘Go, serve other gods.’ So if this is from people, then you’ve got another problem. Now do not let my blood fall to the ground far from the presence of the Lord. The king of Israel has come out to look for a flea—as one hunts a partridge in the mountains.”*

Here's what's happening. David is saying to Saul, “Saul, you have a conviction here that you need to kill me. Where is it coming from? Is it coming from God or is it coming from man?” What a great question that we need to ask ourselves sometimes with our own convictions. Why? Because convictions are only as valuable as the underlying truth that supports them. There are people today who are very, very passionate about things they believe that are sincerely wrong. If you are wrong and you are passionate about it, that's not going to make the wrong right. It's just going to make the whole thing worse.

So the question that's being asked of Saul is a very important question that we need to ask ourselves. What's fueling this conviction that I have? Is it coming from truth or not? It reminds me of the story in the New Testament of Saul of Tarsus. Remember him? He was the guy who was persecuting the church and fervently doing that under religious momentum. He believed that God wanted him to kill Christians. That's what he believed. He's going out, finding them, dragging them to prison. Until Jesus Christ met him on the road. Here was a man of conviction, a man of passion.

Let me show you what this looks like in a more illustrative way. We're going to take this story from Psalm 1, the very first psalm gives us this very illustration of us being like a tree planted by

rivers of water. The idea is when you're planted by a river of water, the roots can go into the water and they can be nourished that way. It talks about being meditating on the Lord day and night. So that's the passage that's Psalm 1.

I would suggest that this tree represents our lives. Lots of leaves, lots of fruit – that's what we want to be. We want to be successful. Not necessarily money success, but maybe. But just successful in relationships, successful in managing ourselves, our emotions, our lives. That's what we want to be. If you want to be successful in your life, then you want to be following the principles there. Really what I think he's saying in this passage is that we need to have convictions. These convictions are very important because they drive us down deep in our lives so that we have these roots. Those convictions need to be based on beliefs. Those beliefs are strategic for the convictions because if the beliefs are wrong, we have a problem. Which means we've got to go one step deeper and that is down to truth. Our convictions must be based on beliefs and those beliefs must be based on truth.

So you want to ask yourself, what are you passionate about? Is that passion coming from something that's true?

One of the big challenges where this is all revealed in life is when we face obstacles, when problems come into our lives. When a problem comes into your life, you are tested. Your roots are tested in that moment. How are you going to handle this problem?

I like the examples of the trees that are palm trees that even in a very difficult hurricane are resilient. Resilient is the idea that they can bounce back. They've got a good root system, they're flexible, good things can happen. We want to be that way. How can we be that way? If we have in our lives this sense of convictions based on beliefs that are based on truth. When the challenges in our life come, we stand differently than someone who doesn't have that same kind of truth, belief, and convictions.

In fact this is a tree. The bottom of the tree has fallen over. All I'm suggesting is if we're not careful in our lives, this is what happens. When the storms of life comes, the challenges come, when the pressure gets put on, our convictions get tested. And if we don't have the roots going down, we end up like this. The tree probably looked beautiful before it fell over. But every time you see a tree from now on that's fallen over like this (and we see them in our community), I want you to think I need to have roots going down in my life so I don't end up with my life upside down like this tree.

Convictions. Essential. And we're seeing them demonstrated here. David is challenging Saul. Where is this coming from? Is it coming from God or is it coming from people?

*Then Saul said, "I have sinned. Come back, David my son. Because you considered my life precious today, I will not try to harm you again. Surely I have acted like a fool and have been terribly wrong."*

David's confrontation worked. His plan worked to use kindness and mercy in this situation and then to confront him I worked. God did something very important in Saul's heart.

There's more in the story though. *"Here is the king's spear," David answered. "Let one of your young men come over and get it. The Lord rewards everyone for their righteousness and faithfulness. The Lord delivered you into my hands today, but I would not lay a hand on the Lord's anointed. (Now catch this next principle because this is another conviction that David had that we need and will be helpful for us in life.) As surely as I valued your life today, so may the Lord value my life and deliver me from all trouble."* He's talking about in the way I've treated you, let that be similar to the way that God is treating me.

There is a connection between the way that we treat other people and the way God treats us. In fact let's imagine in a marriage situation. You are bothered by this thing and that thing that your mate has. You might say, "Look, I know I have a lot of things in my life I need to change, therefore I'm going to put up, be kind to, be patient with my mate." That's the idea here. God has forgiven me a lot, so I'm going to turn around and forgive a lot. Here's what you can say to yourself when you find that this other person that you live with is annoying. You can say to yourself, "I am such an annoying person myself and people have to live with me. God has put up with me, God has forgiven me. I know I'm an annoying person. Other people put up with me and they're fine. Just turn around and be gracious with others."

That is the idea that David is sharing here, but he says, *"As surely as I valued your life today, so may the Lord value my life."* There's a connection between how God treats us and how we treat others. So when the disciples ask Jesus, "Lord, teach us to pray," that part of that prayer that we have memorized and can quote, part of the prayer says this: *And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.* There's a link between how God treats us and how we treat others. A very important principle I think that God would have us understand.

Well the story continues when it says in verse 25 – *Then Saul said to David, "May you be blessed, David my son; you will do great things and surely triumph." So David went on his way, and Saul returned home.*

Faith without works is dead. That's where we started. I like this picture. Maybe you think it's a little morbid. But notice the tag is missing on the other toe. What should the other toe say? Works. So that's the picture that you're getting here, kind of an interesting picture. The principle I want you to understand here though is very important. The things that we believe in are very important and they affect our actions and our lives.

We can stand up today and I could ask you, what do you believe? And you would tell me things like, "I believe the Bible is God's word. I believe that Jesus is the Son of God. I believe that Jesus is the only way to get to heaven. I believe that everyone needs to know Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior." We can all say that here. It's Sunday. It's easy, right? It's tomorrow when someone says something on Facebook and we know that what they're saying is not true. We know that what they're saying represents a different philosophy of life. When we recognize that, then we want to do something about it. We can do something about it. We can then speak our convictions, things that we believe because they come out in our actions.

Are you familiar with the Humanist Manifesto? Anybody ever heard of that? Humanist Manifesto? Okay, the Humanist Manifesto is a statement of what humanists believe. It's their value system that helps them understand the world.

Humanists are people who believe there is not a God. So they are developing a value system that has nothing to do with deity of any kind. So the Humanist Manifesto is a list of principles that represent what they believe. You can look it up. I encourage you to look it up. It first started in 1933 and the third version came out in 2003.

The reason I encourage you to read the Humanist Manifesto is because I think you might find yourself in it sometimes. You might find yourself believing the things that are in the Humanist Manifesto even though you are a Christian.

The Humanist Manifesto believes things like this: That science is the primary way that we learn things. In fact there's no supernatural way we learn things. We learn things through observation and science. That's what the Humanist Manifesto states. It also states that the way that we find meaning in life is through relationships (that sounds reasonable) and we find fulfillment in serving others. Now those are good ideas, but they do it all within this framework that doesn't contain God.

I would suggest that the humanist value system, the humanist way of thinking is challenged when people find themselves at the end of their human rope. When they find themselves challenged in ways they don't know how to respond, they don't know what to do. They find themselves overwhelmed with this problem. Pretty soon you find out that humanly speaking you can't do a whole bunch about this. We can only do our part and that's when we recognize that we need something outside of ourselves.

There's a God who's in control. There's a God who wants to be connected to us. A God who imparts information to us and gives us emotional strength. There's something outside of ourselves that God gives us. Those convictions that we hold allow us then to move on in life in ways that are different than the person who is not a Christian. Christians think differently than non-Christians.

So I challenge you. What convictions do you have in your life that you are willing to take a stand for? You might say, "Well if I took a stand for that, I'm going to lose some of my friends." Well I would suggest those really aren't the kind of friends you want to have. I want to also suggest that people in our world are looking for leaders. They're looking for people who believe something. So if we make a stand and say "This is what I believe," some people are going to be turned off by it, other people will mock you, other people will say, "That person has something. That's something I want." That's the message that Christ gave us that says we are lights in this world. We are the salt of the earth. We're something that's different. We bring something to our world that's powerful because we believe something. We're not just leaving it up to life experience.

In the Humanist Manifesto it talks about ethics. It's kind of fascinating that they talk about ethics. But ethics are based on circumstances is what they're saying in their manifesto. Ethics are based on situations. It's situational ethics that determines what is right and wrong.

We believe in right and wrong as something outside of us and outside of situations and we call them that as our standard for life. That's why we can enjoy the peace we experience. We believe in something. The fact that we believe in something makes us different than people who just believe in themselves. We believe in the truth and that truth sets us free. That is a beautiful thing. It comes right down to this statement that we say in our own lives: "I realize I'm a sinner and I can't do this on my own."

So when you come to this salvation idea it stands in direct opposition to a humanist worldview. The humanist believes, "I can do it. If something is going to happen it's going to be because I'm going to pull my bootstraps up, I'm going to solve this problem, I'm going to get advice from other people, and I'm going to make it happen." The Christian says this: "I cannot do this on my own. I need a Savior, someone who comes in from the outside and rescues me from my condition and gives me something I don't have. I need that." When we make that statement, we're ready for Jesus Christ to come into our lives.

If you haven't made that commitment, I invite you to do that today. It's a different way of thinking and it's a powerful way that God does this deeper work inside of us.

Stand with me and let's pray together.

[PRAYER] Heavenly Father, we come before you now acknowledging that our faith is small and we need you to empower us all the more. Give us courage to be the kind of person that is able to take a stand based on the truths you've given us, to believe that you are our God and that you've called us to be different and that you've given us some special superpowers in your Spirit that allow us to minister to others in a powerful way. Lord, we thank you for Jesus Christ that sets us apart, that is our Savior to rescue us from ourselves. We ask that you would bless each person here. We dedicate ourselves to you. In Jesus' name, amen.