***The Cave of Adullam.***

A Discussion Guide for Groups or Individuals

He would never forget that day. The flock was serenely grazing the Judean pastures when he saw him approaching, waving his arms wildly and shouting: “David! David! The prophet has come... he wants to meet you... now! I’ll take care of your sheep – you have to go; hurry!” David races to Bethlehem and all the way wondering “What! Why me?” Panting David bursts into the room filled with family, friends, a feast and anxious stares. Then the great prophet Samuel stands, and as he approaches Jessie’s youngest son the prophets face begins to radiate a smile. It’s the moment and the man that Samuel has been commissioned to seek. He commands young David to kneel and confidently the prophet anoints this young shepherd to be the new king of Israel. The sweet fragrance of the oil fills the room as it is poured over David’s head; if obedience had an aroma might it smell like this in the nostrils of God? Trouble is, Israel’s throne is already occupied. But King Saul rule has been soured by his ongoing and growing disobedience. The King and his God are growing further apart. Initially he was blessed by David, but that didn’t last long; King Saul, you see, has no interest in stepping aside or sharing the throne. David’s anointing inaugurated a journey of following God’s path that would lead him to some very wild places. Today we study one of those places – perhaps the wildest of places which had surprising results.

**The Text**

Before you watch this session read the following passage:

Psalm 147:1-11

1 Samuel 22:1-2

**The Teaching**

Watch the video, “Adullam”

**The Talking Points**

1. David’s story is one of the Bible’s best known; the shepherd who protected the flock from bears & lions and Israel from Goliath & the Philistines, a man after God’s own heart. Read **1 Samuel 21:10-22:2** David soothes the king yet has to flee from Saul for his life. What had David done to earn Saul’s rage? What might have been going through David’s mind as he sat in the cave, alone, reflecting? What would be thinking? Clearly from **Psalm 142:1-4** David comes to the cave deeply discouraged; why did God bring him to this wild place? Have you been there?

2. We’re not sure how long David was in the cave before his family came to be with him but scripture makes clear they came to be with their brother. What does their coming and being there with David indicate about how they felt about their little brother and his anointing to be king? How important might that have been to David? How important is my community support and how important am I to my community?

3. It wasn’t just family who came to the cave but *“all those who were in distress or in debt or discontented gather around him.”*  What does their condition suggest about the rule of Saul? Why did they come to the cave and what was it about David that drew them? In what ways might David relate to their situation? Read **1 Samuel 22:2** and then **Psalm 142:5-7**. What does it indicate about David that *“all those who were in distress or in debt or discontented”* of 1 Samuel 22:2 are described by David as *“the righteous”* in Psalm 142:7? Read **Matthew 25:34-40**. Is it any wonder that David was a man after God’s heart? Talk about some of the chief characteristics of a person “after God’s heart?” Have you ever been blessed by someone like that?

4. The cave of Adullam proved to be a turning point; as confused and conflicted he may have been entering the cave David seemed to have renewed passion when he exited; ready to seek (1 Samuel 22:3) & follow (1 Samuel 23:4-5) God. David set out to please his God and set kingdom as God intended. George makes the connection that the seminal cave of the people’s justice is the tomb from which Jesus arose. Read **Romans 4:25-5:2**. What justice was accomplished for us in the tomb of Christ and how should that impact our lives for God and His purposes? Try to be as specific as possible.