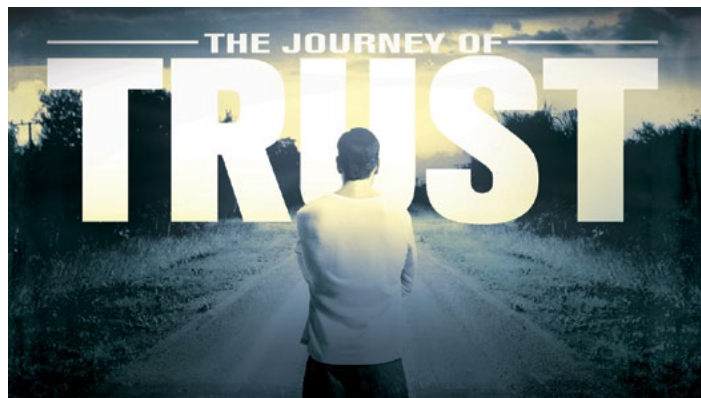


# BEYOND THE WEEKEND

For the sermon on May 11-12, 2013  
"When Trust Hangs on by a Thread"



**Welcome to *Beyond the Weekend*!** The experiences below are designed to connect with the weekend message and fit a variety of learning styles. They provide additional readings from other sections of Scripture such as the Old Testament, Psalms, Gospels, and Epistles (letters). Take 20-30 minutes each day and enjoy your pursuit of God!



Prefer e-mail? *Beyond the Weekend* is also available via daily e-mails, which include links to the Scripture (both written and audio), the sermon video, and a weekly blog post. To sign up for the daily e-mails, go to [adabible.org/btw](http://adabible.org/btw).

## Day 1 1 Samuel 21.10-22.1 and Psalm 142 | Confidence

In exile as a fugitive from Saul (first king of Israel), David penned nine psalms that tell us his thoughts and feelings, especially as they related to God. These psalms cover a wide range of emotions, from joy to anger, as David eludes capture by Saul. This week we'll look at five of these situations—and the corresponding psalm—and learn from David how to react when trust in God is stretched to the breaking point.

**In 1 Samuel 21.10-22.1**, David first flees to Gath, hometown of Goliath, the Philistine giant he had killed (1 Samuel 17). He then goes to the cave of Adullam, where he hides with 400 others who are also on the run. Utterly helpless before his enemies with no one to care for his life, he cries out to God **in Psalm 142**. Notice the intensity of his emotion as he "cries to the Lord" three times (vv. 1, 5, 6).

But as he cries out, powerless and alone, his confidence is in God, "it is you who watch over my way" (v. 3). This is a needed reminder for us, especially as we place our confidence elsewhere (money, knowledge, ingenuity, relationships) when attempting to solve our most desperate problems. Today, as you meditate on Psalm 142, renew your confidence in God as he "watches over your way."

## Day 2 1 Samuel 22.9-23 and Psalm 52 | Flourishing

In one of the worst atrocities in the Bible, Saul orders the execution of the priests at Nob (and their families and livestock), because he believes they were conspiring against him in his pursuit of David. Believing he's responsible (1 Samuel 22.22), because he received help from the priests, David writes this heaviest of laments.

Reflecting on the destruction carried out by this "evil" person (scholars think David is referring to Doeg, who did the actual killing), David writes **in Psalm 52** that he (David) is "like an olive tree, flourishing in the house of God" (v. 8). *How is this even possible in light of the horrible massacre that he thought he had initiated?* It's possible because of God's unfailing love in which David trusted forever (v. 8).

Unlike those who do practice evil, we're to place our confidence in God and his love where God's justice—and blessing are found. If you're trying to recover from a tragedy, consider planting a tree in your yard. As you nurture and care for this tree, let its flourishing remind you of God's nurture and care.

## Day 3 **1 Samuel 23.14-23 and Psalm 54 | Assurance**

Even though he was still pursued by Saul, David continued to fight for the Israelites against their enemies (1 Samuel 23.1-6). Betrayed by those he was fighting for, David escapes to the desert and there writes **Psalm 54**, which speaks about God's ability to completely deliver him.

Anticipating answered prayer, David acknowledges God's work and deliverance (Psalm 54.7). Even though the result he sought was yet to come, David worshipped God (v. 6). Today present your most pressing issue or problem to the Lord in prayer. Follow the request by listening to "My Hope Is In You" by Aaron Shust (search youtube.com). Allow David's words, and this song, to renew your trust in God.

### BTW Blog

Ada Bible Church staff and leaders share how God is meeting them through the sermons. BTW blog posts are hosted on Sabea, our blog for spiritual formation, and go live on Wednesdays.

This week we hear from Sally Brown, special needs coordinator.

[adabile.org/sabea](http://adabile.org/sabea)



## Day 4 **1 Samuel 24.1-22 and Psalm 57 | Obedience**

Relentlessly pursued by murderous King Saul, the tables dramatically turn in David's favor in **1 Samuel 24**. David is presented with an amazing opportunity to kill the man who's been trying to kill him (vv. 3-4). He not only refrains from killing Saul when he has the chance, but also regrets even cutting off a corner of Saul's robe (perhaps symbolic of depriving Saul of his God-ordained authority). Recognizing that Saul was king because God had placed him there, taking matters into his own hands would be wrong.

David resists the temptation to swiftly end the persecution he has been suffering under. Instead, he chooses to obey God. We can't imagine how difficult this must have been, especially in the presence of his men, who certainly wanted Saul dead. Like David, we must resist the temptation to supersede God and his work in our lives. Ask God's Spirit for patience (Galatians 5.22, NLT) as you wait for him.

## Day 5 **2 Samuel 22 and Psalm 18 | Praise**

In these two identical passages, David celebrates God's providence (actively intervening in our world) in delivering him from all of his enemies. In this royal hymn of thanksgiving David recognizes the greatness and glory of God: "Rock... Fortress... Deliverer... Shield... Salvation... Stronghold... Refuge... Savior."

God's actions in the past, and promises in the future, are based on who he is and are designed to bring him glory. Deliverance is for us, certainly, but is ultimately for him! Today celebrate God by meditating on 2 Samuel 22.2-4 and listening to Hillsong's "Worthy is the Lamb" (search youtube.com).

## MORE

**Daily E-mail** | Sign up for daily e-mails at [adabile.org/btw](http://adabile.org/btw).

**Small Group Discussion** | For a discussion guide related to the sermon, e-mail [rcorlett@adabile.org](mailto:rcorlett@adabile.org).

**Questions or Comments** | Contact Tim Nelson, pastor of spiritual formation at [tnelson@adabile.org](mailto:tnelson@adabile.org).



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868.7005 | [adabile.org](http://adabile.org)