

**NMC Cell Material**  
Week Beginning 02.12.07  
*But David found strength in the Lord his God – 1 Samuel 30:8*

**Welcome**

What do you get passionate about? What excites you? What makes you burn?

**Worship**

It's the beginning of Advent.

Thank God for the promise that one day, He will return in all his glory.

Read together the song of Mary – when she discovered that she had been chosen by God to bear the Christ-child.

Luke1: 46-55

**Word**

**Read together 1 Samuel 30:1-10**

This is a difficult time for David. He's not yet king but has been victorious in battle. However, the tide turns and the enemy flanks David and his troops, they swoop in and destroy the camp (Ziklag) before taking the women and children captive.

David and his men return from the front line – to find the camp destroyed and their families gone. Exhausted, they simply weep.

What makes you weep? Can you identify with a time such as this? Has God given you a "heart" for something?

David, having wept alongside his troops, then finds strength in his Lord. He recognises the need to withdraw and pray. It's easy to become over-awed by a situation when facing it head on – we can end up either running around like head-less chickens or becoming depressed or downtrodden. Sometimes it is worthwhile stepping back and seeking God's will in such situations.

What is your experience? What's your initial reaction to a difficult situation?

David takes responsibility for the situation and seeks God's will. This is only made possible through his deep relationship with God. In what ways do we ensure that our relationship with God is healthy enough to help us through difficult times such as this?

David is provided with clear guidance for the task ahead but is almost immediately confronted by difficulties, as some of the men are simply exhausted from their previous campaign.

Have you ever felt unprepared for the Lord's work?

Have you every felt disappointment and challenges despite trying to seek and follow God's will? How do you cope?

**Witness**

Discuss your passions and the challenges you face with others in the group.

Pray for each other to receive clear guidance from God. Ask for the Holy Spirit to help you to remain faithful when you face severe challenges.

Remember that during this darkest hour, David was only a few days away from being anointed King of Judah.

In the coming week remind remember:

Don't focus on the size of the mountain but on the sufficiency of the mountain mover.

If you are still unsure as to your calling within the life of the Body of Christ, ask God to make His will known to you.