



Acts 13:36 Small Group Discussion Questions

- Read Acts 13:26-39. What is Paul preaching about? What seems to be the point of his message?
- Acts 13:36 is a short, inconspicuous verse in this longer sermon. Why do you think Paul brings up David in the context of this speech?
- What was the significance of David to Paul's Jewish audience? What is the importance of Paul's contrast of David with Jesus?
- Dr. Oz Guinness preached on this single verse on Sunday, and as he did so, he discussed each part of the verse in turn. He began with the first part: "David, after he had *served*..." in what ways did David "serve" the people of God?
 - What is service? What kinds of forms can service take?
 - Why is service important for Christians? What role should service play in the Christian life?
 - What is leadership? What kinds of forms can leadership take?
 - What does worldly leadership look like?
 - Have you ever worked for leaders that felt like the organization was all about them? What is it like to be under this kind of leader?
 - Why do you think domineering, top-down leadership is the norm in the world, both historically and currently?

- What is Christian leadership? What are some of the principle differences between Christian leadership and worldly leadership?
 - Dr. Guinness described Christian leadership as servant leadership. What is servant leadership?
 - Who are some servant leaders in Scripture?
 - Have you ever served under a servant leader? What was that like?
 - Where does servant leadership turn into bad leadership? For example, how can we be servant leaders that are still decisive, effective, and visionary?
 - How can Christians serve God as they lead others? In other words, what does it look like to keep God at the center of our leadership, whether we're leading interns, employees, managers, or whole organizations?
 - Where can you practically be a servant leader this week?
- Dr. Guinness then moved to the second part of this verse- that David served God's purpose. What are some things that Scripture says about God's purpose?
 - What are some common misconceptions about God's purpose, in your experience?
 - What are some things that the world says about purpose?
 - Dr. Guinness said that the world says one of two things about purpose- forget it, or do it yourself. Which of these do you see more in your interactions with others? Which is more common in DC, do you think?
 - What happens to someone who treats their purpose as something they have to find and do themselves?
 - What about someone who treats purpose as something that's ultimately made up or non-existent? Where might this view of purpose run up against reality?

- What is the Biblical view of purpose?
 - Dr. Guinness said that Biblical purpose has both an individual and a group component. How does the Bible provide purpose for individuals?
 - How is the purpose that the Bible provides surer and better than the purpose the world may provide?
 - How does the Bible provide purpose for the church as a whole?
- Where do you think individual calling fits into this conversation?
- When thinking about individual calling or purpose, how might we go about discerning God's will for us?
- What about others? If someone came to you asking for help discerning God's purpose or calling for them, what would you do? How would you help them?
- The third element Dr. Guinness talked about was time- that David served the purpose of God in his generation. What were some of the challenges that David's generation faced?
 - What are some unique challenges that our generation(s) faces?
 - How might the time/era we live in affect how we discern or go about our calling
 - Given the unique challenges of our generation(s), how would you go about sharing the gospel in a way that resonates with unbelievers?
- Finally, Dr. Guinness pointed out that David, after he had served God's purposes, died. How do unbelievers deal with the problem of death? How are these methods insufficient?
 - How does Christianity deal with the problem of death?

- How does our inevitable death affect how we think about our time on earth? How does Jesus's conquering of death change our calling?
- Dr. Guinness said that one great danger that could muddy our purpose as Christians is conflating our cultural ideas with the Kingdom of God. Where have you seen this? What are some examples of this error?
 - What are some cultural ideas that people in David's generation may have conflated with God's Kingdom? What are some cultural ideas that Americans sometimes project onto God's Kingdom?
 - How can we protect ourselves from this trend? What can we do practically to ensure that we're not pursuing a Westernized version of the Kingdom of God?
- Dr. Guinness mentioned that one way we can ensure that we're following God's calling is to follow the leading of the Spirit. What does it look like to discern the promptings of the Spirit?
- Once we've discerned the promptings of the Spirit, how do we follow those promptings? Do you have some examples of when you or someone you know felt the Spirit prompting you in a particular direction? What happened?