



## Small Group Discussion Questions

Larry Burg, April 28, 2024

How to Make Better Decisions: The Conscience Question

Ice Breaker: What's your favorite sandwich and why?

Question This Week: Is there a tension that deserves my attention?

Key Passage of the Week (Read Aloud): 1 Samuel 24:1-7

Questions for Discussion:

- 1) Tension is the way Larry describes the feeling when a matter of conscience is being violated. What's another way to describe that feeling? How do you recognize it? (See Romans 2:12-16, esp. v15)
- 2) It is easy to get caught up with language that divides rather than speaks truth. David's men falsely label Saul as the "enemy" although they are not truly at war. What cues suggest divisive language is being employed?
- 3) Not only did David listen to his conscience, but he did so in the face of immense peer pressure. When have you stood up to peer pressure?
- 4) To justify a convenient, but conscience-contradictory decision, scripture can be twisted to relieve the tension. How do you identify when scripture is being twisted?
- 5) Ultimately, David refers to the Lord's anointing of Saul to back up the conviction of his conscience (See 1 Sam 24:6). Listening to his conscious bought him time to recognize and verbalize why the imminent decision was wrong. What if you can't articulate specifically why your conscious is not at ease? How might you verbalize this feeling anyway?

Verse to Meditate on this Week: Afterward, David was conscience-stricken for having cut off a corner of his robe. – 1 Samuel 24:5

Prayer Focus: Pray that we will be sensitive to our conscience, learning to recognize God's tug on our hearts. That we will be willing to obey our conscience in the face of immense pressure and risk of twisting the truth. Praise God for his gift of the conscience. Confess when the conscious has been ignored.