**Open the Conversation**: Bring a ball (or a stuffed sheep, toy shield, or other item that could represent David) to the group. As the ball is passed around the group, have the person holding it share something about David’s life they remember and/or a way God was faithful to David. When the group runs out of ideas, collect the ball and put together a recap of David’s life from what was shared and what you remember.

**Introduction:** How do you feel when you are at the end of something? (A school year, a sports season, the final night of a play you are in, etc.)

In 2 Samuel 22, David reflected back on his long life, and the recurring themes and patterns he saw most clearly were all the times he saw God’s faithfulness. This wasn’t because there was nothing else to recall. David could have told war stories, victory stories, locker room (cave) stories, victim stories, family struggle stories and more. But as he reflected over the months and years he began to see that even though everything in his life was deeply important, the MOST important thing he saw was God’s steady faithfulness. As he put his thoughts into a limited number of words, he wanted to use them to praise and give glory to God rather than himself.

**Read 2 Samuel 22:1-4**

This reflection time fueled what became David’s last public words. Why do you think it is a common practice to reflect on life as one nears the end of his or her life? What is the value in this? Which descriptor for the Lord stands out to you the most and why? How has He acted in this way for you?

**Read 2 Samuel 23:1-4** These were not David’s last words from his deathbed but his final public declaration expressing his heart and longing at the end of his life. David reflected on his humble beginning as the son of Jesse and the fact that God elevated him to power and influence as His anointed. He also acknowledged the gift of God speaking through him.

How did confidence in God give David a clear picture of who he was as one belonging to God? How is this also true for us?

How is a heart for justice tied to being a godly leader? Why is it a failure to honor God if we neglect justice? How can you pursue justice in your daily life as you interact with people?

**Read 2 Samuel 23:5-7** Looking back at the end of his life, David didn’t try to pretend his reign was perfect. There is power in accepting the reality of our brokenness and admitting to our own shortcomings and failures. Our weakness magnifies the goodness of God, even and especially at the end of our lifetimes. Why is it important to admit your own failings alongside God’s faithfulness whenever you are reflecting on your life?

How can letting go of the need to be, or appear, perfect be freeing? How does it impact you to remember that God’s faithfulness to you is based on who He is and not what you’ve done?

**Wrap it up:** At this point in your life, what might you especially want to say to another person if you knew your time was limited with them?

What is the value of reflecting on the end of our time with someone and the words we feel are most important to say? How can our group get more used to reflecting often on the faithfulness of God in our lives?

**Extended Cut**

The last words people share at the end of their lives carry extra weight. King David was nearing the end of his reign and his life, and the words recorded in 2 Samuel 23 give an account of what was on his mind. As the greatest king in Israel’s history, it is interesting to note the way that **David took time to remember and reflect on the goodness and activity of God.**

By no means did David live or lead a perfect life. He suffered consequences for his sin and rebellion, but he also demonstrated the faithfulness of God to keep his covenant and the importance of repenting with a sincere heart. **Thankfully, God bases His interactions with His children on His own character and faithfulness, not on our goodness.**

**David affirmed the wisdom of obeying God’s Word** and the reminder that God will oppose evil people and those who choose rebellion. So, we should choose wisely.

**A person who leads in the fear of God acknowledges that the Lord is just and sees everything**. God holds leaders accountable for their actions and choices. When people realize that they will answer for how they lead, it should affect their everyday decisions in a positive manner. Further, godly leaders pursue justice, not just considering the reality of answering to God but primarily because it reflects God’s heart.

David’s references to the morning light and sun on a cloudless day remind that **a wise ruler is blessed when he rules with justice**. Even though the reign of David had not been perfect, it had been blessed because he continually returned to God’s wisdom and ways. This shepherd boy turned king knew this was not his own doing but resulted from God’s goodness in his life.

**Because the covenant was based in God’s faithfulness and not his own performance**, David confidently spoke about his salvation and security. Our attempted obedience is never enough to secure our salvation and David knew this from his own experiences with sin and its consequences. David’s life held multiple examples of failure, repentance, and restoration with God. This is what it looks like to walk in faithfulness to God throughout our lives. Recognizing this reality prompts us, like David, to praise the Lord for His faithfulness in the face of our failure.

**God’s faithfulness does not lessen the importance of our obedience.** David rightly said worthless men will end in destruction. This represents those who reject the truth of God continually. This also speaks to those who do evil in the world to others. David knew he could trust the Lord to deal with those who practice evil as He sees fit. Our desire should be for all people to come to faith in Christ, but we can be confident that those who continually reject God and oppress His people will face God’s justice in His time.

David’s life could e summed up by the idea that God is in control. Trust in Him. Rest and allow God to deal with those who oppose you. Don’t stress out over evildoers because God will deal with them either through salvation or judgment.

**You can rest and delight in the Lord.**