

Spiritual Formations Questions for Small Groups and Families

“How to Love a Fool” (1 Samuel 25)

Abigail, falling on her knees...brought David back to his!

1. In Psalm 14, David offers a pretty profile of a fool. Without mentioning names, do you know anyone who fits that profile? Talk about where and when you encounter fools, and some of the difficulties and challenges that come with those relationships.
2. Before Nabal’s name is mentioned, we learn all about his wealth. Does his story remind you of one of Jesus’ parables? (Read Luke 12:13-21). What does Nabal’s story and Jesus’ parable say to our approach to wealth?
3. Why do you think David became *so angry and vengeful* when his request was denied by Nabal? What do you suppose was going on in David’s heart that led him to respond in that way?
4. Pastor Bill talked about how spiritual growth doesn’t tend to happen in a straight line, but is marked by all kinds of peaks and valleys—of advancements and backsliding. Is this true in your own walk with God? How do you deal with those times in your life when you seem to lose ground spiritually?
5. What impressed you about Abigail’s speech and why?
6. Perhaps, looking at David toward the end of this story, one could say that real strength involves admitting mistakes and listening to and heeding other people’s advice. How does that sit with you? When someone confronts you about a mistake you’ve made, or a sin in your life, how do you usually respond? Is it easy for you to take people’s advice about personal things? Why or why not?
7. Pastor Bill talked about the transcendent power of beauty to stop us dead in our tracks, and redirect our attention to God. Talk about a time in your life when God got your attention through beauty—and the difference that moment made in your life.
8. “Stay in control, stay focused—don’t be detoured by a fool.” When is this hard for you? Is it easy or hard for you to walk away and not get the last word? How can God retrain you to make this your first impulse?
9. “Use affirmation wisely.” Can you think of someone in your life who is all wrapped up in themselves? How can you, rather than stroking their ego, help them to see their lives against the backdrop of God’s purposes? Do you need this right now in your own life?
10. How is God’s beauty reflected in your life? How can you use that beauty to attract other’s attention to Him?

Spend some time in prayer for one another.