

Check-in and Prayer ~2min

Review prayer requests/concerns from previous week and pray through any updates and praise God for his past faithfulness.

Topic Introduction ~5min

Where in life are you most likely to let loose (wedding dance floor, singing in car, home alone, etc.)?

Read Text ~10min

Context: Leader/volunteer speak to some of the context of this story. Where are we in 2 Samuel? What just happened (look at section headings), and what will follow in the story?

- **Read Together:** 2 Samuel 6:1-23 out loud.
- **Read Alone:** Underline or mark: questions, contrasts, repetition, commands, topic changes, ooh/ahh moments, other verses come to mind?
- **Personal Paraphrase:** Have a volunteer *paraphrase* the story from what they remember after reading (without looking at the text!). Repetition is the goal, after going through the story 3 times, we are ready to analyze/interpret it.

Discussion~30min

- Discuss initial observations/questions and let the conversation flow.
 - What does this chapter teach us about God?
 - What does it teach us about ourselves?
 - What do David and Michal's outward actions reveal about the inward orientation of their hearts?
- Why do we regularly place people's perception of us above God's?
- Where in your life are you tempted to place people's perceptions above God's?

Pray and Apply ~30min

Read: Matthew 23:5-12

Write: Reread verse 13. How is the Spirit inviting you to live this scripture? Consider:

- Christ who was rejected and viewed as shameful in human eyes in order to set you free from sin.
- How might the example of Christ and the Spirit living within you, empower you to live for Christ before people?
- Where do you need to repent of placing another's perception before God's?
- What might it look like to live this week in light of these truths?

Pray Together:

- Share and pray over the above questions.