

**Discussion Guide -- "Evil From God?"**  
**Week of June 24, 2018**

**Read 1 Samuel 16:14-23; 18:10-11;  
Deuteronomy 32:3-4; James 1:13-18; Galatians 5:22-23**

- The Old Testament world view and the Hebrew language did not always distinguish between saying that someone CAUSED something to happen and saying they ALLOWED something to happen. So, it's not surprising that 1 Samuel 16:14 says that God CAUSED Saul to be tormented by an "evil spirit" instead of saying that God ALLOWED Saul's mood to grow "dark."
- What does Deut. 32:3-4 and James 1:13-18 say about God, His nature, and the way He treats people? What impact can rebellion have on our lives (James 1:14-16)? What does God want to bring into our lives instead (James 1:17-18)?
- Have you ever had times when you were overcome by a "dark mood" and had trouble finding freedom from it?
- God provided a way for Saul to be comforted and to find freedom from his dark mood (1 Sam. 16:23). Do you find it ironic that God would use David (Saul's successor) to comfort Saul during Saul's "dark" season? What does this say about God? What does it say about David that he would be willing to help comfort Saul? Has God ever used you to help comfort others or to provide a calming influence in their life? Is there someone in your life that you could help in this way? Are you willing?
- What kinds of attitudes and "moods" does God want to give us (Gal. 5:22-23)? Even though God may not *cause* us to have "dark moods," the choices we make might push us that direction (Gal. 5:19-21). Spend some time asking God to help you make good choices so that you can receive the kinds of "fruit" God wishes to share with you.