



## Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2024

**Absalom & Ahithophel (v.1-17) – A conspiracy from within the family.**

**Ittai the Gittite (v.18-22) - The encouragement given by heartfelt friends.**

**Zadok & Abiathar the priests (v.23-29) - The confidence gained from humble friends.**

**Hushai the Arkite (v.30-37) - The victories won with heroic friends.**

## **Questions for our midweek Growth Groups and personal reflection**

### **2 Sam 15:1-17: Absalom & Ahithophel – A conspiracy within the family.**

What was Absalom up to, and why couldn't David see it??

Why might Ahithophel have defected and what could have been done to prevent this?

Have you experienced a family member or a friend turn against you? Were there signs you might have spotted, or an unresolved conflict that led to this?

### **2 Sam 15:18-22: Ittai the Gittite - The encouragement given by heartfelt friends.**

Why did David give Ittai the chance to opt-out? What is remarkable about Ittai's response?

What was the impact of Ittai's friendship with David going forward (see 18:2)?

Do you have a heartfelt friend who chooses to "opt-in" when push comes to shove?

### **2 Sam 15:23-29: Zadok & Abiathar the priests - The confidence gained from humble friends.**

What humility was displayed by Zadok & Abiathar in their response to David?

Why do quiet, consistent, humble, friends, give us such a confidence boost?

### **2 Sam 15:30-37: Hushai the Arkite - The victories won with heroic friends.**

What bravery did Hushai show in his part of God's plan?

What risks do true friends take for each other?

**One who has unreliable friends soon comes to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother. (Proverbs 18:24)**

Describe the truth in this proverb in terms of earthly friendships & with Jesus.