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# *A Year in the Word*

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## **A Year in the Word: Part 7**

### **Small Group Questions: When the Bad Guy Wins**

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#### **Read**

Psalm 37 and Luke 9:49 –50

#### **Reflect**

Many of the psalms written by David, including Psalm 37, reveal his struggles with enemy after enemy. The bad guys in his life take many forms: his own family neglects to include him in the line up when Samuel arrives to determine the next king. The king (Saul) whom he serves faithfully tries to kill him. While David's on the run and homeless, Saul disobeys God time after time, but lives in a palace. How do you feel when the bad guy seems to win? How do you tend to handle unjust situations?

Pastor Josh Surratt gives us three things to remember when we see the bad guy win:

1. Remember that not everyone you label as bad is bad.
  - a. Have you ever labeled someone as "bad" and later found out something positive about them?
  - b. Give an example of a time where an assumption you made, got you in trouble?
  - c. Has someone you didn't like, ever helped you in some way? What did you learn from it?
    - i. How has it altered your perspective?
  - d. Who is the real enemy?
    - i. In the past, how have you played into the enemy's hands, and how can you keep it from happening in the future?
2. Every minute you spend fretting about the bad guy is wasted time.
  - a. Which of these Time Wasters do you struggle with the most, and why?
    - i. Worry
    - ii. Envy
    - iii. Doubt
    - iv. Discontent
    - v. Anger
    - vi. Striving
  - b. How have these time wasters negatively impacted your life? How has the enemy used them against you to lessen your effectiveness for God?
  - c. In what ways does David's life and writings give you hope in dealing with the above issues?
3. When you think someone is getting away with something, listen for God's laugh.
  - a. How have you tried to balance the scales yourself, not waiting for God? What was the result?
  - b. Have you ever been angry at God? Explain.
  - c. Do you believe God sees the situation and has your best interests at heart?
    - i. What might be keeping you from trusting him?
    - ii. How has God shown you that something that initially seemed bad, turned out to be to your benefit?

**Respond:** Where is God leading you? How can your small group support you?