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Enrichment Magazine

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To the Director

This student folder contains nine study leaflets and the enrichment magazine. Remove the center staple and distribute the leaflets as indicated in the leaders guide. This magazine should be distributed at the first session for use throughout the course.

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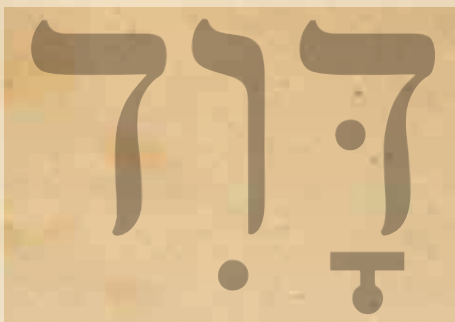
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The Life of David with the Lord

Despite what some people may think, the Bible is not primarily about the lives of great heroes whom you are supposed to emulate. It is about God and what He does for His people. Pay attention to what the Lord did, for He was with David, just as He is with you.



The Lord was with David when David “stepped onto the stage” of ancient Israel. Without God, David never would have been king. God directed Samuel to anoint him (1 Samuel 16:1–13). David volunteered to fight Goliath because the Lord had already delivered David from the paw of a lion and a bear. David was sure that God would deliver him from this Philistine (1 Samuel 17:34–37), because Goliath had “defied the armies of the living God” (v. 36).

The Lord was with David in his dealings with King Saul. Saul was afraid of David because he knew that God was with David but had departed from Saul (1 Samuel 18:12). Yet, Saul’s son Jonathan remained David’s friend, in part because both feared the Lord, took oaths in His name, and trusted Him to extend their friendship into future generations (1 Samuel 20; 23:18).

The Lord continued to be with David when Saul determined to hunt David down. The priests of the Lord at Nob helped David when he fled by allowing him to eat the holy bread and by inquiring of the Lord for him (1 Samuel 21–22). While hiding from Saul, David repeatedly “inquired of the LORD” for directions on what to do (1 Samuel 23:2, 4, 9–12; 30:8). When Saul inquired of God, however, God did not answer (1 Samuel 28:6). David and his men credited God for delivering Saul into their hands (1 Samuel 24:4–10). Still, David refused to harm Saul himself because he believed that God would judge between them (24:11–15).

The Lord was with David as David associated with others. Abigail believed that God was going to make David king, so

she provided for David’s men (1 Samuel 25:24–31). David acknowledged that God sent Abigail to him (25:32–34) and kept David from wrongdoing by killing her husband Nabal (25:38–39). Although Saul failed to trust in the Lord, the Philistine king Achish acknowledged Israel’s God by swearing to David “as the LORD lives” (1 Samuel 29:6). David killed Amalekites because they were “enemies of the Lord” (1 Samuel 30:26).

The Lord was with David when David grew as a leader. Saul’s general Abner switched allegiance to David because he believed God had sworn to set up David’s throne (2 Samuel 3:9–10, 17–18). Israel’s elders ultimately accepted David as king for the same reason (2 Samuel 5:2). The inspired writer noted the reason for David’s success: “the LORD, the God of hosts, was with him” (2 Samuel 5:10).

The Lord was with David when David acted as a leader. David was happy to transfer the ark of the covenant of the Lord to his capital city, making Jerusalem also the center of sacrifice to Him (2 Samuel 6). In 2 Samuel 7, David wanted to build a house for the Lord, but he learned that God would not be confined to any house built for Him. Instead, God promised to make David’s Seed the king of God’s kingdom

forever. David acknowledged that God had made Israel His people by becoming their God. When “the LORD gave victory to David wherever he went” (2 Samuel 8:6), David dedicated the plunder of silver, gold, and bronze to the Lord (8:10–11), not using it for his own glory.



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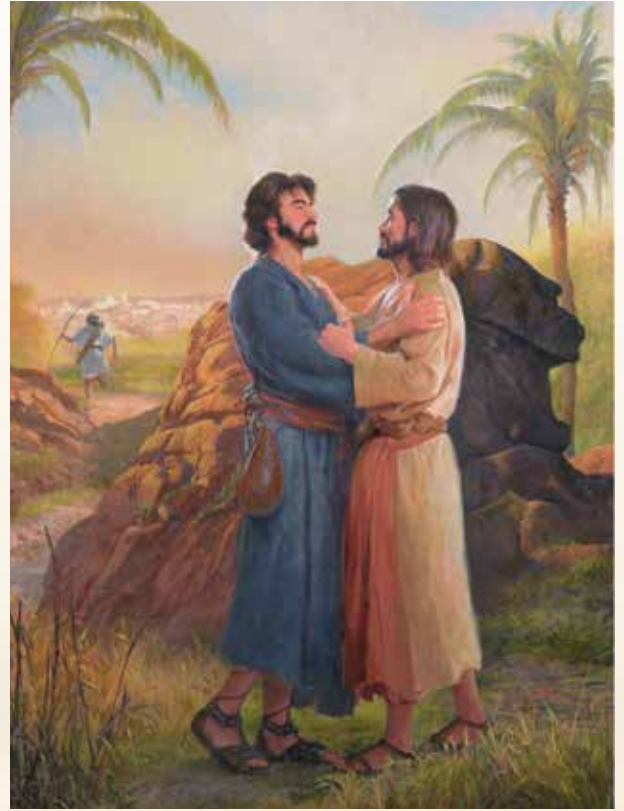
Life of David

The Lord was even with David when David sinned and turned his back on Him. Indeed, “the thing that David had done displeased the LORD” (2 Samuel 11:27). Yet, God sent the prophet Nathan to lead David to repentance. He forgave David. When the royal servants failed to understand their king’s reaction to God’s chastisement for his sins, David explained by saying, “Who knows whether the LORD will be gracious to me, that the child may live?” (12:22). After the child died, there was no need for prayers on his behalf. God had full charge of life-and-death decisions, and the king knew it.

The Lord was with David when David fled Jerusalem in fear of Absalom. At that time, the king refused to let the priests follow him with the Lord’s ark (2 Samuel 15:25–26). David questioned his own faithfulness to God, but he never questioned God’s faithfulness to him. The inspired author assures us that it was the Lord’s will to defeat Absalom and return David to the throne (2 Samuel 17:14).

The Lord was with David in time of famine and need. David inquired of the Lord (2 Samuel 21:1) to find the cause, and his remedy was done before Him (vv. 5–9). In 2 Samuel 22, David gave the Lord credit for delivering him from his enemies. David knew that God is the only God (22:32) and that all his success was attributable to Him. In David’s “last words” (2 Samuel 23), he acknowledged: “The Spirit of the LORD speaks by me” (v. 2).

The Lord was with David even in David’s last days when he pridefully and sinfully took an army census (2 Samuel 24:1–10). The Lord sent a plague on Israel (24:15–16), but He also had mercy when David prayed (24:16–17). David responded by building an altar to the Lord (24:18–25). David appointed Solomon king because he had sworn to Bathsheba by the Lord that her son would reign after him (1 Kings 1:17, 29–30). Both God’s prophet Nathan and His priest Zadok backed David’s choice (v. 38–39).



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David’s life illustrates both blessings that come from following God’s will and problems that stem from unfaithfulness. No doubt, your life illustrates similar things. We can turn our back on the Lord, as David did. When we do so, we can be assured of both temporal and eternal consequences. Like David, we must also repent.

Most of all, though, the events in David’s life demonstrate God’s power and grace as He faithfully remains with His people. You can be assured that God is with you, just as He was with David. God keeps His promises for the sake of David’s

Son and David’s Lord, Jesus Christ. Your confidence is in Jesus, who was crucified and resurrected for you. He promises you, “I am with you always, to the end of the age” (Matthew 28:20b).

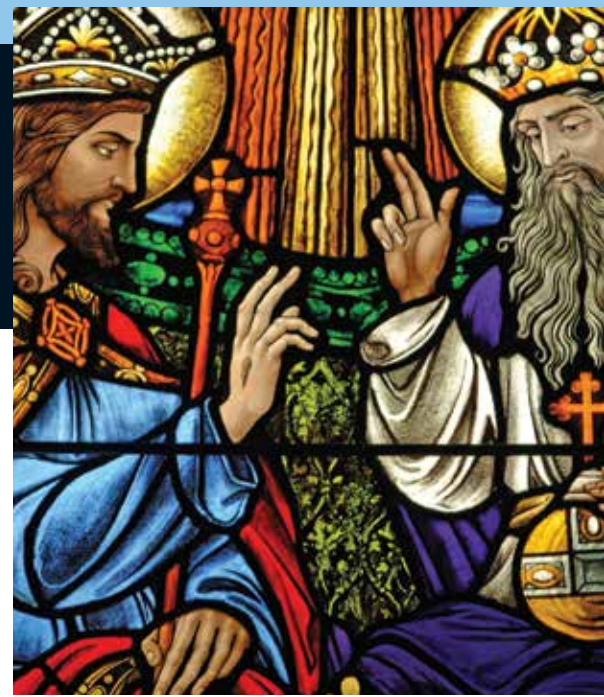


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THE LORD'S ANOINTED

Christians talk a lot about "Christ." We call our faith "Christianity" in honor of Jesus Christ.

Yet the title *Christ*, which means "anointed one," had a long history before it was applied to Jesus in the New Testament. Already at David's time, the term "anointed one" ("Messiah" in Hebrew) was used to refer to the king whom the Lord had chosen to rule His people. Jesus is the Anointed One *par excellence*.



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Anointed Kings

David had great appreciation for "the LORD's anointed." This appreciation went beyond God-required respect for government officials. The Lord gave David courage and hope in the fact that David himself was God's anointed.

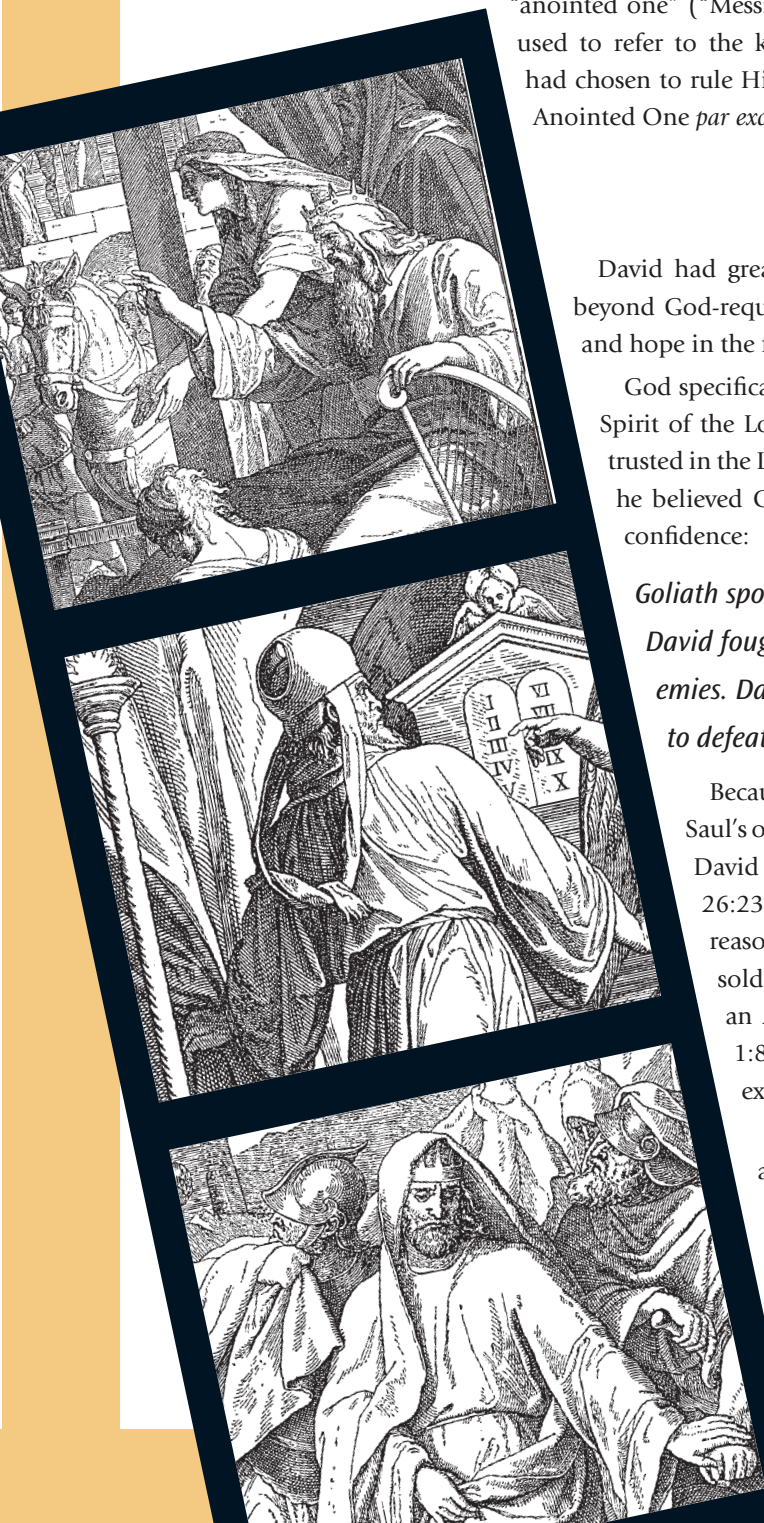
God specifically directed Samuel to anoint David king (1 Samuel 16:12), and the Spirit of the Lord rushed on David (v. 13). Even before David began to reign, he trusted in the Lord's anointing. David knew that Goliath could not kill him, because he believed God's promise to make him king. Here is the logic behind David's confidence:

Goliath spoke against the armies of the living God (1 Samuel 17:26, 36).

David fought for the living God, the Lord (v. 45). God defeats His enemies. David was His anointed. Therefore, the Lord would use David to defeat Goliath (vv. 37, 46–47).

Because God had anointed Saul (1 Samuel 9:15–17; 10:1), David respected Saul's office, even after the Lord's Spirit departed from Saul (16:14). Therefore, David refused to harm Saul, for Saul was "the LORD's anointed" (24:6–10; 26:23). David forbade anyone else to harm Saul either, and for the same reason: Saul was "the LORD's anointed" (26:9–11). David chastised the soldiers who failed to protect Saul, "the LORD's anointed" (v. 16). When an Amalekite claimed to have killed Saul at Saul's request (2 Samuel 1:8–10), David mourned for his dead enemy (vv. 11–12, 17–27) and executed the Amalekite for killing "the LORD's anointed" (vv. 14–16).

Once God anointed someone, it was His privilege to keep the anointed in office or to remove him. No believer in the Lord should dare to interfere with His choice and shorten the reign of His anointed.



An Anointed King and Priest

Interestingly, “the LORD’s anointed” designated more than the king of Israel. For the people of Israel knew about God’s anointed even before Israel demanded a human king. When Samuel’s mother brought him to the house of the Lord, she said, literally, that He would “give strength to His king and exalt the power of His anointed” (1 Samuel 2:10). Biblical references to “the anointed” before this psalm of Hannah concerned the high priest (Leviticus 4:3,5,16; 16:32; see Exodus 40:13–15), but Hannah’s hope was for God’s anointed king.

The Lord spoke similarly when He told Eli that his family would be replaced as priests. Literally, God said: “I will raise up for Myself a faithful priest . . . and I will build him a sure house, and he shall go in and out before My anointed forever” (1 Samuel 2:35). Samuel’s house did not last long. When he appointed his sons as judges over Israel (8:1), it soon became apparent that they were not faithful (v. 3). Israel demanded that Samuel appoint a king to judge them instead of his sons (v. 5). God told Samuel that they were rejecting Him as king (v. 7). God allowed Samuel to give Israel a king (v. 9), but He warned about the problems that would come from their rejection of Him (v. 10–18).

The Lord had Samuel anoint Saul (1 Samuel 10:1), but Saul proved unfaithful to his calling. So God replaced Saul with David as the anointed king. At that time, Eli’s family was not replaced as anointed priests, but they soon would be. Zadok’s family served as priests throughout the reigns of David and Solomon (1 Kings 1:34–39); it replaced Eli’s family during the reign of Solomon and his successors (see 1 Kings 2:35). But even Zadok’s household became unfaithful (Malachi 1:6–2:9). By the end of the Old Testament era, the kingdom of Solomon had ended, and there appeared to be no more of God’s anointed kings or priests serving in His presence.

Jesus, Our Anointed One

Then Jesus came. An angel announced His birth as the arrival of “Christ” (Luke 2:11), the Greek word for “anointed.” Jesus was from the household and family of David legally through His earthly father, Joseph (Luke 2:4; Matthew 1:1–17), and physically through His mother, Mary (Luke 3:23–31). Jesus was both God and man. He was both High Priest (Hebrews 2:17; 4:14–15; 5:5–10; 7:11–8:6; 9:11–14, 24–28) and King (John 12:12–16; 18:33–37; 19:19–22). All previous priests and kings of Israel had failed to fulfill God’s promises and Israel’s hopes for the Lord’s anointed. Although they fell short, they acted as temporary office-holders, living reminders to Israel of God’s real promised Anointed.

God has made us a kingdom and priests (Revelation 1:6) and has anointed us with the Holy Spirit in Baptism (1 Corinthians 6:11; Titus 3:5–7). Yet, like Old Testament kings and priests, we too fall short, short of God’s glory (Romans 3:23). Our lips and our lives betray that holy calling. God’s Word, which is “sharper than any two-edged sword” (Hebrews 4:12), exposes us “to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account” (v. 13).

And yet, Jesus is our “great high priest . . . who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need” (Hebrews 4:14–16). Jesus is also our King who fought for us against Satan—and won—on the cross. When His hour came, Jesus laid down His life for His sheep (John 10:15–18), His friends (15:13–15), for you (3:16). He has redeemed you from your sins (Luke 1:68–69; Galatians 3:13; 4:4–5). He saved you from your enemies (Luke 1:71–74), and He won victory for you over sin and death (1 Corinthians 15:56–57). Thanks be to God for Jesus, the Lord’s Anointed!



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How well do your family members get along? If you do not always get along perfectly, you are not alone.

David's life was characterized by family feuds, first between his family and the family of King Saul, and then between members of his own family. The family trees in this article and the next display relationships between key players in various feuds during David's lifetime. When you know some of the family connections involved in David's life, you may be able to empathize with him as you read about the complicated and sometimes wrong decisions that he made concerning family members.

Families Feud

Military Complications

The head of David's army, Joab, was his nephew, the son of his sister Zeruiah. Family connections may have had something to do with David's reluctance to discipline Joab for his numerous acts of insubordination. Joab killed Abner, Saul's commander, after Abner had planned to surrender his army to David (2 Samuel 3:12–39). Joab did this because Abner had killed Joab's brother Asahel (2:18–28). After David banished Absalom, Joab briefly took up Absalom's cause (ch. 14). Finally, Joab backed Adonijah instead of Solomon to be David's successor (1 Kings 2:28).

When David's son Absalom briefly took over the kingdom, Absalom appointed Amasa, son of Zeruiah's sister Abigail, to head his army (2 Samuel 17:25). So when David's army fought Absalom's army, the leaders of the two armies were cousins and also nephews of David and cousins of Absalom. At length, Joab disobeyed David's express command not to kill Absalom (18:5–14). Joab criticized David for his partiality to his rebellious son Absalom, and properly so, for even after Absalom's death this favoritism negatively affected David's ability to rule Israel (18:33–19:8). As a result of these disagreements with Joab, David promised to make Amasa the commander of his army in place of Joab (19:13) if Amasa would lead the elders of Judah to welcome David back as their king. Rather than let his cousin Amasa take his place, Joab killed Amasa—without consulting Uncle David (20:9–10). David left it to his son Solomon to execute Joab for his misdeeds (2 Kings 2:5–6, 28–34).





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Boaz + Ruth: (Ruth 4:13, 17)

Obed + ? :

David's Family Tree

Marital Complications

Although David was known as “a man after [God’s] own heart” (1 Samuel 13:14), he violated God’s command to Moses that any future king of Israel “not acquire many wives for himself” (Deuteronomy 17:17). Long before the infamous incident with Bathsheba, David had acquired many wives for himself. After his separation from his first wife, Michal (1 Samuel 19:11–17; 25:44), David married Abigail, the widow of Nabal (25:42), and Ahinoam from Jezreel (25:43). Ahinoam was the mother of David’s firstborn son, Amnon (2 Samuel 3:2). Abigail was the mother of David’s second son, Chileab (3:3). After becoming king, David took another wife, Maacah, who became the mother of David’s third son, Absalom, and his sister Tamar. Amnon fell in love with his half-sister Tamar (13:1) and forced her to lie with him (13:14). When David did nothing about this, Absalom got revenge by having his half-brother Amnon killed (13:28–29). Later, Absalom also committed incest with ten of his father’s concubines, in an attempt to demonstrate his mastery of the kingship in Jerusalem (15:16; 16:21–22).

David had another son, Adonijah, with still another wife, Haggith (2 Samuel 3:4). Near the end of David’s life, Adonijah decided to make himself king (1 Kings 1:5–10). After his much younger half-brother Solomon (Bathsheba’s son) became king, Adonijah wanted to marry his father David’s last concubine, Abishag (1:2–4). This request led Solomon to suspect that Adonijah intended to usurp the throne, so he executed Adonijah (2:13–25).

Jesse + ? :

Eliab (1 Samuel 16:6; 17:13)

Abinadab (1 Samuel 16:8; 17:13)

Shammah (1 Samuel 16:9; 17:13) (Shimeah in 2 Samuel 13:3; 1 Chronicles 2:13):

Jonadab (2 Samuel 13:3)

Shimei (unnamed in lists, but see 1 Samuel 16:10; 17:12):

Jonathan (2 Samuel 21:21)

Nethanel (1 Chronicles 2:14)

Raddai (1 Chronicles 2:14)

Ozem (1 Chronicles 2:15)

David + Michal the daughter of Saul (1 Samuel 18:27):

no children (2 Samuel 6:23)

+ **Ahinoam** the Jezreelitess (1 Samuel 25:43; 27:3):

Amnon (2 Samuel 3:2)

+ **Abigail** the wife of Nabal the Carmelite (1 Samuel 25:3, 42; 27:3):

Chileab (2 Samuel 3:3; named Daniel in 1 Chronicles 3:1)

+ **Maacah** the daughter of Talmi king of Geshur:

Absalom (2 Samuel 3:3) + ? :

Three sons and **Tamar** (2 Samuel 14:27)

Tamar (2 Samuel 13:1)

+ **Haggith**:

Adonijah (2 Samuel 3:4)

+ **Abital**:

Shephatiah (2 Samuel 3:4)

+ **Eglah**:

Ithream (2 Samuel 3:5)

+ **Bathsheba** (*Bath-shua*) the daughter of Eliam/Ammiel (2 Samuel 11:3; 1 Chronicles 3:5):

unnamed son who died as an infant (2 Samuel 11:27; 12:19)

Solomon (Jedediah in 2 Samuel 12:24, see also Matthew 1:6)

Shammua/Shimea (2 Samuel 5:14; 1 Chronicles 3:5)

Shobab (2 Samuel 5:14)

Nathan (2 Samuel 5:14; see also Luke 3:31)

+ ? :

Ibhar, Elishua, Nepheg, Japhia (2 Samuel 5:15; 1 Chronicles 3:6–7)

Nogah (1 Chronicles 3:7)

Elishama, Eliada, and Eliphelet (2 Samuel 5:16; 1 Chronicles 3:8)

+ **Nahash** (2 Samuel 17:25):

Zeruiah (1 Samuel 26:6; 1 Chronicles 2:16) + ? :

Joab, Abishai, Asahel (2 Samuel 2:18; 1 Chronicles 2:16)

Abigail + **Ithra** the Ishmaelite (Jether in 1 Kings 2:5; 1 Chronicles 2:17):

Amasa (2 Samuel 17:25)

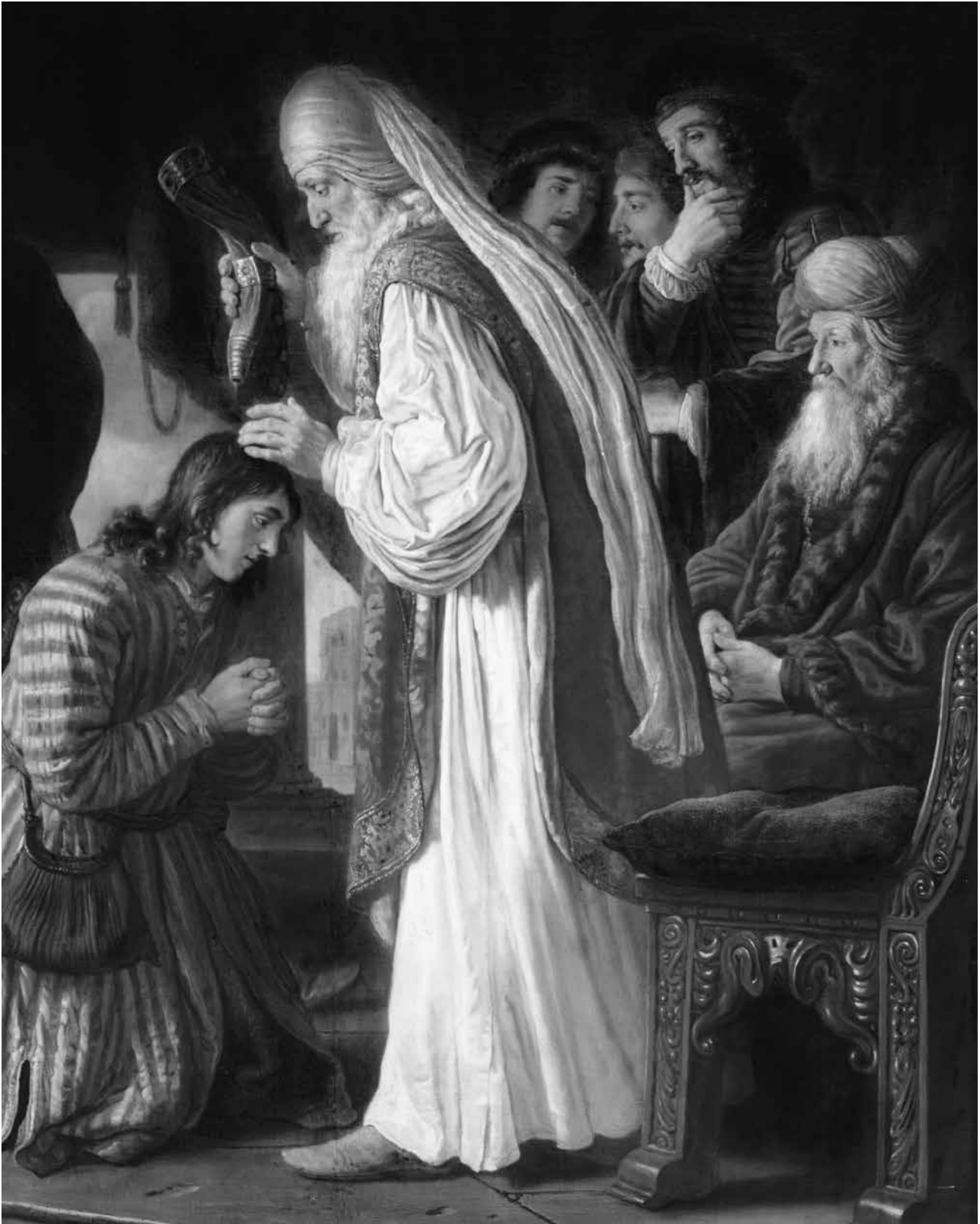
Lessons for Us

David's family life illustrates some of the problems that arise when we live contrary to God's will for marriage and family. Jesus affirmed God's institution of marriage and family (Matthew 5:27–32; 19:3–9). Lust, adultery, unscriptural divorce, abortion, sex outside of marriage, laxity in training or disciplining children, and disobedience against parents merit God's condemnation. Recalling what happened in David's family helps us recognize not only our sins in these areas but also the time, effort, and sacrifices we need to make in order to live chastely and to raise our families according to God's will.

Thank God, Jesus fulfilled all of God's holy and righteous Law for us (Galatians 4:4–5). Not only that, but our Lord paid for all the times that we disobeyed God's Law, including our sins against the First, Fourth, and Sixth Commandments (Galatians 3:13–14). It is true that we may still suffer the temporal consequences of our sins in these areas, just as David did. But the eternal consequences of our sins have been covered by the blood of God's only-begotten Son. The Lord will strengthen us whatever the circumstances, even in the midst of family feuds. When we fall, the Lord will raise us up so that, renewed and enabled by His grace, we may serve our families in love.



Study Guide



A Messianic Mountaintop

Distribute before session 1 for use in session 1

Use enrichment magazine pp. 2–7.

1 Samuel 16:1–13; Psalm 23; Psalm 110

Resources for Worship

Use these resources for your daily study at home and at week's assembly.

Hymn

Today Your mercy calls us
To wash away our sin.
However great our trespass,
Whatever we have been,
However long from mercy
Our hearts have turned away,
Your precious blood can wash us
And make us clean today.

Today Your gate is open,
And all who enter in
Shall find a Father's welcome
And pardon for their sin.
The past shall be forgotten,
A present joy be giv'n,
A future grace be promised,
A glorious crown in heav'n.

O all-embracing Mercy, O ever-open Door,
What should we do without You
When heart and eye run o'er?
When all things seem against us,
To drive us to despair,
We know one gate is open,
One ear will hear our prayer.

(LSB 915; LW 207; TLH 2)

Prayer

Heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning. As we begin this study of the life of Your servant David, draw us closer to You through Your Word. Help us to see Your work in David's life as You mold Him into being Israel's greatest king. Even more, strengthen our faith and confidence in David's Son and David's Lord, our Savior, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Digging Deep

My Personal Study for Week 1

Day 1 • Various Passages

Before we begin a detailed study of the life of David, it will be helpful to get an overview of his life as a whole. This lesson will provide that.

1. Read each statement that follows; then find the Scripture passage. Write the name of the place(s) at which each event occurred. As your time and study resources will allow, locate each place on a good Bible map.

a. At God's command, Samuel anoints David king to replace Saul (1 Samuel 16:1–13).

b. David kills Goliath and wins Saul's favor (1 Samuel 17:1–2).

c. Saul, in his jealousy, pursues David and tries to kill him.

1 Samuel 19:18—

1 Samuel 24:1–7—

1 Samuel 26:1–12—

1 Samuel 27:1–7—

d. David becomes king of Judah in the South (2 Samuel 2:1–4).

e. Later, David becomes king of all Israel (2 Samuel 5:3).

f. David wins many battles, unites the twelve tribes of Israel, and sets up his new capital (2 Samuel 5:9–10).

g. David commits murder and adultery but later repents, and God forgives him (2 Samuel 11:1–5; 12:13–14).

h. From all you've just read (and based on other facts from David's life you know), how would you describe him? What kind of person was he?

2. King David's reign could have ended with his sins of murder and adultery. But it didn't. God graciously forgave him and restored his position of favor. However, he suffered many earthly consequences as a result of his sins. Continue to review David's life by reading the statements below.

a. David's family problems increased. Describe how two of his sons turn against him (2 Samuel 13:28; 15:1-12; 1 Kings 1:1-11).

b. Before David died, his son Solomon succeeded him on Israel's throne. What did David charge Israel's new king to do (1 Kings 2:1-4)?

3. We can see abundant evidence of God's work in David's life, even in this short overview.

a. In twenty-five words or less, summarize David's life and God's direction of it.

b. **Challenge question.** Does God still direct the lives of His people today? Check Job 23:10; Psalm 139; and Romans 8:26-28. Then summarize your findings. (Pay particular attention to the exact wording of the verses.)

Day 2 • Various Passages

4. Today we will continue the overview of David's life,

looking at some important people who influenced him.

a. Matthew 1:1-6 lists some of David's ancestors. Based on what you know about these people, comment on what it might be like to have such a family heritage. What might be the pros? the cons?

b. In 1 Chronicles 2:13-15, we read a list of David's brothers. What blessings might God give the youngest brother in such a large family? Check 1 Samuel 17:12-30 and mention some drawbacks as well.

5. David's large and diverse family certainly influenced him, as we will see, for both good and evil. How does God use you as a *positive* influence in your family?

Day 3 • Various Passages

6. Look back at your answers to questions 1 and 2. Skim your summary of David's life in question 3a.

a. Which events do you think David would see as most important? List them here.

b. Which events do *you* think shaped David's life most? Explain.

7. *For personal reflection. Sharing optional.* Imagine the events of your own life laid out on a line from “birth” to “today.” Perhaps you could draw such a timeline. How has God used these events to shape you into the person you are?

10. *For personal reflection. Sharing optional.* Think about your own physical and spiritual needs. What have you been praying about? How—specifically—has your Shepherd-King guided, restored, protected, and comforted you?

.....
Day 4 • Read Psalm 23

8. Throughout David’s life, God acted in love and power to preserve both David’s life and David’s line. David sings of this in Psalm 23.

a. When might David have hungered for “green pastures” and “still waters”? (Skim the events summarized in questions 1 and 2 previously.)

b. When might David have lived in “the valley of the shadow of death” and pleaded with God to restore his soul? (Again, skim the summaries of events in questions 1 and 2 or, for further study, see some of these texts: 1 Samuel 30; 2 Samuel 5:17–25; 2 Samuel 12:13–14; 2 Samuel 15:10–12; 2 Samuel 20:1–22; and 1 Kings 1:5–6.)

9. How did the Lord, the Shepherd-King, meet David’s needs and sustain his life, according to Psalm 23:1–4?

11. In David’s time, covenants (agreements/promises) were often concluded with a friendly meal. The stronger of the two covenanting parties hosted the weaker.

a. What phrase in verse 5 describes an unusual aspect of God’s “hospitality”?

b. How did the Lord do this for David?

c. How has the Lord done this for you?

12. In the Lord’s Supper, the banquet table of the New Covenant, how does the “stronger” host the “weaker”?

13. David says confidently, “I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.” How confidently can you make that same affirmation? Explain.

.....

Day 5 • Read Psalm 110

In Psalm 110, David has composed a coronation psalm for his great future Son—our King Jesus.

14. What two or three things does David say about this messianic Priest-King that especially stand out for you?

15. How did Jesus use David's psalm in teaching about Himself? (See Mark 12:35–37.)

16. How did Peter use David's psalm in teaching about Jesus? (See Acts 2:29–36.)

David on the Field

*Distribute before session 2 for use in session 2
Use enrichment magazine pp. 8–13.*

1 Samuel 16–18

Resources for Worship

Use these resources for your daily study at home and at week's assembly.

Hymn

The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want;
He makes me down to lie
In pastures green; He leadeth me
The quiet waters by.

My soul He doth restore again
And me to walk doth make
Within the paths of righteousness,
E'en for His own name's sake.

Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale,
Yet will I fear no ill;
For Thou art with me, and Thy rod
And staff me comfort still.

My table Thou hast furnished
In presence of my foes;
My head Thou dost with oil anoint,
And my cup overflows.

Goodness and mercy all my life
Shall surely follow me;
And in God's house forevermore
My dwelling place shall be.

(LSB 710; LW 416; TLH 436; EVaS disk 9, track 14)

Prayer

Dearest Good Shepherd, You laid down Your life for Your sheep, only to take it up again. You call us by name, and by Your grace we know Your voice. Speak to us through Your Word so that we may amend our sinful lives and rely on Your grace for forgiveness, life, and salvation. We ask this through Your precious name, Lord Jesus. Amen.

Digging Deep

My Personal Study for Week 2

Day 1 • Read 1 Samuel 16:1–13

1. Skim 1 Samuel 15. This incident was the proverbial "straw that broke the camel's back" so far as King Saul's career as Israel's leader was concerned.

a. What attitudes in Saul's heart seem to have bothered Samuel (and the Lord) as much or more than his disobedience? (See especially 15:20–23.)

b. Now study 16:1–5. What do you learn from these verses about Samuel's relationship with the Lord and with Saul?

2.a. Samuel served as a prophet, God's spokesman of both Law and Gospel. Why might the leaders of Bethlehem have been "trembling" at Samuel's coming (v. 4)?

b. **Challenge question.** Sometimes Christian congregations today find themselves in conflict with their pastor. Compare 1 Peter 5:1–9 with Hebrews 13:17. Then describe the attitudes and relationship God wants His people and His pastors to have toward and with one another.

3. 1 Samuel 16:13 says, "And the Spirit of the LORD rushed upon David from that day forward." When the Spirit of the Lord came upon someone in the Old Testament (usually a prophet, priest, or king), that person received extraordinary enthusiasm, vigor, and strength to carry out God's purposes.

a. How might others have seen the Spirit at work in David? (See also v. 18.)

b. In whom do you see God's Spirit at work today? In what specific ways could you encourage this person?

4. David (in contrast to Saul), was "teachable" (see vv. 1-13, especially v. 7).

a. Why is this quality indispensable in those who would serve God?

b. *For personal reflection. Sharing optional.* Meditate on 1 Peter 5:5-7. Humility and a teachable spirit are closely linked. What would you like to say to your Lord about your own struggles with teachableness and humility? What might you want others in your small group to ask God to do for you in this regard? (Share only if you can do so comfortably.)

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Day 2 • Read 1 Samuel 16:14-23

5. **Challenge question.** Verse 14 needs further explanation. Our Lord does not leave His repentant children

(Hebrews 13:5). And yet, the Lord left King Saul. As you begin to explore this fact, study a parallel incident as it is recorded in 1 Corinthians 5:1-5.

a. Paul here directs that an impenitent sinner be excommunicated, put outside the protection and fellowship of Christ's Church. Who rules the realm outside the kingdom of Christ (v. 5)?

b. Explain the phrase in verse 5, "so that the sinful nature may be destroyed" (NIV), "for the destruction of the flesh" (ESV).

c. According to the last part of verse 5, what was the ultimate purpose Paul (and the Lord) had in mind for this sinner?

d. What light does this shed on 1 Samuel 16:14?

6. Today's text records a long and rocky relationship between David and King Saul.

a. How did God bring Saul and David together?

b. Tell about a time God used seemingly coincidental events in your own life to accomplish His purposes.

c. How does God's work in David's life and in your own encourage you to wait today in trust and humility for His promises to be fulfilled?

7. What qualities of David are listed in verse 18? How could God use each for the good of Israel when David became king?

c. Why did these two facts—his own circumcision and Goliath’s lack of circumcision—comfort and encourage David?

d. For what reasons did David feel compelled to fight Goliath?

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Day 3 • Read 1 Samuel 17:1–51

8. David went back and forth, serving both in Saul’s court and his father’s household.

a. How did David serve his family, according to verses 12–22?

11. The Lord is the hero in today’s reading. Explain why.

b. How did David propose to serve King Saul and God’s people (vv. 32–37, 45–47)?

12. *For personal reflection. Sharing optional.* Think about the “Goliaths” in your own life.

a. What things frighten you or threaten to steal your peace?

9. What made David an unlikely match for Goliath?

a. Compare verse 4 with verse 14.

b. What battles has God already won on your behalf?

b. Compare verses 5–7 with verses 38–40.

10. David repeatedly refers to Goliath as “uncircumcised” (17:26, 36). Read Genesis 17:1–12.

a. What did circumcision mean to David on a spiritual level?

Close today’s study by reading Romans 8:31–39, the Lord’s assurance to strengthen you and bring you through life victorious in Christ.

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Day 4 • Read 1 Samuel 17:51b–18:5

13. On Day 3, we saw the truth that David defeated Goliath because the Lord had made a covenant with David, with all Israel. The Lord had promised to watch over His people, to protect them in love and mercy. Goliath, on the other hand, was “uncircumcised” (17:26, 36). He had no such covenant.

b. What did Goliath’s uncircumcision signify?

a. In what ways did David show he depended on the Lord’s covenant?

b. The Lord placed you in a covenant relationship with Himself in your Baptism (Colossians 2:11–15). (Baptism is the New Testament counterpart to Old Testament circumcision; if time permits, see Romans 6:1–14.) How can you remind yourself of the power available to you in that covenant? (Be as practical as you can as you answer.)

14. List the events God used from David's life up to this point to prepare him to move from pasture to palace.

15. Read Colossians 3:16–17.

a. In what ways did David live out the truth given here?

b. What does it mean to you to "do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus"?

c. *For personal reflection. Sharing optional.* The Lord had, in grace, given David a heart that trusted Him to accomplish His purposes in David's life. Reflect on your own life and on those things that keep you from fuller commitment to Christ and to His people, from the ability to "do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus." Talk to God about those things. How could Jesus' cross change them, transform them?

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Day 5 • Read 1 Samuel 18:6–30

16. What evidence from the text can you cite to show that David had become a national hero?

17. What drove Saul in his persecution of David (vv. 8–9)?

18. **Challenge question.** Read what Jesus taught about the source of jealousy in Mark 7:20–23. How would you advise someone tempted and troubled by jealous thoughts?

19. Saul offers his daughters in marriage to David (vv. 17–21). Ostensibly, he was fulfilling his promise to reward the person who killed Goliath (17:23–25).

a. What ulterior motives do you see in this offer (vv. 17, 21)?

b. How do you explain David's reactions in verses 18 and 23?

20. You may not be a prophet, king, shepherd, or military leader. Yet, you, too, belong to God by faith for obedience and service. God's grace and power are readily available to you, even though you may feel unworthy and insignificant. How is it possible for you to live confidently and righteously before God despite the failings and fears you sometimes experience?

David on the Run

*Distribute before session 3 for use in session 3
Use enrichment magazine pp. 14–15.*

1 Samuel 19–31

Resources for Worship

Use these resources for your daily study at home and at week's assembly.

Hymn

Christians, while on earth abiding,
Let us never cease to pray,
Firmly in the Lord confiding
As our parents in their day.
Be the children's voices raised
To the God their parents praised.
May His blessing, failing never,
Rest upon His people ever.

Bless us, Father, and protect us
From all harm in all our ways;
Patiently, O Lord, direct us
Safely through these fleeting days.
Let Your face upon us shine,
Fill us with Your peace divine.
Praise the Father, Son, and Spirit!
Praise Him, all who life inherit!

(LW 434; EVaS disk 9, track 16)

Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, You promise that Your Father hears us from heaven and answers our every prayer made in Your name. Teach us to pray aright, so that what we ask is in accordance with Your Father's will, in order that our minds and hearts are transformed to be like Yours through Your Word and Spirit. In Your name we pray. Amen.

Digging Deep

My Personal Study for Week 3

Day 1 • Read 1 Samuel 19–20

1. What role did Jonathan play in Saul's ongoing persecution of David?

2. Read 19:11–17. Michal was King Saul's daughter, yet she deceived Saul to save David. How do you explain the fact that two of Saul's children (Michal and Jonathan) sided with David and against Saul?

3. David left Saul's court at Gibeah to flee for his life. He stayed at Ramah, Samuel's hometown (19:18–24). There, Samuel took David into Naioth, a neighborhood or residential complex where a group of prophets lived.

a. How did God thwart Saul's plans to kill David there?

b. Compare 1 Samuel 19:23–24 with 10:1–13. In both instances, the Holy Spirit filled Saul. In both, Saul apparently prophesied. In 10:1–13, the Spirit came on Saul to equip him for service to God's people. In 19:24, Saul stripped off his armor and royal robes and lay, figuratively, "naked" on the ground; by these actions, he demonstrated the departure of God's favor and his loss of position as God's servant. A severe and involuntary humbling! What made Saul's fall from power so tragic?

4. David may have written Psalm 59 during his flight to Ramah. Read this psalm. Notice that David does not try to hide his anger and dismay as he is stalked by "bloodthirsty men." What do the various names David uses for God in this psalm reveal?

5. From 1 Samuel 18:10 to 20:42, Scripture records seven attempts by Saul to murder David. The number 7 often signals completion or totality in Scripture.

a. What methods did Saul use in each attempt?

18:10–16—

18:17–30—

19:1—

19:8–10—

19:11–17—

19:18–24—

20:1–33—

b. What might the holy writer have intended to communicate by giving these seven examples?

b. What insights on your own life do you gain as you look at David's life and the way God dealt with David?

8. Read 23:15–18. Note verse 16 in particular.

a. How might David have been encouraged by Jonathan's visit?

b. Think of someone who has helped you "strengthen [your] hand in God" during difficult times. What did that person say or do that was meaningful to you?

Day 2 • Read 1 Samuel 21–23

6. David is constantly on the run—"there is but a step between me and death" (20:3). He is pursued and threatened by his enemies and defended and protected by his friends. David's survival tactics waver between faith and folly. Read each incident below. Tell whether it represents an act of faith or folly and explain why you think so.

a. 21:1–9; 23:6–23 (see also Matthew 12:3–4)—

b. 21:10–15 (remember, Gath was Goliath's hometown)—

c. 22:1–5—

c. How could you be that kind of friend to someone in trouble or difficulty?

9. David's greatest friend was God. How does God repeatedly express His "friendship" for you as He did for David?

7. David wrote many psalms, both of prayer and praise, during this difficult time. Skim one of these psalms: 34, 52, 54, 56, 57, 142.

a. How did David reveal his respect for the Lord and his trust in Him in the words of the psalm you chose?

Day 3 • Read 1 Samuel 24–25

10. In today's readings, we see David express a wide range of emotional reactions to both friends and enemies as he continues to wait for God's deliverance.

a. How did David respond when his men urged him to seize the advantage over Saul (24:4–7)?

b. How did David explain his actions to Saul (24:8–11)?

11. How has God’s Word encouraged you to show patient respect for authority—even when you found it difficult and distressing?

12. In 1 Samuel 25, how does David’s reaction to Nabal’s disdain highlight the restraint David showed toward Saul?

13. How did the Lord use Abigail as His messenger to David in 25:28–31?

14. What have you learned in your own life about “putting a cork in” your anger—even when you felt you had every reason to be angry? (See Ephesians 4:25–26.)

b. By God’s grace, David has by this point set his heart on doing no harm to Saul. Individual opportunities to do so are decided even before they come up. Think about the temptations that recur in your life. How might you, by God’s grace as His redeemed child, make a decision as David did? How might this help you defeat Satan’s schemes?

16. Saul’s cruel persecution and David’s status as a fugitive took their toll on David. Yet, how would you characterize David’s response to Saul in 26:17–24?

17. Because David refused to harm Saul or to gain the kingdom by force or treachery, he had little choice but to keep on running. Read about David’s choices in chapter 27. Think about those decisions in light of God’s promises to him. Consider especially verses 1, 2–4, and 5–12.

a. Do David’s actions seem based more in faith or in fear? Explain.

b. *For personal reflection. Sharing optional.* Think about a time you took action based not on faith, but on the kind of fear that may have been driving David. How did it turn out? What can you deduce from David’s experience and your own?

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Day 4 • Read 1 Samuel 26–28

15. Among David’s men were several nephews, including Joab and Abishai. They were sons of David’s older sister Zeruiah. In 1 Samuel 26:8–11, David once again refuses to seize an opportunity to assassinate Saul.

a. How does he explain this to Abishai?

18. Because David accepted sanctuary from King Achish, he was expected to serve in the Philistine army—at the very time Philistia was gearing up to attack Israel!

(See 28:1–2.) The prospect of a war with Philistia profoundly affected Saul. How do his actions in 28:5–8 show Saul’s total disregard for God and God’s will? See also Leviticus 19:31 and 20:27.

22. Saul’s self-destructive behavior culminated in suicide (1 Samuel 31). What seems most tragic to you about Saul’s life and death?

19. Read again Samuel’s prediction of Saul’s downfall in 1 Samuel 15:24–29. Compare this to 28:16–19. Why would such a prediction result in the physical and emotional collapse described in 28:20?

23. From the time of David’s anointing to the death of Saul and David’s rise to Israel’s throne, nearly fifteen years were to pass. All this time, God kept David “on hold,” as it were, while He waited and worked to bring Saul to repentance. What does this say to you about God’s grace in your own life?

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Day 5 • Read 1 Samuel 29–31

20. **Challenge question.** The tragic story of Saul comes to an end—and with it, his pursuit of David. How did the Philistine king’s decision in 29:4–7 fit into the purposes of God for David’s life?

21. On returning home to find his city burned and his family kidnapped (30:3–8), David expressed his grief—in public—with tears and the kind of open wailing common to eastern cultures.

a. Do you see this as weakness or strength? Explain.

b. What does it say to you about times of grief in your own life? See also 1 Thessalonians 4:13–14.