

THE RISE AND FALL OF
DAVID

THE RISE AND FALL OF DAVID

INTRODUCTION

The first two kings of Israel were hand-selected by the Lord. King Saul was chosen (1 Samuel 8-9) based on his outward appearance which was pleasing to the people. The Lord chose the second king of Israel, King David, based on the qualities He looks for in a leader.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Can you think of a time when you had to choose someone for an important task? What factors influenced your decision-making process?

2. According to verse 6, how did the prophet Samuel first perceive Eliab, the oldest son of Jesse? What kingly qualities do you think Samuel saw in Eliab?

3. What does this passage reveal about what God values in a leader? How is His perspective different from that of humanity?

4. In verses 1-3, what can we learn about how God guides the steps of His prophet, Samuel, in this key moment of history? How might this challenge us as we seek to trust and obey the Lord?

5. How does this lesson emphasizing the importance of looking at the heart rather than a person's outward appearance influence the way we view others? The way we view ourselves?

WEEK ONE

DAVID'S CALLING
1 SAMUEL 16:1-13

DAY ONE

1 SAMUEL 16:1-13

DAY TWO

ISAIAH 42:1-9

DAY THREE

JEREMIAH 1:4-10

DAY FOUR

EXODUS 3:1-15

DAY FIVE

1 SAMUEL 3:1-21

DAY SIX

MATTHEW 4:18-22

DAY SEVEN

LUKE 5:27-32



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While Saul was still king, a war broke out between the Israelites and the Philistines. Among the Philistines were some giant men who were also mighty warriors. The greatest of these was an intimidating champion named Goliath who issued a challenge for any Israelite to fight him to determine which army would win the battle.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is your favorite “David vs. Goliath story” where the underdog wins an unexpected victory?
2. How does this passage describe Goliath and his challenge to the Israelites? How did the Israelites, including King Saul, react to Goliath’s challenge?
3. David has three key speaking segments in this story which reveal a great deal about his heart and character. What observations can you share from his conversations with the soldiers (verse 26), King Saul (verses 32-37), and Goliath (verses 45-47)?
4. What can we learn from David’s decisions in choosing his armor and weapons to take into battle (verses 38-40)?
5. How can we apply lessons learned from this passage about courage, faith, and the role of God’s power?

WEEK TWO

DAVID BATTLES GOLIATH

1 SAMUEL 17:1-51

DAY ONE

1 SAMUEL 17:1-51

DAY TWO

JOSHUA 1:1-9

DAY THREE

2 CHRONICLES 20:1-22

DAY FOUR

JUDGES 7:1-25

DAY FIVE

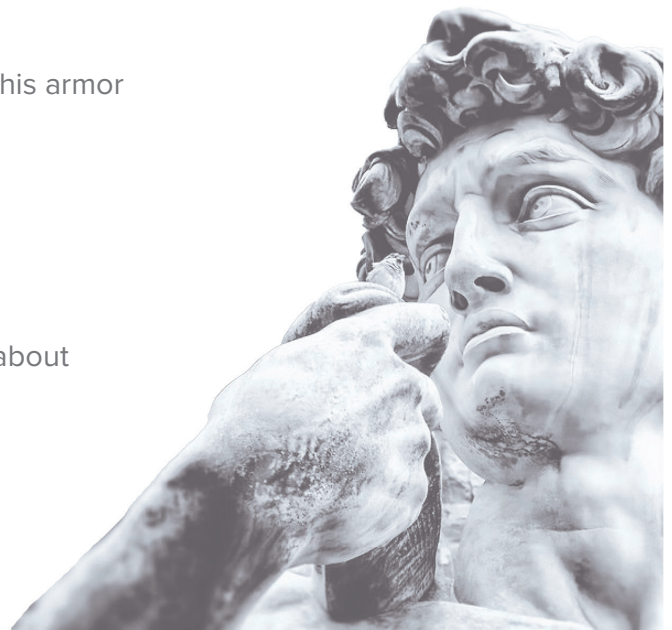
PSALM 34:1-22

DAY SIX

MATTHEW 14:22-33

DAY SEVEN

ROMANS 8:31-39



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INTRODUCTION

For several years, King Saul and his elite soldiers relentlessly pursued David throughout Israel with the intent to end his life. Aware of David's divine anointing as the future king, Saul desired to protect and preserve his claim to the throne. Despite being hunted and repeatedly pressed into hardships, David left judgment and revenge in the hands of God. Even when he had opportunities to settle the score, he showed incredible reverence and restraint.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Think back to when you were growing up. Did you ever have a desire to seek revenge on someone who “wronged” you? How did you handle it and what did you learn from the experience?
2. What were the actions and intentions of David's men in the cave when Saul entered it? What does this reveal about their loyalty toward David and about their trust in God?
3. What were David's specific reasons for not harming Saul? Why is this significant?
4. What was Saul's reaction after David's demonstration of restraint? What does this reveal about Saul and his perception of David?
5. How can forgiveness and grace make a positive impact on your relationships in the midst of conflict? Are there current situations where you can practice restraint?

WEEK THREE

DAVID'S RESTRAINT
CONCERNING SAUL

1 SAMUEL 24:1-20

DAY ONE

1 SAMUEL 24:1-20

DAY TWO

GENESIS 45:1-15

DAY THREE

PSALM 103:1-18

DAY FOUR

PSALM 130:1-8

DAY FIVE

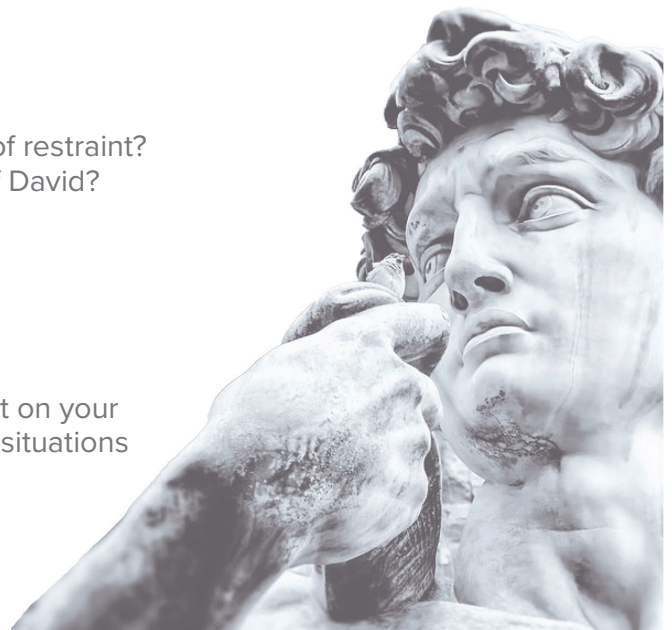
MATTHEW 5:21-26

DAY SIX

LUKE 6:27-38

DAY SEVEN

EPHESIANS 4:29-32



THE RISE AND FALL OF DAVID

INTRODUCTION

The Lord communicated a promise to King David through His prophet, Nathan. In response to David's offer to build the Lord a "house" or temple, David received a promise from God that the Lord was going to establish David's house - meaning that his family line would become a dynasty. Most importantly, one of his descendants would be on the throne forever.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What do you think is the most important passage of scripture in all of the Bible? (You may need to make a top 3 or 5!)
2. Theologian John Woodhouse said: "The words of 2 Samuel chapter 7 have shaped the history of the world and all eternity." Why do you think this passage is considered to be one of the most important in all of the Scriptures?
3. The promise to David has a double fulfillment: one immediate and one eternal. How is the house and line of David immediately fulfilled? How is the house and line eternally fulfilled?
4. What do the following verses have in common?
Matthew 1:1 (first verse of New Testament)
Revelation 22:12-16 (last few verses of the New Testament)
Isaiah 9:6-7 (Christmas prophecy)
Matthew 21:7-10 (Easter narrative)
5. Jesus is the "Son of David" and the eternal King promised in 2 Samuel 7. Is He on the throne of your heart? In what ways can we show our allegiance to King Jesus, the promised Son of David?

WEEK FOUR

DAVID'S BLESSING
2 SAMUEL 7:8-16

DAY ONE

2 SAMUEL 7:8-16

DAY TWO

2 SAMUEL 7:18-29

DAY THREE

PSALM 89:19-37

DAY FOUR

LUKE 1:30-33

DAY FIVE

ISAIAH 9:6-7

DAY SIX

MATTHEW 21:1-11

DAY SEVEN

REVELATION 22:12-16



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As king, David recalled his deep friendship with Jonathan, who died in battle. David committed to honor that friendship with an act of unexpected kindness to a surviving relative of the family of Saul. This unconventional act of grace was extended to a man named Mephibosheth, son of Jonathan, son of Saul, who was lame in both feet.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Can you recall a time when someone unexpectedly extended kindness or generosity to you? How did that make you feel, and what impact did it have on how you treated others?
2. Describe Mephibosheth's condition and circumstances. What specific acts of kindness and provisions did David offer him?
3. What was Mephibosheth's initial response to David's offer? How does his acceptance of the invitation impact his life?
4. How is our relationship with God like David's relationship with Mephibosheth?
5. In your own life, how can you extend kindness and grace to others, even when it may not be expected or deserved?

WEEK FIVE

DAVID'S KINDNESS
TO MEPHIBOSHETH

2 SAMUEL 9:1-13

DAY ONE

2 SAMUEL 9:1-13

DAY TWO

RUTH 2:1-23

DAY THREE

PSALM 136:1-26

DAY FOUR

PSALM 145:13-21

DAY FIVE

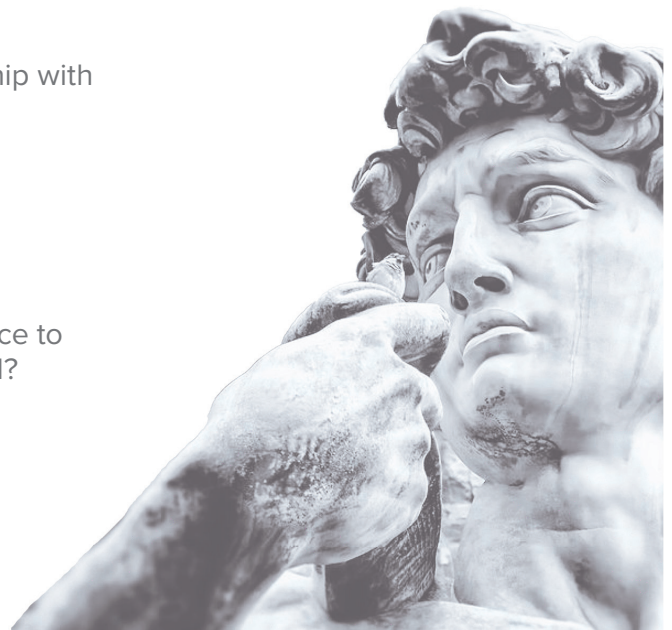
MATTHEW 6:25-34

DAY SIX

LUKE 12:22-34

DAY SEVEN

EPHESIANS 2:1-10



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INTRODUCTION

If David were to have a book written about his life, it might be titled: The Rise and Fall of King David. After a meteoric rise to power, King David made a disastrous decision. He broke the commandments of God and demonstrated the destructive power of sin and temptation.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Many of us have a scar from crashing and burning at some point in our lives. Describe the biggest physical fall you have ever experienced. From a roof? Cliff? Ladder? Down a hill?
2. Not only did David experience a rise in power and fame, he also experienced a great fall. Read verses 11:1-5. How did David fail morally? What contributed to his downfall?
3. Read verses 11:6-24. How did David compound his sin in his attempt to cover it up? How was Uriah used in the story to contrast David's wickedness?
4. David's sin echoes the sin of Adam and Eve in Genesis chapter 3: they saw, they desired, they took. How does this pattern play out in our temptation/sin?
5. How could David have avoided falling into sin? How can we do the same? What is your strategy for resisting temptation?

WEEK SIX

DAVID'S BLATANT SIN
WITH BATHSHEBA

2 SAMUEL 11:1-27

DAY ONE

2 SAMUEL 11:1-27

DAY TWO

GENESIS 3:1-13

DAY THREE

JOSHUA 7:1-2

DAY FOUR

1 JOHN 1:8-10

DAY FIVE

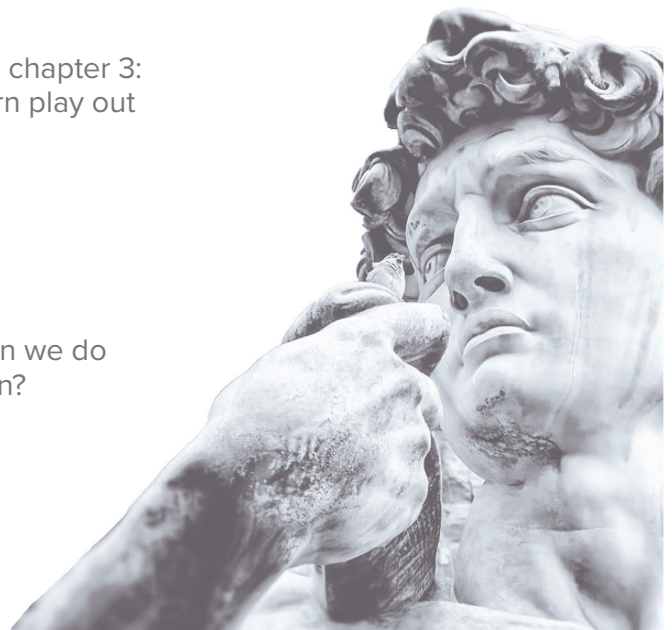
JAMES 1:13-15

DAY SIX

1 CORINTHIANS 10:13

DAY SEVEN

MATTHEW 6:9-13



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The foolishness of King David in his sin is contrasted with the courage of Nathan the prophet. Nathan was the agent of the Lord who dared to speak truth to the king while he was wandering far from God. In response to the words of the prophet, King David proved himself to be a man after God's own heart.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Growing up, did you ever have a “come to Jesus” chat with a mentor, teacher, boss, or coach? What did you learn from this intense encounter?
2. Look at verse 1. Who prompted Nathan to confront the king? What can we learn from this?
3. Read verses 1-6. How did Nathan's story communicate the needed truth to the king?
4. Read verses 7-13. Note the incredible statements that bookend this section. We see both the naming of sin and the acceptance of guilt. How are these critical in repentance?
5. What are some different reactions that David could have offered to Nathan? Why is it important that he reacted the way he did in verse 13? How does this inform Acts 13:22?
6. Read Psalm 51:1-12. Why is it important to have the right attitude in the areas of correction, rebuke, repentance, and confession?

WEEK SEVEN

DAVID'S RESTORATION

2 SAMUEL 12:1-13
PSALM 51

DAY ONE

2 SAMUEL 12:1-13

DAY TWO

PSALM 51

DAY THREE

PSALM 32:1-5

DAY FOUR

COLOSSIANS 1:13-14

DAY FIVE

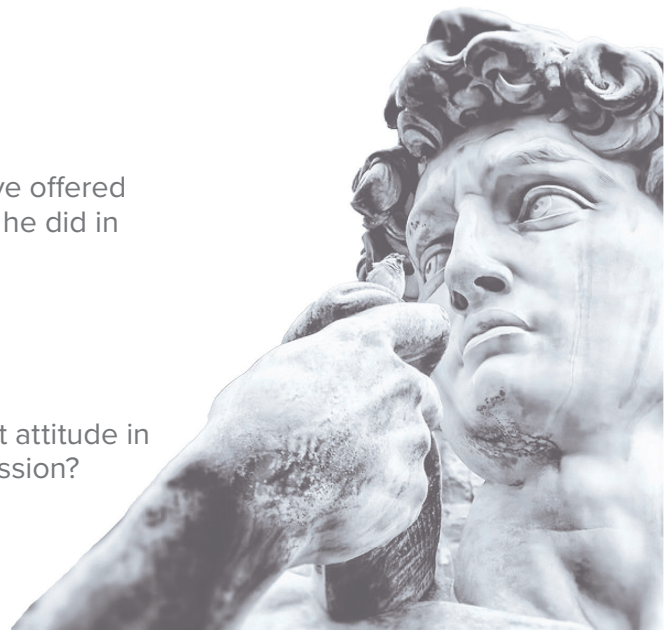
ACTS 13:22

DAY SIX

EPHESIANS 1:3-8

DAY SEVEN

PSALM 103:8-12



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INTRODUCTION

Nearing the end of your life brings an opportunity to reflect on your past and do some soul-searching. This delicate time might also provide room to share your final words. King David spent his final days pondering the blessings of God in his life. He counted his blessings and he shared some of what he learned.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. If you could write your funny “famous last words” what would they be?

Examples:

“They couldn’t hit an elephant at this distance”

John Sedgwick, Union Army General

“Turn me over, I am done on this side”

Lawrence of Rome

“And now a final word from our sponsor”

Charles Gussman, radio announcer

2. Read 2 Samuel 23:1-7. In his last words, what insight into leadership does David offer?

3. Read 1 Kings 2:1-4. While on his deathbed, what advice did David offer his son?

4. How do Psalm 78:72 and Acts 13:22 summarize David’s life?

5. What is your biggest takeaway from the Rise and Fall of David series?

WEEK EIGHT

DAVID’S FINAL WORDS

2 SAMUEL 23:1-7

1 KINGS 2:1-4

PSALM 78:70-72

ACTS 13:22

DAY ONE

2 SAMUEL 23:1-7

DAY TWO

1 KINGS 2:1-4

DAY THREE

ACTS 13:22

DAY FOUR

ECCLESIASTES 12:13-14

DAY FIVE

JOHN 17

DAY SIX

PSALM 23

DAY SEVEN

PSALM 78:70-72

