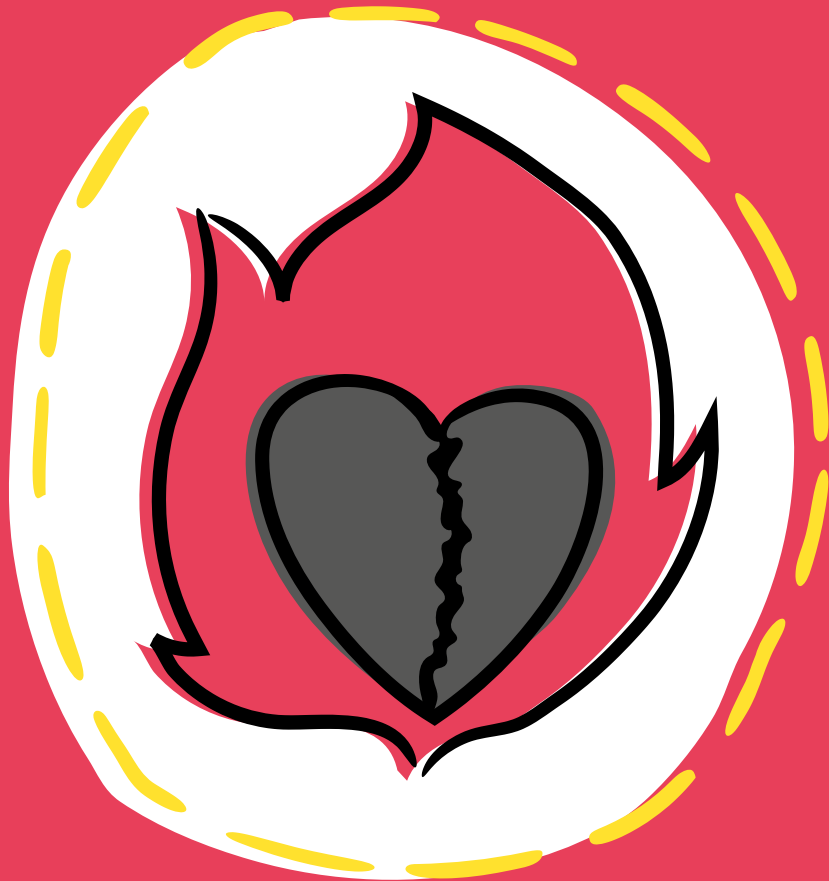


CHOSEN

DEVOTED

FALLEN



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WELCOME

The goal in creating this study guide was to provide comprehensive notes, talk outlines and small group questions to help those who work with young people to teach the Bible well.

TEACHING LIKE JESUS

It's important to remember the example of Jesus as we teach our young people. He spent time building relationships with them, and did not just proclaim the gospel but demonstrated it. Jesus also used scenarios that would have been very familiar to his disciples as metaphors in his teaching (e.g. "The Kingdom is like..." parables in Matthew 13:33, 44, 45, 47, 52, 18:4, 20:1).

Think creatively and plan activities that complement the teaching themes wherever you can. Consider sharing relatable examples from your life or from their experiences to help them understand biblical principles, and try to include interactive elements that help to meet the various learning styles that will be present amongst your young people. Finally, do not underestimate time spent with them simply modelling the lifestyle of a Jesus-follower to them.

BIBLE TRANSLATION

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TEACHING THE BIBLE

Remember the Person at the centre.

"[Christ] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be pre-eminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross." (Colossians 1:15-20)

In our reading of Scripture, we can make the mistake of identifying heroes and villains in the biblical narrative as we read, neglecting the truth that 'all fall short' (Romans 3:23). No human is a true hero - rather, every person is ultimately a villain in desperate need of Christ, who is the hero of every narrative, including our own. In our teaching, it is important to teach our young people to remember that Jesus is the true hero and that the life and actions of every person points to this truth.

Remember the wider narrative.

Nothing happens in a vacuum - by looking at the geography, the timelines and the wider contexts in which a story is taking place we can gain valuable insights that might otherwise be missed. In narrative accounts, explore what events have affected people previously, consider how much time has passed inbetween recorded incidents. Also be aware of cultural differences and priorities that drove the motives of Biblical figures and are very different from our own.

Remember what's unique and what's universal.

“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.” (2 Timothy 3:16-17). We know that the bible in its entirety - from the narrative accounts and poetry to the letters and the law (even the genealogies!) - can teach us. With God's help, it is important to identify which biblical truths were unique to a person or situation and which are universal and can be applied in our own circumstances, so that we can apply the truth accurately and with wisdom.

OUTLINE OF A SESSION

Key Teaching Aim

Every study has a Key Teaching Aim, and the rest of the content centres around this aim. The hope is that by the end of a study session, when the young people recount what they have learned this aim will be mirrored in what they say.

Exploring the Bible

The studies are designed so that young people can become familiar with the Bible. We encourage leaders to make time for young people to look up references and become used to navigating their various books for themselves.

Small Group Questions

A number of questions are included at the end of each study for some more interactive conversation around the themes raised in each study. It might be helpful to separate your youth into similar age groups (if you have a wide spread of ages) in order to discuss topics relevant to their season of life or circumstances. If a particular question seems to raise a lot of discussion, it may be important to not move on too quickly but allow space for young people to process.

Table Charts

Several studies include tables for young people to complete. This is a useful tool to help your young people further examine the themes of a passage and its applications in a more interactive exploration. You may find that completing one all together at the beginning helps young people to familiarise themselves with the process so they feel confident doing it by themselves later on.

INTRODUCTION

UNDERSTANDING GOD'S STORIES

KEY TEACHING AIM

To equip the young people to read and understand the story of David

TEACHING OLD TESTAMENT NARRATIVE

As youth workers, one of our aims must be to equip the young people we serve to read and understand the Bible for themselves. With 70% of the Bible being narrative, it is essential that we put the right tools into their hands so that they can enjoy God's word.

REMEMBER - THE BIG HERO

When teaching Old Testament narrative, it is essential that we do not make humans the hero of the story.

1. Who does David think is the number one hero? Look up 1 Samuel 17:26, 34-37, 45-47

- David's one desire is to bring glory to God by defeating His enemy
- David's confidence to fight is based wholly upon God's mighty character
- God's name (17:45)
- The LORD is the one who delivers (17:46)
- The LORD is the one who saves (17:47)
- The LORD is the one who wins the battle (17:47)
- In the eyes of David there is only ONE hero and that is the LORD Almighty, in whose name he goes

2. What hints does the author give us to make sure we don't make David the hero?

- a. How much success does David have? Look up 1 Samuel 18:5, 30:
 - David's military victories impress all his peers, Saul's soldiers.
 - David's military success are felt and fully known by his enemies.
- b. Why is David so successful? Look up 1 Samuel 18:12, 14, 28:
 - The author wants us to be crystal clear that any success that David has is completely down to the LORD.

REMEMBER - THE BIG STORY

When teaching the story of David we must remember that it fits into the Bible's bigger narrative.

David's Victories

1. What promises had God given to Israel?

- a. How might they help us to understand what is going on in 1 Samuel 17? Look up Genesis 12:3, Deuteronomy 28:1-2,7:
- Right from the time of Abraham God has promised to protect his people.
 - The covenant given to Moses helps us to understand more clearly God's protection of Israel.

2. Who is the only person in 1 Samuel 17 who believes God's promises? Look up 17:11, 25-40, 45-47:

- Sadly David is the only person who believes and acts upon the great promises given by God. As the King, Saul should have lead God's people in defeating Goliath, especially as that was the original mission God had given to him 1 Samuel 9:15-16.

3. Even though David's victory was significant for Israel's history, how long did it last for? Look up 1 Samuel 18:30, 19:8, 30:3-6, 18-19:

- David's life and reign will be full of enemies from both from inside outside of Israel.
- Every time David defeats an enemy another one quickly jumps up to take its place.

4. How is Jesus victory different to that of David? Look up Romans 6:21-23:

- The enemy that Jesus pursues and defeats is the enemy of sin. He sets us free from its slavery so that we can live holy and righteous lives. This blessing is not only for this life, but also most importantly for all eternity.

Hebrews 10:12-14

- The sacrifice of the Lord Jesus is made only once, yet brings an eternal victory.

REMEMBER - WHAT'S UNIQUE AND WHAT'S UNIVERSAL

When teaching the story of David, is it essential to identify what was unique to David as King, and what applies universally to every person.

1. In what way is David unique from each of us? Look up 1 Samuel 16:12-13; 2 Samuel 7:11b-16; Luke 24 25-27:

- David is anointed as God's King and none of us ever will be.
- The promises of covenant Kingship are given to David.
- It is through his physical descendants that the perfect King will come.
- These promises are made as much to us as they are to David, and like him we benefit from their eternal effect.

- The Bible overview that the Lord Jesus gives in Luke 24 reveals David as a suffering messiah. His life points uniquely forward to the perfect Messiah, whose life like David's will be marked by suffering.

2. In what way is David the same as us? Look up Hebrews 11:1-2, 32-34, 39-12; 12:1-3:

- The book of Hebrews teaches us some crucial lessons as to how we are to learn from great Old Testament figures. When we study the life of David, we enter into nearly every human emotion imaginable. We experience this as we read and study both 1&2 Samuel, and the Psalms. From these great stories and poems we can learn how to love and relate to God in every different life experience.

TEACHING THE PSALMS

If we are to understand the life of David, we must read both 1 & 2 Samuel and his Psalms.

What the Psalms do is to take us into the emotional life of David. As we seek to penetrate David's emotions, we quickly find that we are also beginning to understand the emotional life of the Lord Jesus as well. Just as it is important to equip the young people to understand narrative, it is also important to give them the tools to understand the Psalms. The questions below are designed to help.

THREE MOUNTAIN PEAKS

A good way of understanding the Psalms is to see them as three mountain peaks:

Mountain Peak 1 - Reading the Psalms as an Old Testament believer

1. What kind of enemies did David face? Look up 1 Samuel 17:8-11, 19:1-3

- *David faced many enemies who either hated his God like Goliath, or hated him for being God chosen one.*

2. What clues does David give to us that point to the fact that Psalm 23 is describing 1 Samuel 17?

The Valley - 1 Samuel 17:1-40 with Psalm 23:4

The Victory - 1 Samuel 17:41-58 with Psalm 23:4-6

Mountain Peak 2 - Reading the Psalms and seeing how it is fulfilled in Christ

3. How is Jesus the ultimate fulfilment of this Psalm? Look up John 10:7-15

- *Jesus is the good shepherd - 10:7,9, 14*
- *Jesus is the shepherd that saves 10:9*
- *Jesus gives life - 10:10*
- *Jesus lays down his life for his people 10:11,15*
- *Another ways of seeing Jesus as the fulfilment to this Psalms is through his death and resurrection. He enters the place of death (the valley) but then triumphantly rises having defeated his enemy.*

Mountain Peak 3 - Reading the Psalms and seeing how it applies to my life today

4. In the light of David's experience and the perfect fulfilment of Christ, how might you apply this Psalm to yourself today?
 - The Lord Jesus is my shepherd who protects me from the false shepherds and wolves (the enemy) by giving up his life for me. This giving of his life, leads to my eternal salvation.

MAIN THEMES IN THE LIFE OF DAVID

TEACHING 1 & 2 SAMUEL TO YOUNG PEOPLE

When we come to books like 1 & 2 Samuel it can be really hard to know where to begin and therefore how to teach it to young people. My approach is to read through the book asking what the main themes are. Having read through 1 & 2 Samuel the following themes are most prominent. To illustrate this, I have chosen the following stories:

THREE MAIN THEMES OF 1 & 2 SAMUEL

1. THE CHOSEN KING

1. Who acknowledges that David is God's anointed King?

Look up the following passages:

- a. The Lord (1 Samuel 16:1-13)
- b. His enemies Saul and Abner (1 Samuel 24:16-22, 26:25, 2 Samuel 3:9-10, 17-18)
- c. Jonathan, Saul's son (1 Samuel 18:1-4, 23:15-18)
- d. All Israel (2 Samuel 5:1-3)

2. How is Jesus the fulfilment of the messianic pattern that God revealed through David? Look up Luke 24:25-27, 45-48; Psalm 22 and Matthew 27:46.

- ♦ In quoting David's Psalm (22) at the cross, Jesus draws a parallel between his suffering and David's as God's chosen messiahs - David as the saviour of Israel, and Jesus as the ultimate Saviour of all the world.
- ♦ However, in Jesus' time there was no concept of a suffering Messiah in the minds of Israel demonstrated in Luke 24 where Jesus has to guide the disciples back through Scripture to see that suffering was a requirement for the Messiah.

3. How are messianic themes revealed in the life of David?

- a. Suffering - Look up 1 Samuel 24:5-8, 26:11,16,23:
 - ♦ Had David chosen to kill Saul his sufferings may have halted. Instead, he refuses to do this because he knows that Saul is God's anointed. The suffering David faced was severe, yet he remains innocent throughout.
- b. Victory - Look up 1 Samuel 18:5-7, 30
 - ♦ One of the clearest ways we know that David is Israel's saviour is that he never loses in battle. He is the LORD's anointed; therefore victory is always guaranteed.

c. Glory - Look up 1 Samuel 18:5-7, 2 Samuel 5:9-12, 2 Samuel 7:8-11.

- The Lord promises David increasing greatness among the nations for the sake of his chosen people, Israel; and Jerusalem - the City of David - becomes host to the very presence of God when David brings the ark of God there.

4. How does Psalm 2 picture the reign and glory of God's Messiah, his chosen king?

- The nations rebel against the LORD's anointed one (Psalm 2:1-3)
- The LORD's response is laughter and anger (Psalm 2:4-5)
- The LORD reminds the nations of His power, displayed through His Messiah (Psalm 2:6)
- The Messiah will be a son to the LORD (Psalm 2:8)
- The nations belong to the Messiah (Psalm 2:8)
- They will face the LORD's Messiah either as saviour or judge (Psalm 2:8-12)
- There is no refuge from God's Messiah apart from in Him (Psalm 2:12)

2. THE DEVOTED KING

Devoted to the LORD

1. How is David's devotion to the LORD revealed through his relationships with Saul and Jonathan? Look up 1 Samuel 20:13-15, 42; 24:21-22; 2 Samuel 9:3-10:

- New kings would often seek to destroy the families of their predecessor, in case any relatives would seek revenge upon them (1 Kings 15:29, 16:11, 2 Kings 10:17, 2 Kings 11:1)
- David, however, is completely faithful to the covenants he made by the Lord with both Jonathan and Saul to show kindness to their descendants. This is shown when Jonathan's son Mephibosheth is invited to eat at the king's table.

Devoted to God's people

1. How is David's devotion to God's people revealed in his treatment of his soldiers? Look up 1 Samuel 30:9-31:

- He has mercy upon his exhausted soldiers (30:9-10)
- He is generous with the plunder, and stands up to the soldiers who were self-seeking (30:21-24)
- He shares the plunder with all the people of Israel (30:26-31)

3. THE FALLEN KING

One of the lowest moments in David's life was when he committed adultery with Bathsheba and murdered her husband Uriah to try to cover up his sin (2 Samuel 11).

1. What words does Nathan use to describe David's sin? Look up 2 Samuel 12:9-10:

- "You struck down Uriah and stole his wife" (12:9,10)
- Nathan declares that David 'despised' God by doing what was 'evil in his eyes' (12:9). Later in the chapter, he uses the term 'utter contempt' to describe David's heart towards God (12:14).

2. What benefits did David inherit as God's anointed? Look up 2 Samuel 12:7-8:

- God anointed David as king (12:7)
- God delivered David from Saul (12:7)
- God gave David the whole of the Kingdom (12:8)

3. How will David's sin affect his reign? Look up 2 Samuel 12:10-14:

- David will reap what he has sown - the sword will not depart from his family (12:10)
- David will reap what he has sown - his immorality will bring devastating consequences through his family (12:11-12)
- David's 'utter contempt' for God will lead to the death of his baby son (12:14)

4. What natural consequence does David avoid? Look up 2 Samuel 12:13

- David will not die because of his sin, because the LORD takes it away.



STUDY ONE

1 SAMUEL 15 • A REJECTED KING

KEY TEACHING AIM

Saul is the king chosen by the people; therefore his reign ends in tragedy

READ 1 SAMUEL 15

1. WHAT WAS ISRAEL'S MOTIVATION FOR A KING?

Look up 1 Samuel 8:4-8, 19-20, 10:19

- Their desire is to be like the other nations (8:5, 20)
- Their choice has its roots in the rejection of God as their King (8:7, 10:19)

2. DOES GOD GIVE THEM THE KIND OF KING THEY DESIRE?

Look up 1 Samuel 9:1-2

- Clearly yes: physically impressive, looking just like the kind of 'conquering king' Israel wanted

3. WHAT WERE THE THREE UNIQUE IDENTIFIERS OF GOD'S CHOSEN KING FOR ISRAEL?

- a. God's Choice (Samuel 9:1-2, 15-16, 10:1, 24)
 - He was identified and chosen by God from amongst the Israelites
- b. God's Voice (1 Samuel 9:16, 10:1-8)
 - He was obedient to God's prophet
- c. God's People (1 Samuel 9:16, 10:1)
 - He was to remember that Israel belonged to the LORD and not him

4. WHAT DID SAMUEL THE PROPHET COMMAND SAUL TO DO, AND WHY?

What? Look up 1 Samuel 15:1-3, Exodus 17:8-16, Deuteronomy 25:17-19

- To totally destroy the Amalekites

Why? Look up Judges 3:12-14, 6:3-5, 33, 7:12

- From the time of the exodus from Egypt to the present day, the Amalekites had been Israel's fierce enemies (Numbers 14:45, Judges 3:13, 6:3), and by extension, enemies of the LORD (Exodus 17:16).
- Since the judgment was first pronounced in Exodus 17:14, the Amalekites had had four hundred years to repent. Instead, they continued to hound and pursue God's chosen people. Therefore the punishment that God had threatened finally became a reality.

5. HOW ARE WE TO UNDERSTAND THIS PART OF SCRIPTURE TODAY?

Remember - The Big Story

- When reading these stories we must put the story into the context of the big picture, and ask ourselves what difference does the cross and resurrection make?

Remember - What's Unique and What's Universal

- The role of God's Old Testament priests, prophets and kings was to fulfil a unique calling for a specific time of God's salvation plan(e.g. Moses in Exodus 9:15-16, David in 2 Samuel 3:18).
- One of their roles was to be the instrument that God used to bring judgment upon his enemies and justice to his people.
- Through his coming, Christ is the ultimate fulfilment of prophet (Deuteronomy 18:15, Matthew 13:57, Acts 3:22), priest (Hebrews 6:20, 9:11) and king (Matthew 27:11, Revelation 19:11-16).

The Cross (Colossians 2:13-15)

- All of God's enemies have been ultimately defeated through the cross of Christ - both ourselves, who are his enemies by our sin (Romans 5:10); and the spiritual powers and authorities that opposed him (Colossians 2:10).

The Resurrection (Acts 17:31, Romans 12:17-21)

- The resurrection confirms forever that Jesus is God's king and will one day judge all mankind.
- He commands us as followers of Christ to leave all vengeance and judgment to God and seek instead to do only good towards humanity (Luke 6:27, 35).

The Battle (2 Corinthians 10:3-6, Ephesians 6:10-12)

- Our battle for God's people is no longer a physical one, but a spiritual one - the enemies are no longer flesh and blood.

The Warning (1 Thessalonians 5:1-5)

- When we read an Old Testament story like this, we must see it as a small picture and an example of a far greater future reality.

6. HOW DID SAUL'S ACTIONS REVEAL HIS REJECTION OF GOD?

His Pride (1 Samuel 15:12)

- The incident uncovers what is really going on in Saul's heart, as he sets up a monument to himself. This is a million miles away from how Moses' response when he defeated the Amalekites (Exodus 17:15-16).

His Disobedience (1 Samuel 15:3, 8-9, 13-14)

- This is an electric moment in the story, as the noise of the sheep bleating exposes Saul's lie. What is crystal clear is that Saul has chosen to disobey the word of the LORD.

His Excuses (1 Samuel 15:15, 20-21)

- We know by reading the whole story that Saul and his men have spared both the Amalekite king and his best sheep and cattle (15:8-9). Yet when he explains himself, he places the blame upon his men (15:15, 21).

His Fear (1 Samuel 15:24, 30)

- Saul's disobedience is driven by fear and self-love. His fear is seen in his refusal go against what his men desire even though it goes clearly against the prophet's word.
- Secondly, we see his hunger to be honoured before his people, even though he had been disobedient.

7. WHAT IS GOD'S JUDGMENT UPON SAUL? (1 SAMUEL 15:26-29)

- In choosing to reject the word of the LORD, Saul turned his back on the pattern that God had set for every king to follow (Deuteronomy 17:18-19).
- He rejected the prophet and led God's people into disobedience. The Kingdom will therefore be taken away from Saul and given to another. The first king fulfilled the desire of the people, whereas the next king will be God's choice alone.

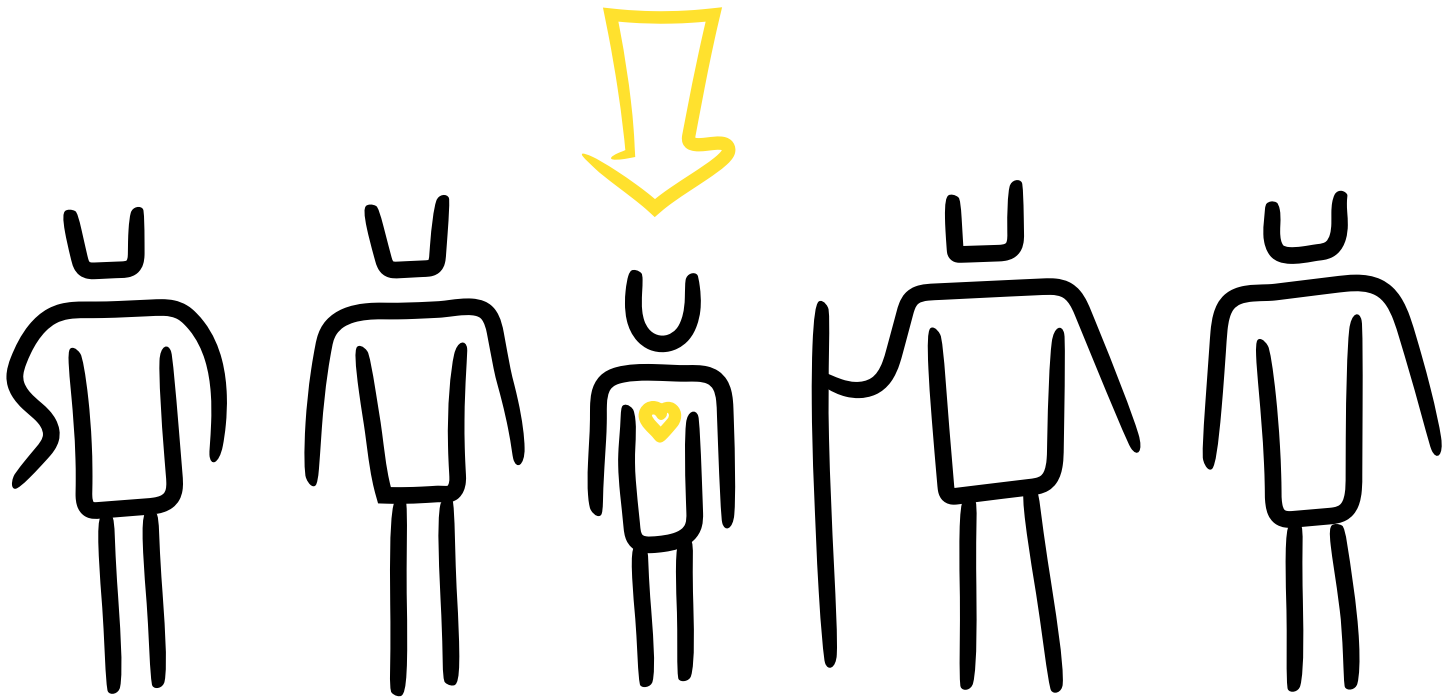
SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

READ PSALM 29 AND FILL IN THE TABLE:

VERSE	HOW IT IS DESCRIBED	WHAT CAN IT ACHIEVE
29:4	<i>Powerful</i>	
29:4	<i>Majestic</i>	
29:5		<i>Break cedars</i>
29:6		<i>Makes country's leap</i>
29:7		<i>Strikes with flashes of lightening</i>
29:8		<i>Shakes deserts</i>
29:9		<i>Twists oaks and strips forests bare</i>

1. Do you think Saul believed the message of this Psalm?
2. What differences would it have made to his choices if he had?
3. Fear of man prevented Saul from obeying God's voice. Can you relate to that fear?
 - ♦ Do you have examples of when this has happened to you? Or when it might happen?
4. When we believe the truth about God's word, what difference will it make to our daily lives? Look up Psalm 29:1, 2, 11.

VERSE	OUR RESPONSE	WHAT WILL THAT LOOK LIKE AT HOME, SCHOOL, ETC?
29:1	<i>Ascribe to the LORD glory and strength</i>	
29:2	<i>Ascribe to the LORD glory due to his name Worship the LORD</i>	
29:11	<i>Accept his strength Enjoy His peace</i>	



STUDY TWO

1 SAMUEL 16 • A CHOSEN KING

KEY TEACHING AIMS

God's choice of David had nothing to do with David's goodness, but was because of God's plan and promises.

As God's people we must learn to read the world through God's plan and promises and not outward appearances.

THREE BIG THINGS TO REMEMBER AS WE TEACH 1 & 2 SAMUEL

1. THE WORD

The best way of understanding Old Testament narrative is to apply these three principles:

- Remember - The Big Hero. *In every story, it is ultimately the LORD.*
- Remember - The Big Story. *Put the small story into the context of the big story of God's salvation plan.*
- Remember - What's Unique and What's Universal. *What truths are unique about David and his role as king, and what truths are universal to us all?*

2. THE THEMES

As we teach 1 & 2 Samuel we will see that every story reflects in some way one or all of these themes:

- Chosen
- Devoted
- Fallen

3. THE KING

There are three guidelines given by God to judge a king by. Look up Deuteronomy 17:14-20:

- **17:15** - The LORD must choose him.
- **17:19** - He must live under the authority of God's word, as spoken through the prophets.
- **17:20** - He must remember that Israel belongs to the LORD and not the King.

As we teach the life of David we must remember this foundation.

READ 1 SAMUEL 16

1. WHAT IS THE MAJOR DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SAUL AND DAVID?

Saul is Israel's choice - not the LORD's

Look up 1 Samuel 8:4-5, 18-22, 12:13, 25, 19, 8:4-5

- Israel's choice of a king is rooted in their rejection of the LORD (8:7)
- The LORD makes this clear to Israel (8:18-22)
- You chose him, you asked for him (12:13)
- The people acknowledge the sin of choosing their own king (12:19)
- Saul is clearly Israel's choice, Samuel tells them he's 'your' king (12:25)

David is the LORD's choice - not the people's

Look up 16:1, 2 Samuel 7:8, 16:1

- He is the LORD's choice and not the people's.
- The LORD makes promises to David because he is God's chosen king (7:8)

2. WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE WAY THAT SAMUEL CHOOSES A KING AND THE LORD'S WAY? LOOK UP 16:6-7

- Even though Samuel is God's prophet, he judges by outward appearance just as Israel did. When Samuel sees Eliab he is impressed with his appearance and height (16:7), just like Israel with Saul's (10:23-24). This will sadly continue, as we shall see in the life of Absalom (2 Samuel 14:25-27).

3. HOW IS GOD'S CHOICE DIFFERENT FROM SAMUEL AND ISRAEL'S? LOOK UP 1 SAMUEL 13:14, 16:7, 2 SAMUEL 7:18-21.

"WHATEVER OUTSTANDING QUALITIES WE MIGHT SEE IN THIS NEW KING ARE CONSEQUENCES OF, NOT THE REASON FOR GOD'S CHOICE OF HIM." - WOODHOUSE¹.

1 Samuel 13:14

- The way that this verse is often taught is that David's heart is one that seeks after God. Yet to start with this is a big mistake - we need to realise that before David sought God, God's heart sought him. If we think God's choice of David is because of his love for God, then the security of his throne is rooted to his obedience. Instead the heart that is mentioned in this verse is God's not David's. Therefore the success of David's rule is dependant upon God's faithfulness to him, and not the other way around.

1 Samuel 16:7

- This verse makes it clear that the choice of David has nothing to do with good looks or moral character (16:12). The main idea is that David, and he alone is God's choice to fulfil his promises. He is not chosen because he has a better heart, but instead because God's heart has chosen him.

2 Samuel 7:18-21

- At the very heart of God's covenant with David is the sovereign plan of God. When David speaks he happily acknowledges that his part in the plan is solely down to God's word and will (2 Samuel 7:21).

2 Samuel 12:7-12, 20

- At the heart of Nathan's rebuke to David is the fact that his reign rests, not upon his own obedience, but upon God's faithfulness (12:20). Psalm 51:4??

4. WHAT KIND OF A WORLD IS CREATED WHEN WE JUDGE PEOPLE BY OUTWARD APPEARANCE?

Our Worth

- Judging reality by outward appearance leads to a culture driven by fear. The standards by which you are called to live by are set by the media, peer group, or even your own heart. This will often lead to a culture driven by fear, as we constantly worry about what others think. The people around us become the ones who set the standards, the ones that we are answerable to. This will often result in judging and being judged by the clothes we wear, the exam results we achieve, or the figure you have. Fulfilling other people's standards will lead to pride if we succeed, or despair if we fail.

Our Walk

- The Lord Jesus warns against living by the world's standards in the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 6:25-34). If we imitate the world, then our Christian lives will lurch between puffed up pride and crushing failure.

¹2 Samuel: Your Kingdom Come by John Woodhouse

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

1. IF YOU READ THE WORLD THROUGH THE EYES OF GOD'S PLAN WHAT DIFFERENCE WOULD IT MAKE TO YOUR DAY TO DAY LIFE?

Look up Ephesians 1:3-19 and fill in the boxes below.

WHAT IS TRUE OF GOD	WHAT GOD HAS DONE FOR ME	WHAT EFFECT SHOULD THAT HAVE?
<i>The Father who adopts (1:3,5)</i>	<i>Blessed us with every spiritual blessing in Christ (1:3, 11)</i>	<i>We know that we have all we need for life.</i>
<i>God is sovereign (1:4,10,11)</i>	<i>Chosen us before the creation of the world (1:4)</i>	<i>Holiness (1:4)</i>
<i>God is loving (1:4)</i>	<i>Adopted us as his son or daughter (1:5)</i>	<i>We are the most secure people in the universe.</i>
<i>God is gracious (1:6)</i>	<i>Freely given us his grace (1:6)</i>	<i>We are the most secure people in the universe</i>
<i>God redeems & forgives (1:7)</i>	<i>Redeemed and forgiven us sins (1:7)</i>	<i>Life free of guilt</i>
	<i>His grace is lavished upon us (1:8)</i>	
	<i>He made known to us the mystery of his salvation 1:9</i>	<i>Most blessed people in the universe</i>
	<i>Given the promised Holy Spirit (1:13)</i>	<i>We are to live for the praise of His glory (1:12,13)</i>

2. EVEN THE PROPHET SAMUEL GOT IT WRONG, BECAUSE HE JUDGED REALITY BY THE EYE (WHAT WE COULD SEE) INSTEAD OF BY EAR (WHO HE COULD HEAR). LOOK UP GENESIS 3:17.

- How does Satan get Adam and Eve to judge reality? By eye or by ear?

3. HOW ARE YOU TEMPTED TO JUDGE REALITY BY EYE? WHAT EFFECT DOES THAT HAVE ON YOU?

4. HOW WOULD YOU ACT DIFFERENTLY IN THOSE SITUATIONS, IF YOU WERE JUDGING BY EAR - WHAT GOD HAS SAID?



STUDY THREE

1 SAMUEL 17 • A VICTORIOUS KING

KEY TEACHING AIMS

People always judge God's Messiah's by outward appearance.
God's Anointed looks weak, but defeats God's enemies.

INTRODUCTION

With Saul having been rejected by God, Samuel now has the role of anointing the new king. This event introduces us to the major theme that will dominate today's story: that even Samuel, when choosing a king, judged reality by what he saw (1 Samuel 16:7) being impressed with Eliab over God's chosen king.

Today we have another brilliant example of how Israel again judges reality by 'outward appearance' instead of by God's plan and promises.

READ 1 SAMUEL 17

1. WHAT INFORMATION DOES THE WRITER GIVE US ABOUT GOLIATH'S OUTWARD APPEARANCE? LOOK UP 1 SAMUEL 17:4-7.

- He is the Philistines' champion (17:4).
- He is a giant, standing at 9 feet 6 inches (17:4).
- His helmet is made of bronze (17:5)
- His scale armour weighs 9 stone (17:5)
- He wears bronze greaves with a bronze javelin on his back (17:6)
- His spear was 26 feet (7.9 metres) long (17:7)
- The spears tip weighs 17 pounds, which is over a stone in weight (17:7)
- He has a separate person to protect him; a shield bearer (17:7)

Why do you think the writer describes Goliath in this much detail?

- Everything about him is impressive. If Samuel was impressed with Eliab, how much more by Goliath?
- The way that his armour is described, the material and size are all given to remind us of his 'outward appearance'.

2. WHAT IS GOLIATH'S MESSAGE TO ISRAEL? LOOK UP 1 SAMUEL 17:8-11,25:

- He reminds them that he is a Philistine and they are servants of Saul (17:8)
- He sets the challenge (17:8,10)
- He decides what is at stake (17:9)
- He defies the armies, therefore the God of Israel (17:10)
- His message fits perfectly with his 'outward appearance'. Both are uncompromising, and threaten Israel's whole future existence.

3. WHAT IS SAUL AND ISRAEL'S RESPONSE TO GOLIATH? LOOK UP 17:11:

- They are dismayed and terrified.

4. CONSIDERING THAT SAUL WAS ISRAEL'S KING, HOW DO YOU THINK HE SHOULD HAVE RESPONDED TO GOLIATH'S CHALLENGE? LOOK UP 1 SAMUEL 9:15-16, 2 SAMUEL 17:24:

- The purpose of Saul's calling was to deliver Israel from the rule and tyranny of the Philistines. Therefore his response to Goliath should have been to believe the plan and promises of God, thus protecting and delivering his terrified people.

5. HOW DID ISRAEL RESPOND TO GOD'S ANOINTED ONE?

Think back to last week (1 Samuel 16:7)

Eliab - Look up 17:20-28

- He burns with anger (17:28)
- He asks him why he is there (17:28)
- He reminds him that his true place is among sheep (17:28)
- He accuses him of having motives that are full of conceit and evil (17:28)

- He accuses him of being merely interested in watching the battle (17:28)
- The brother doubts everything about David, his ability to fight and his reasons for being there

Saul – Look up 17:31-40

- He sends for David (17:31)
- He sees him as weak (17:33)
- Happy for David to face the enemy (17:37)
- He tries to give him an impressive 'outward appearance' (17:38-40)

Israel's rejection of David is tied to his outward appearance not being impressive enough. He is considered too young, inexperienced and with evil motives. The present king had both the mandate from God (1 Samuel 9:15), and the impressive outward appearance to face the enemy (1 Samuel 9:1). Sadly none of this led to his people being delivered (17:11,24).

6. HOW DOES GOLIATH RESPOND TO GOD'S ANOINTED ONE? LOOK UP 17:45-47.

- Despises his weak appearance (17:42)
- Curses David in the name of his Philistine gods (17:43)
- Promises to feed David to the birds (17:44)

7. WHAT ARE THE SIMILARITIES TO HOW PEOPLE VIEWED DAVID AND HOW PEOPLE VIEWED JESUS?

Isaiah 52:13-15: Isaiah describes the suffering servant, Jesus. His appearance is so disfigured that people hide their face from him.

Isaiah 53:2: In fact there is nothing in his physical appearance that would attract us to him.

Mark 6:1-3: Just as David is rejected, so is Jesus.

Luke 5:27-31, 7:33-35: Jesus is rejected because of his motives and behaviour.

Luke 23:35: A weak and crucified Messiah is only worthy of mockery.

1 Corinthians 1:21-25: The message of a crucified Messiah is rejected by the world because it is not outwardly impressive, either to the ear or eye (1:22).

The link to Jesus is crucial. Just as David the Messiah comes to deliver Israel, so Jesus the Messiah comes to deliver the whole world. As with David, so with Jesus, both are rejected for being weak and unimpressive.

8. HOW DOES DAVID REVEAL HIS TRUST IN GOD PLAN AND PROMISES? LOOK UP 1 SAMUEL 17:26, 34-37, 45-48.

His Message to Israel

- “Goliath is an offence to the armies of the living God” (17:26)
- He wants the disgrace dealt with (17:36)

His Message To Saul

- “Don’t lose heart, your servant will fight him” (17:32)
- “The One who delivered me from the lion and bear is the same One who will rescue me from the hand of the Philistine” (17:34-37)

His Message To Goliath

- “I come against you in the name of the LORD God Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel” (17:45)
- “The LORD will deliver you into my hands” (17:46)
- The reason he will do this is to show the whole world he alone is God (17:46)
- Everyone will know that the LORD won the victory (17:47)
- The LORD’s Anointed needs no sword (17:47)

The obvious difference between David and those who reject him is that he trusts in the plan and promises of God and they don’t. All that Saul, Israel and Goliath can see is the outward appearance, whereas David the LORD’s anointed judges all reality by God’s plan and promises.

9. HOW DOES DAVID’S VICTORY POINT FORWARD TO JESUS VICTORY AT THE CROSS? LOOK UP 1 SAMUEL 17:50-54, COLOSSIANS 2:13-15.

- Like the Israelites we are in a desperate position (Colossians 2:13)
- The weak Messiah comes and saves us through the power of the cross (Colossians 2:13-14)
- Like Goliath the enemy is utterly defeated and made a public spectacle (1 Samuel 17, Colossians 2:15)

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

GROUP ONE

1. LOOK THOUGH THE MAGAZINES YOU HAVE AND ASK: HOW ARE THEY TEACHING ME TO JUDGE REALITY?
2. IN WHAT WAY DID SAMUEL, ELIAB AND SAUL FACE THE SAME TEMPTATION AS YOU CONCERNING JUDGING REALITY?
3. HOW DID DAVID AND THE LORD JESUS JUDGE REALITY?

Look up - 1 Samuel 17:34-37

DAVID'S PROBLEM	DAVID'S ACTION	DAVID'S REALITY
<i>17:34 = Lion and bear attacking sheep</i>	<i>17:35 = Attacked the enemy and rescued the sheep.</i>	<i>17:37 - The LORD delivered David from the bear and lion. The LORD will rescue him from the Philistine</i>

Look up Matthew 4:1-11

JESUS' PROBLEM	JESUS' ACTION	JESUS' REALITY
<i>4:1 = Tempted by the devil</i>	<i>4:2 = He fasts</i>	
<i>4:2 = Jesus is hungry</i>		
<i>4:2 = The tempter comes when he is hungry</i>		
<i>4:3 = Tempted</i>	<i>4:3 = Answers with God's word</i>	<i>4:3 = Judges reality not by physical hunger but by God's word</i>
<i>4:5-6 = Tempted to judge reality by performing a miracle</i>	<i>4:7 = Answers with God's word</i>	<i>4:7 = Judges reality not by the physical world, but by the unseen God.</i>
<i>4:8-9 = Tempted to judge reality by the seen physical world</i>	<i>4:10 = Answers with God's word</i>	<i>4:10 - Refuses to give his worship to the seen and instead gives it to the unseen God.</i>

4. HERE DAVID SHOWS US HOW TO JUDGE REALITY WHAT BY WHAT GOD HAS MADE AND WHAT GOD HAS SAID:

Creation

PSALM 19:1-6	THE REALITY
19:1	<i>They declare God's glory</i>
19:1	<i>It declares the work of his hands</i>
19:3-4	<i>It speaks of God to the whole of creation</i>
19:4	<i>The sun is like champion giving warmth to all</i>

God's Word

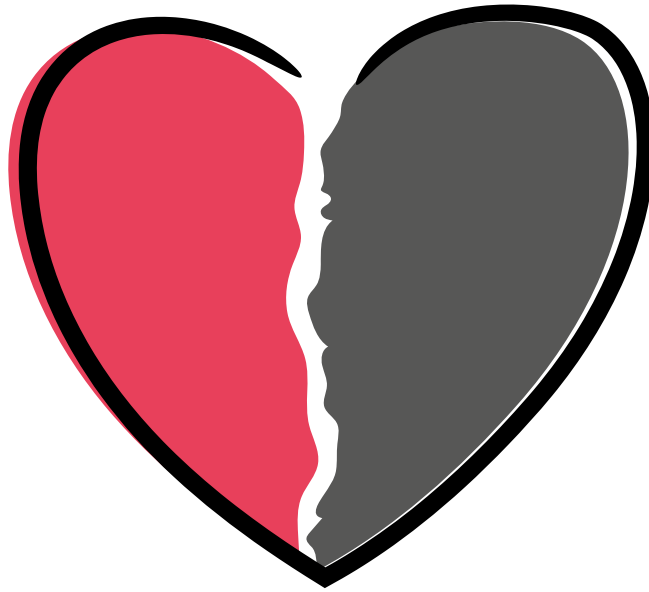
PSALM 19:7-14	GOD'S WORD IS	WHAT HAPPENS TO YOU
19:7	<i>Perfect</i>	<i>Refreshes the soul</i>
19:7	<i>Trustworthy</i>	<i>Make wise the simple</i>
19:8	<i>It is right</i>	<i>Gives joy to the heart</i>
19:8	<i>Commands are radiant</i>	<i>Gives light to the eyes</i>
19:9	<i>Firm & righteous</i>	
19:10	<i>More precious than pure gold</i>	
19:10	<i>Sweeter than honey</i>	
19:11		<i>Warned</i>
19:11		<i>When you keep them there is great reward</i>
19:13		<i>Keeps you from sins</i>

5. What will help you to judge reality (your life) by God's word?

- Read it as much as you can.
- If you have Christian parents, talk to them about what it says.
- If you have a good youth group, chat to the youth leader about God and his word.
- Learn to judge what brings God joy in his world and what does not.

GROUP TWO

- 1. WOULD YOU SAY THAT YOU LEAN TOWARDS JUDGING REALITY BY 'OUTWARD APPEARANCES'? HOW DOES THAT REVEAL ITSELF IN DAILY LIFE?**
- 2. WHAT SITUATIONS DO YOU FACE THAT MAKE IT DIFFICULT FOR YOU TO TRUST IN GOD PLAN AND PROMISES?**
- 3. HOW DOES THE EXAMPLE OF DAVID HELP YOU TO TRUST IN GOD'S PLAN AND PROMISES INSTEAD OF WHAT YOU CAN SEE, AND FEEL?**
- 4. IF YOU READ PSALM 142 TWICE A DAY NEXT WEEK WOULD IT HELP YOU TRUST GOD'S PLAN AND PROMISES MORE THAN WHAT YOU CAN SEE AND TOUCH?**



STUDY FOUR

1 SAMUEL 18 • LOVED OR LOATHED

KEY TEACHING AIMS

There are two responses to God's anointed: love or fear.

Loving God's anointed is rooted in understanding who he is and what he has done for you.

If we love him then we will give our whole lives to him.

If we fear him then we will oppose him and reject the salvation he brings.

THE STORY SO FAR

INTRODUCTION

So far in the life of David we have seen three major truths:

1. The People's King Is Rejected (1 Samuel 15)

Israel's reason for choosing a king was rooted in rejection of God (8:5-11). Their king failed in two fundamental areas:

1. He refused to obey the word of God's prophet (15:26)
2. He treated Israel as if they belonged to him and not the LORD (15: 7-9, 15, 21)

His reign ended in ruin as the LORD rejected Saul (15:28-29)

3. The LORD's King Is Chosen (1 Samuel 16)

- All people (even Samuel, God's prophet) judge reality by outward appearance (16:7)
- The LORD judges reality by His plans and purposes (16:7)
- The person who the LORD has chosen to fulfil his plans and purposes is David (16:12-13)

4. The LORD's King Triumphs (1 Samuel 17)

- The theme of outward appearance continues as Eliab, Saul and finally Goliath all judge David by appearance instead of God's plans and promises
- The LORDS anointed refuses to do that, and instead judges reality by God's plans and purposes – (17:26, 34-37, 45-47)
- The story today takes us into Saul's palace. The author will give us a birds eye view of what Saul, his family, and the whole of Israel make of the young victor. As we peer through the palace window and watch the story unfold, we will see God's anointed both loved and loathed.

READ 1 SAMUEL 18

1. WHEN A YOUNG PERSON HEARS THE WORD 'LOVE' WHAT KIND OF IMAGE COMES INTO THEIR MINDS?

I love my parents

- This will be real and grounded hopefully upon past and present good relationships.

I love my

- Totally different from the love of a parent, this is usually directed towards things such as my play-station, my country, my football club, my favourite band, etc.

Emotion

- A young person's idea of love will often be moulded and controlled by the culture they live in. When they think of love it may be merely a feeling or emotion. It may come and go as a person falls both in love and then out of love again.

2. WHEN A YOUNG PERSON HEARS A PHRASE SUCH LIKE 'I LOVE JESUS', WHAT KIND OF AN IMAGE DO YOU THINK COMES INTO THEIR MIND?

- Our young people will probably be confused when thinking of a phrase like this. They may have a concept of love which is a cocktail of Bible, their own culture, spiced with a Christian subculture. Therefore when they think of 'loving Jesus' it may resemble only emotion, or loving their favourite football team or music star. If we fail to understand how our young people think about love, we will probably be firing blanks' when we teach them. What we say, and what they hear, can be two different things.

3. WHO LOVES DAVID IN 1 SAMUEL 18?

Look up 18:1-3: Twice in four verses we are told that Jonathan loved David

Look up 18:12-16,22: David is loved by all of Judah and Israel

Look up 18:20, 28: Saul's daughter Michal loves David

4. WHY DOES JONATHAN LOVE DAVID AND HOW IS IT EXPRESSED? LOOK UP 1 SAMUEL 18:1-3, 19:4-6

- The depth of this event cannot be overstated, as it is the very heart of this chapter. What we have here is a meeting of the crown prince and the LORD's anointed.

His 'CV'

- Before David arrived onto the scene Jonathan was one of Israel's greatest warriors, and loved by all the people (14:45). He is Saul's son, therefore the future king.
- It is with this background that we must approach this amazing event. The great warrior Jonathan is both older and more experienced than the young shepherd boy. Yet Jonathan - far from seeing David as a rival - sees him as a brother and his future king.
- People judging David by merely outward appearance have dominated the previous two chapters; yet here at last we finally meet someone who sees David as God's anointed.

His Head (19:1-6)

The next chapter gives us insight into exactly how Jonathan viewed David's victory over Goliath, and why he sees him now as God's anointed.

- His defeat of Goliath benefited Saul, and made him glad (19:4,5)
- David was ready to sacrifice his life (19:5)
- David is God's appointed saviour to deliver Israel (19:5)
- David is innocent of any wrong (19:5)

His Heart (18:1-4)

Having understood with his head that David is God's anointed, his heart quickly follows. The words in the original language have the idea of 'knit together'. The love, sacrifice and bravery of David leads Jonathan to not only recognize his kingship, but love him for it. The heart of Jonathan has been totally won by the LORD's anointed, and therefore will trump any love that seeks to rival it, even that of his own father.

His Hands (18:1-4)

The hands of Jonathan reveal perfectly what is going on in his heart. He takes off his royal robe and tunic and gives it to David, along with his sword and bow. The point being made is crucial: "You are king, and I am your humble subject".

5. HOW MIGHT JONATHAN'S LOVE FOR DAVID HELP US TO UNDERSTAND HOW WE LOVE JESUS TODAY? LOOK UP ROMANS 5:6-8, 12:1-2

Our Heads

Like Jonathan we recognize with our heads that Jesus is God's anointed, who delivers us from our powerless position (5:6, 8).

Our Hearts

The deep love of Christ, shown through his death and sacrifice wins our hearts (12:1).

Our Hands

With our hearts won, we are ready to give every area of our lives over to the Kingship of Jesus. This means rejecting anything that would compromise and challenge his Kingship and our love for him.

6. WHY DO THE PEOPLE LOVE DAVID AND HOW IS IT EXPRESSED? LOOK UP 18:14-16, 6-7.

- The reason that the people love David is exactly the same reason that Jonathan does. He is the one that saved them from slavery and possible annihilation. They were full of fear and dismay (17:11), but David believed God's promises and delivered them (17:50).
- The response of the people is an explosion of praise for the one who saved them. There is no holding back, but instead joyful song accompanied by tambourines and lyres.

7. WHY DAVID IS SO SUCCESSFUL? LOOK UP 1 SAMUEL 18:5, 12, 14, 15-16, 28, 30.

The success of David is down to the LORD's presence.

8. WHAT IS SAUL'S RESPONSE TO DAVID'S VICTORY AND THE PEOPLE'S PRAISE, AND THE LORD'S PRESENCE?

- Saul's first response is to promote and use David's skills for his and Israel's good (18:5)
- When the people praise both Saul and David his anger is aroused. This may be the point that he first realises that David is a major threat to his authority as king (18:8-9)
- From now on Saul sees David as a potential threat, therefore watches him closely (18:9)

Three times we are told that Saul is afraid of David:

1. When he sees that the Spirit of God has departed from him, and now resides in David (18:12,29)
2. When he sees how successful David is (18:15)
3. When he realises that his daughter loves David (18:29)

4. WHAT DOES THAT FEAR LEAD TOO? LOOK UP 18:10-11,17,20-25

- He tries to kill David with his spear (18:10-11)
- He is ready to use both his daughters as pawns so as to get David murdered by the Philistines, (18:17, 18:20-25).

5. WHAT IS THE RESULT OF SAUL'S PLOTS? LOOK UP 18:27, 29-30

- David becomes a member of the royal family (18:27)
- David is Saul's primary enemy until the day he dies (18:29)
- David fame and popularity increases (18:30)

6. HOW DOES ISRAEL'S LOVE FOR DAVID, AND SAUL'S FEAR OF HIM, POINT FORWARD TO JESUS? LOOK UP JOHN 7:43-44, 9:16, 10:19, MATTHEW 10:35, ACTS 2:26, 4:18, PHILIPPIANS 2:5-11.

What we have here is a cameo of all that will take place when God's son comes to earth. When people understand that he is God's anointed they will be divided. Some will choose to repent and give their whole lives to him, while others will be threatened and oppose who he is, and the salvation that he brings. As with David so with Jesus, suffering leads to glory and praise.

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

- 1. WHAT THOUGHT COMES INTO YOUR MIND WHEN YOU HEAR A PHRASE LIKE 'LOVING JESUS'?**
- 2. HOW DOES IT COMPARE WITH JONATHAN'S LOVE FOR DAVID?**
- 3. CAN YOU IMAGINE YOURSELF REACTING TO JESUS AND HIS SALVATION LIKE SAUL REACTED TO DAVID? WHY OR WHY NOT?**
- 4. WHAT WOULD IT LOOK LIKE FOR YOU TO LOVE JESUS LIKE JONATHAN LOVES DAVID? AT HOME? SCHOOL? YOUR SPORTS CLUB?**

PAUSE

1 SAMUEL 20 • OVERVIEW

KEY TEACHING AIMS

If we are to learn how to love Jesus, we must spend time looking at how Jonathan loved David.

Jonathan teaches us what it costs to follow God's anointed.

INTRODUCTION

In Session Three, we saw two responses to David: one of love and the other of loathing. When we looked at Saul we saw a deep and developing hatred towards David. Yet when we looked at Michal, Judah, Israel, and especially Jonathan, we saw a developing love and deep affection. Today, this love and hatred becomes even more concentrated as we see it worked out in the royal household between father and son: Saul and Jonathan.

READ 1 SAMUEL 20

1. WHY WAS IT POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS FOR DAVID TO FLEE TO JONATHAN?

Saul's Rage

The previous chapter opened the door to David's life as a fugitive. Twice Saul had tried to spear David to death, which led him to flee (18:10-11, 19:9-10). The thought of going anywhere near that area and household was life threatening.

Saul's Plots

Three times Saul plots for the Philistines to do the dirty work of killing innocent David. The thought of using his two daughters as pawns in the plot seems to be absolutely no problem to him (18:17, 20-21, 25)

Saul's Lies

When faced with the plea from his son Jonathan, Saul promises to never kill David (19:6.) Yet within a few verses Saul is seeking to pin David to the wall with a spear (19:9-10), and then twice sending his men to murder him (19:11-13, 19:18-20).

Saul's Relationship

The fact that Jonathan is David's son dominates the whole chapter. Twice we are told that Jonathan is Saul's son (20:27, 30), and an amazing twelve times that Saul is Jonathan's father (20:1, 2, 3, 6, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 32, 33, 34). Everything that happens in David and Jonathan's relationship must be seen and understood alongside this reality.

- David's relationship with Saul is at an all time low. Why then would he flee back to Saul's arena, even if Jonathan was there?

2. WHAT ATTRACTED DAVID TO JONATHAN? LOOK UP 18:1-4, 19:1-6

What is abundantly clear is that David totally trusts Jonathan. Not only has the author told us of Jonathan's love for David (18:1; 19:1), but also how it was expressed. He makes a covenant with David (18:3), and acknowledged that David would one day rule Israel (18:4). This love will lead to him being ready to give his life for David (20:32-33).

So here is the backdrop to 1 Samuel 20. The royal household is dangerously divided. The King wants the young upstart dead, yet Jonathan looks to the day when David will reign.

3. WHAT DOES DAVID FEAR, AND HOW IS IT EXPRESSED? LOOK UP 20:1-10

David's fears are expressed in the questions that he asks. He knows that he is innocent, yet fears Saul still hungers to murder him (20:1). He also fears that his relationship with Jonathan is known by Saul (20:3-4).

4. HOW DOES JONATHAN RESPOND TO WHAT HE SEES AND FEARS? LOOK UP 20:4,12-23

What Jonathan Sees and Fears

- What Jonathan says in 20:13 reveals to us his complete confidence that David will one day be king of Israel. "May the LORD be with you as he was with my father" = "When you are king may the LORD be with you".
- In the story David is the one who is quivering with fear. He is the one being hounded by King Saul, and seems to have only one ally. Yet what does the powerful Jonathan fear? His fear is bound up totally with the future (20:14-15). Why?
- The great warrior Jonathan knows that one day, David will be God's great and powerful king. When that happens David will have no enemies, for all of them will be defeated (20:14-15).
- Jonathan's greatest fear is that he will be one of David's enemies (20:14-15)
- Again Jonathan refuses to read reality like everyone else. Everyone else would see a fearful fugitive, weak and terrified for his life. The son of Saul sees God's Anointed, who will one day rule Israel, victorious over all his enemies. He judges reality by God's plans and promises, not by outward appearance (1 Samuel 16:7).

How Jonathan Responds

- a. He asks for David to show him 'kindness' which = 'covenant love' which = 'deep loyal committed 100% love' (20:14-17)
- b. He will do anything for him (20:4)

- c. He promises to sound out his father (20:12)
- d. He promises to tell David what his fathers attitude is (20:12)
- e. He uses his power and influence to plan David's escape (20:18-23)

5. HOW CAN WE LEARN FROM JONATHAN'S FEAR TODAY? LOOK UP LUKE 12:1-12.

Jesus teaches us NOT to fear:

- ♦ Those who can kill you, the 'Sauls' of this world (12:4)

Jesus teaches us TO fear:

- ♦ Fear the one who decides your eternal destiny (12:5)
- ♦ Fear the one who knows all about you (12:2-3,6-7)
- ♦ Fear the one who loves you intimately (12:6-7)
- ♦ Fear being disowned by Jesus (12:8-10)

6. WHAT DOES JONATHAN'S LOYAL LOVE COST HIM? LOOK UP 1 SAMUEL 20:24-34

- ♦ The cost of recognizing who David is, and then responding in love and devotion leads to his Father hating and despising him. The son of Saul now experiences the same anger, hand, and spear that David endured.
- ♦ The key phrase is found in 20:30: "Do I not know that you have chosen the son of Jesse to your own shame?"
- ♦ It was the people who chose Saul.
- ♦ It was the LORD who chose David.
- ♦ And now the son of Saul is 'choosing' David over his father.

7. HOW CAN WE LEARN FROM JONATHAN'S DEVOTED LOVE TOWARDS DAVID? LOOK UP JOHN 15:20-21, LUKE 14:25-27

John 15:20-21:

- ♦ The reason Saul seeks to kill his own son is because Jonathan chose to be loyal to David instead of him. When we follow in Jonathan's footsteps, and choose loyalty to Jesus over other loyalties, the world will often hate us.

Luke 14:25-27:

- ♦ Even though Jonathan lived so many years before Jesus, the shadow of the cross and the sacrifices it demands dominates his life.

8. WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF JONATHAN GIVING THE BOY HIS WEAPONS? LOOK UP 20:35-42

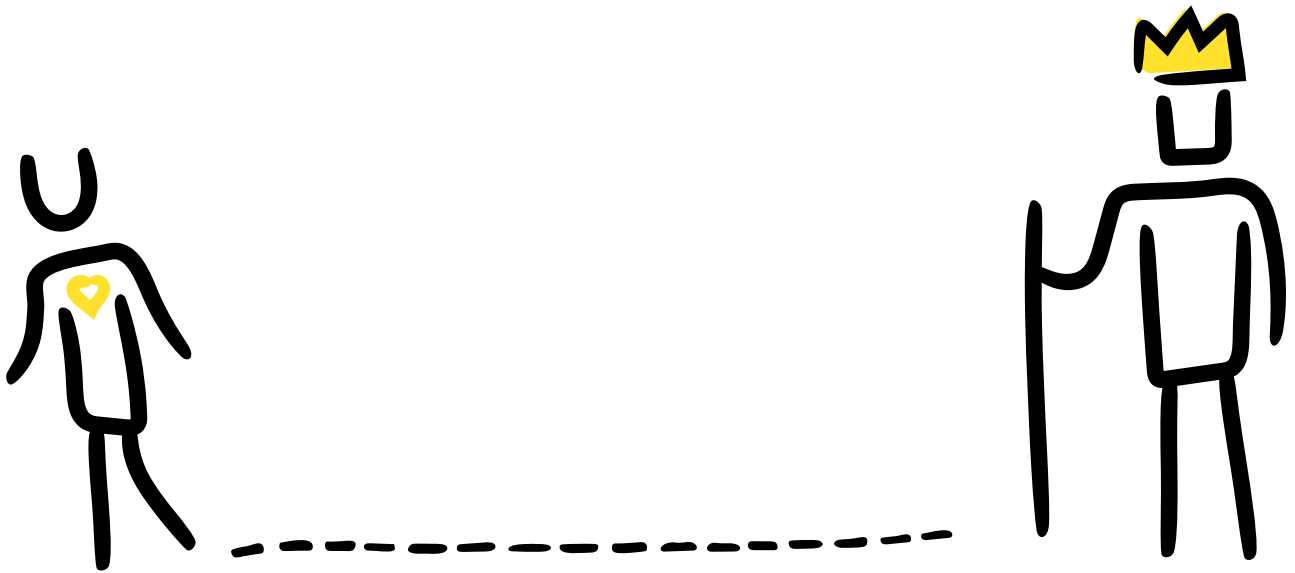
- ♦ The weapons that he lays down are the weapons he needs to survive in the world. When he meets his future king, his weapons of war - weapons of the world - are not needed. Before his loving king he is completely secure, safe and at rest, therefore he can leave them with the boy.

9. HOW CAN WE LEARN FROM JONATHAN?

- Every person has weapons of survival. For some of us it will be humour, intelligence, background, and wealth. For others it may be looks, sporting prowess, and a powerful personality. None of these things are necessarily wrong, for they can help us to survive in a hostile world.
- The wonderful thing about our great King is that none of these things impress him. If we have put our trust in his Kingship, then we are his children and belong to his Kingdom. Therefore when we approach him, we can lay down our weapons, knowing we are loved with kindness, which = 'covenant love' which = 'deep loyal committed 100% love'.
- The loyal love of Christ must so control us that the weapons of survival become less and less important and controlling. This will leave us with a confidence in the world that will be both deeply attractive and also highly offensive. We will be like salt, light and a city on a hill, leading to either praise or persecution (Matthew 5:13-16)

10. HOW DOES PSALM 2 HELP US TO UNDERSTAND THE FINAL SCENE BETWEEN JONATHAN AND DAVID? LOOK UP 1 SAMUEL 20:41-42, PSALM 2:10-12

The kiss of Jonathan is the reverence that a subject shows to the king. His love for the king is complete. He has shown a readiness to live and die for his king. Now he bows as his submissive servant.



STUDY FIVE

1 SAMUEL 20 • LEAVING SAUL

KEY TEACHING AIMS

To show why God's anointed is hated.

To show that those who align themselves with God's anointed will be hated as well.

INTRODUCTION

- In Study Four we saw two key responses to David: one of love and the other of loathing. When we looked at Saul we saw a deep developing hatred towards David. Yet when we looked at Michal, Judah, the whole of Israel, and especially Jonathan we see a developing love and deep affection. Today this love and hatred becomes even more concentrated, as we see it worked out in the royal household between father and son, Saul and Jonathan.
- Throughout the last two thousand years Christians like David have been loved and loathed for their loyalty and love for Jesus. To learn why that it we are going to look at the life of David and his relationship with Saul.

PLEASE READ 1 SAMUEL 20

1. WHAT HAS BEEN SAUL'S ATTITUDE TOWARDS DAVID SO FAR?

Saul's Jealousy – Look up 1 Samuel 18:7-10

- The jealousy begins with the song that the young girls sang in celebration of David's victory over Goliath. The jealousy was never dealt with so it develops into rage.

Saul's Rage – Look up 1 Samuel 18:10-11, 19:9-10

- The previous chapter opened the door to David's life as a fugitive. Twice, Saul had tried to spear David to death, which leads to him fleeing from Saul (18:10-11,19:9-10).

Saul's Plots - Look up 1 Samuel 18:17,20-21,25

- Three times Saul plots for the Philistines to do the dirty work of killing David. The thought of using his two daughters as pawns in the plot seems to be absolutely no problem to him either.

Saul's Lies – Look up 1 Samuel 19:6-7, 19:11-13, and 19:18-20

When Saul is faced with the plea from Jonathan that David is innocent, he promises not to kill David. Yet within a few verses Saul is seeking to pin David to the wall with a spear, and then twice sending his men to murder him.

2. DOES SAUL'S ATTITUDE CHANGE IN THE FUTURE?

Here are three brief stories to show that Saul's rage far from waning actually intensifies:

Story 1

His rage towards Jonathan - Look up 1 Samuel 20:28-33

- The fact that Jonathan is David's son dominates this whole chapter. Twice we are told that Jonathan is Saul's son (20:27, 30) and an amazing twelve times that Saul is Jonathan's father (20:1, 2, 3, 6, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 32, 33, 34). Everything that happens in David and Jonathan's relationship must be seen and understood with this theme as the backdrop.
- It's against this backdrop that Saul's rage towards Jonathan must be seen. Two things have dawned upon him:
 - a. Saul knows that David is going to be the future king. He sees this as a threat and therefore desires to kill David (20:31).
 - b. Knowing that David is God's anointed makes Jonathan want to protect and serve him. Jonathan's loyalty to David is the last straw and Saul's rage reaches another level, as he now seeks to murder his own son (20:32-33). He knows that Jonathan has left his kingdom to join David's.

Story 2

Key Truth: Those who follow God's anointed face Saul's rage.

His rage at God's Priests - Look up 1 Samuel 22:6-23

THE CONTEXT

- David flees to Ahimelek the priest for help (21:1).
- Although petrified of the consequences, Ahimelek helps David. He gives food to sustain him (21:6), and a weapon to protect him (21:8-9).
- All of this is witnessed by Deog the Edomite, which will prove fatal (21:7).
- He tells Saul of Ahimelek's kindness to David, which leads to Ahimelek but all the priests and their families being murdered (22:17-19).

Story 3

Key Truth: Those who follow God's anointed face Saul's rage.

His Rage At God's Anointed. Look up 23:5,7-8,12, 15-18, 26-29:

His Plot

- David has just delivered Keilah from the hands of the Philistines (23:5). This was probably taking place at the same time Saul is murdering the priests at Nob (1 Samuel 22). The King is destroying God's people, whereas David is saving them.
- Saul hears that David is there, and realises that he is trapped. This leads to Saul calling up all his forces to murder David (23:7-8).
- Even though David is their saviour, the people of Keilah are ready to give him up (23:12).
- He is strengthened by his faithful friend Jonathan (23:15-18).
- Just when it seems that Saul has his man, the LORD raises up the Philistines to save David (23:26).

3. DID SAUL HAVE ANY JUSTIFICATION FOR HATING DAVID? LOOK UP 19:4-6, 20:32

- What Jonathan declares here is not the biased opinion of an obsessed friend, but instead the truth. This will be seen even more clearly in the stories that follow where David twice refuses to kill Saul, even though he has the opportunity too.

4. WHAT IS AT THE HEART OF SAUL'S HATRED OF DAVID?

God's Verdict

- What marked Saul's response to Samuel was self-justification instead of true repentance. He was more concerned with what his people thought of him, than what God thought (15:30).

God's Answer

- The answer God gives to Saul and Israel's failure is to provide a saviour (17:11, 50). Yet instead of rejoicing in God's gracious promise and plan, Saul chooses to see him as a threat to his own Kingdom (20:30-31)

Saul's Son

- As we have seen, Jonathan has chosen to leave the Kingdom of Saul to join the Kingdom of David (20:30-31). This brings Saul's hatred towards David to a new level.

5. HOW DOES THIS APPLY TO US TODAY?

Who is God's anointed today? Look up Mark 1:11

- The baptism of Jesus is the equivalent of Samuel anointing David. The prophet is anointing the future King, and heaven declares its approval.

After being anointed who does Jesus instantly face? Look up Mark 1:12

- As soon as the King is anointed he faces the ultimate Saul, the devil.

What is his message? Look up Mark 1:14-15

- The message of the King is clear, repent and join my Kingdom.

How do people respond? Look up John 11:53,57

- Like Saul, people feel threatened by God's King. Like David, he clearly reveals that he is the Saviour yet instead of people praising him, they decide to murder him.

What are the implications for us? Look up John 15:20-21

- Those who follow God's anointed face the world's rage.

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

1. DAVID IS A FUGITIVE ON THE RUN. HERE WE FIND HIM NOT ALONE BUT WITH A BAND OF BROTHERS. READ 1 SAMUEL 22:1-5 THEN 8:10-18.

Why have they left Saul's Kingdom? Why have they joined David?

Everything that Samuel warned the people about concerning their king has sadly come true. The three 'Ds' have become a reality - the people are Distressed, in Debt, Discontented.

2. READ THE PASSAGE BELOW AND ASK WHAT ARE THE SIMILARITIES BETWEEN THE PEOPLE WHO WERE ATTRACTED TO DAVID AND THE PEOPLE WHO WERE ATTRACTED TO JESUS AND THE GOSPEL.

1 SAMUEL 22:1-5	LUKE 5:27-32	1 CORINTHIANS 1:26-29
<i>Distressed</i>	<i>Sin sick sinners</i>	<i>Foolish in the worlds eyes</i>
<i>Debt</i>		<i>Weak in the worlds eyes</i>
<i>Discontented</i>		<i>Lowly in the worlds eyes</i>
		<i>Despised in the worlds eyes</i>
		<i>In this world nothing to boast about</i>
		<i>Boast only in the anointed one</i>

3. DO YOU THINK THIS QUOTE CAPTURES THE TRUTH OF THE THREE PASSAGES ABOVE? DISCUSS.

“HAVE WE FORGOTTEN THAT IF YOU HOLD ANY HOPE THAT THIS WORLD WILL PROVIDE YOU WITH SECURITY AND HOPE, YOU WILL NOT MAKE YOUR WAY TO JESUS” - JOHN WOODHOUSE¹

4. DAVID WRITES THIS PSALM WHILE IN THE CAVE. THINK OF YOURSELF IN A SITUATION WHERE YOU FEEL ALONE AND MAYBE REJECTED FOR FOLLOWING CHRIST. HOW WOULD DAVID’S PSALM HELP YOU?

What does he cry and shout to God about? Read Psalm 142:2, 3, 4, 6, 7

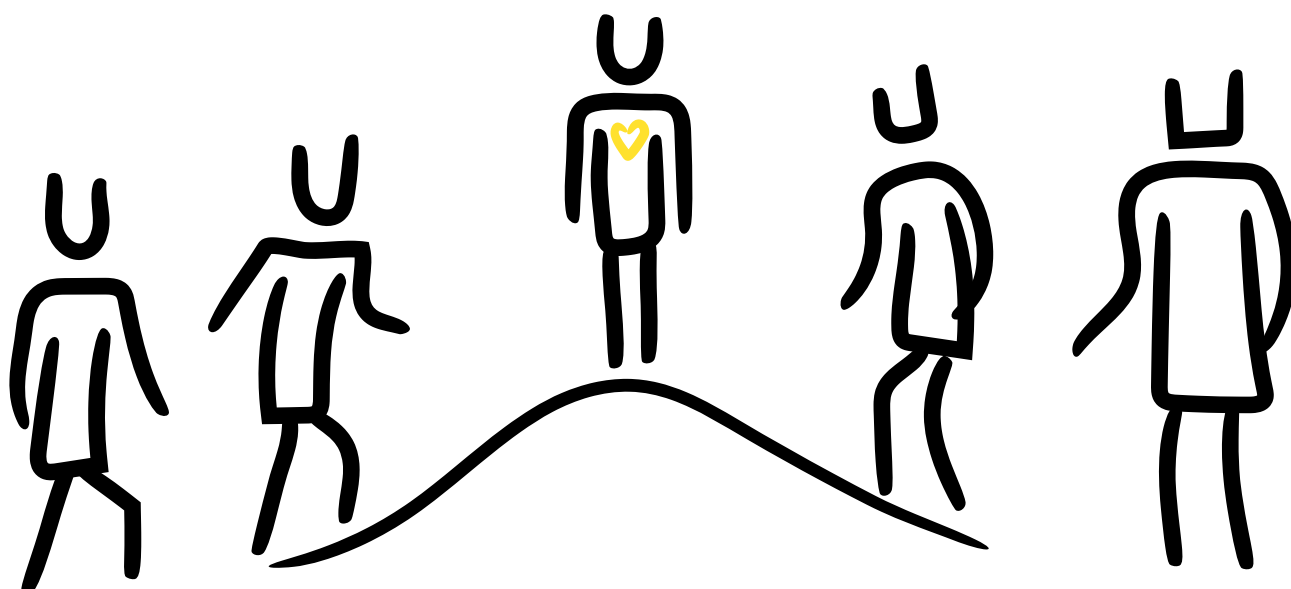
142:2	<i>He complains</i>
142:2	<i>Tells of his troubles</i>
142:3	<i>Feels faint</i>
142:3	<i>People have put out snares to catch him</i>
142:4	<i>No one to help him / No refuge</i>
142:6	<i>He is in desperate need facing people who are too strong for him</i>
142:7	<i>He feels like he is in a prison</i>

5. HOW DOES HE ANSWER HIS OWN CRIES WITH TRUTH ABOUT GOD?

142:1	<i>Reminds himself that God is merciful</i>
142:2	<i>Reminds himself that God watches over him</i>
142:5	<i>Reminds himself that God is his refuge</i>
142:6-7	<i>Reminds himself that God alone gives rescue and freedom</i>

6. HOW CAN YOU REMIND YOURSELF OF THESE GREAT TRUTHS THIS COMING WEEK?

¹Samuel: Looking for a Leader by John Woodhouse (Crossway Books: Wheaton, Illinois)



STUDY SIX

1 SAMUEL 20 • FOLLOWING DAVID

KEY TEACHING AIMS

Jonathan teaches us how and why we should follow God's anointed.

STUDY

1. IF SAUL HATED DAVID SO MUCH, WHY DID HE RETURN TO JONATHAN, SAUL'S SON? LOOK UP 1 SAMUEL 18:1-4, 19:1-6

- What is abundantly clear is that David totally trusts Jonathan. Not only has the author told us of Jonathan's love for David (18:1, 19:1), but he has also revealed to us how it's expressed:
 - Jonathan has made a covenant with David (18:3)
 - He acknowledged that David would one day reign as God's king (18:4).
 - In the next chapter he defends David when his father plots to kill him (19:4-5).
- As we began to see last week the backdrop to 1 Samuel 20 is Saul's intense hatred of David. The royal household is dangerously divided as one loves and the other loathes him. One wants the young upstart dead, the other is seeking to do all he possibly can to protect him.

2. WHAT DOES DAVID FEAR, AND HOW IS THAT EXPRESSED? LOOK UP 20:1-10.

- David's fears are expressed in the questions that he asks. He knows that he is innocent yet fears that Saul desires to murder him (20:1).
- He also fears that his relationship with Jonathan is known by Saul and has stoked the fires of hatred even more (20:3-4). His response to his fear is to concoct a fictitious story for Jonathan to tell at his father's banquet the following day to discover Saul's view of him (20:5-8).

3. WHAT DOES JONATHAN FEAR, AND HOW IS THAT EXPRESSED? LOOK UP 20:11-17.

Judging reality by God's plans and promises

Standing before Jonathan is a quivering wreck who fears for his very life (20:1). As Jonathan looks at David he reads the situation not by what he sees, but instead by God's plans and promises.

What does Jonathan see?

He sees the future king:

- What Jonathan says to David in 20:13 reveals that he knows David will one day be king: "May the LORD be with you as he was with my father" means "May the LORD be with you when you are king in my father's place".
- At first glance it does not seem that Jonathan is fearful, but a closer look will reveal a different story. The great warrior Jonathan knows that one day all of David's enemies will be at his mercy (20:14-15). Belonging to Saul's dynasty puts his whole future in doubt, as new kings often sought to wipe out the previous regime's family and followers.
- Yet Jonathan refuses to read reality like everyone else. He trusts God's promises and protects David, even though he fears for his future and his family's. Both David and Jonathan fear for different reasons, but both refuse to judge reality by outward appearance, instead trusting God's plans and promises (1 Samuel 16:7).

4. HOW DOES JONATHAN'S UNDERSTANDING OF DAVID'S FUTURE REIGN AFFECT HIS RELATIONSHIPS?

...To the Past

- Jonathan's soul has been knit to David's (18:1)
- He has acknowledged David as his king (18:3-4)
- Repeatedly we are reminded of their mutual love and devotion towards one another (18:1, 3, 19:1)
- He defends him to his father (19:4)

...To the Present

As we have seen, the story begins with David's legitimate fear that he will be murdered by Saul (20:1-3). The promises that they have made previously (18:3) and will repeatedly renew (20:8, 16-17, 23, 23:18) begin to have serious implications:

- These promises are centred on the Hebrew word 'hesed', which is often translated as 'lovingkindness' - but this term can fall short in describing the faithful, covenantal aspect of this

love (Deuteronomy 7:9), so we will use the working definition 'loyal love' instead.

- With David under threat Jonathan's **loyal love** is tested and found true in his willingness to do anything to save his future king (20:4).
- The **loyal love** leads to Jonathan using his royal influence to protect David from his father Saul (20:12, 18-23).

...With His Father

We have seen in past weeks that Jonathan is our model of what it means to love the Lord Jesus. The **loyal love** that Jonathan shows brings him to a sobering choice. The key verse that brings this point to a head is 20:30 in the words of Saul, "Don't I know that you have *sided* with the son of Jesse to your own shame?"

- Where the NIV uses the word 'sided' a better word is 'chosen' - which takes us right back to the very beginning, where the people chose Saul and the LORD chose David. As soon as we hear the word 'chosen' we should instantly think back to those moments.
- If Jonathan is to love David loyally, then he has to make a choice between David and his father. His father's vicious words and Jonathan's response reveal that his choice has already been made - and very nearly leads to his death (20:30-33).
- As we saw last week it is impossible to be part of both kingdoms. In choosing David you must leave Saul. Even if he is your father, in choosing David over Saul he becomes your enemy (20:15).

...With His Family

- The loyal love that Jonathan has for David controls completely how he views his family. He knows that God has planned and promised that David will one day reign as God's anointed. His desire therefore is that his family will enjoy the safety of David's rule, instead of being casualties of it (20:12-15).

...With His Future

- His father puts it very simply in 20:31; when Jonathan chooses David, he abandons any aspirations to rule and reign. The two kingdoms could never coexist, so in choosing David Jonathan gives up establishing his own kingdom and places himself and his family at the mercy of a new monarchy.

5. HOW CAN WE LEARN FROM THE COST JONATHAN PAID TO FOLLOW DAVID? LOOK UP LUKE 12:1-7.

Jesus teaches us NOT to fear

- When we follow Jesus we must not fear the 'Sauls' of this present world (12:4)

Jesus teaches us to look to His future reign

- To love the one who decides your eternal destiny (12:5)
- To love one who knows all about you (12:2-3)
- To love one who loves you intimately (12:6-7)

6. HOW CAN WE LEARN FROM JONATHAN'S DEVOTED LOVE FOR DAVID? LOOK UP JOHN 15:20-21, LUKE 14:25-27.

John 15:20-21: The reason Saul seeks to kill Jonathan is because he's left his kingdom to join David's. When we choose to show loyal love to Jesus, we can expect the same reaction.

Luke 14:25-27: The choice that Jonathan makes is staggering. He knows that David is king and will one day reign, and the reality of this truth leads him to choose David over loyalty to his family. It is this example of loyal love and devotion that Jesus calls us to follow. Even though Jonathan lived so many years before Jesus, the shadow of the cross dominates his life as he loves God's king over everything and everyone else.

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

1. WHAT ARE THE SIMILARITIES BETWEEN JONATHAN AND DAVID, AND YOURSELF AND JESUS?

Read 1 Samuel 19:9-10, 20:30-33

TEXT	DAVID	JONATHAN
19:9-10	<i>Saul seeks to murder David</i>	
20:30-33		<i>Saul seeks to murder Jonathan</i>

Read John 15:18-25

TEXT	THE WORLD	JESUS	US
15:18		<i>If the world hates Jesus</i>	<i>...the world will hate us</i>
15:19	<i>If you belong to the world it loves you</i>		<i>If you belong to Jesus it will reject you.</i>
15:20-21		<i>People rejected Jesus teaching. People accepted Jesus teaching.</i>	<i>If we teach Jesus' teaching, we expect to be both rejected and accepted.</i>
15:23-2		<i>If the people reject Jesus, then people reject God the Father</i>	

2. TRY AND THINK OF AS MANY THINGS AS POSSIBLE THAT ARE REALLY IMPORTANT TO YOU, YOUR FRIENDS AND YOUR PARENTS.

To help it might be good to flick through yesterday's magazines and see what companies have spent hundreds of thousands of pounds advertising.

3. WHAT WOULD IT LOOK LIKE TO ENJOY THESE THINGS BUT NOT MAKE THEM GOD IN YOUR LIFE?

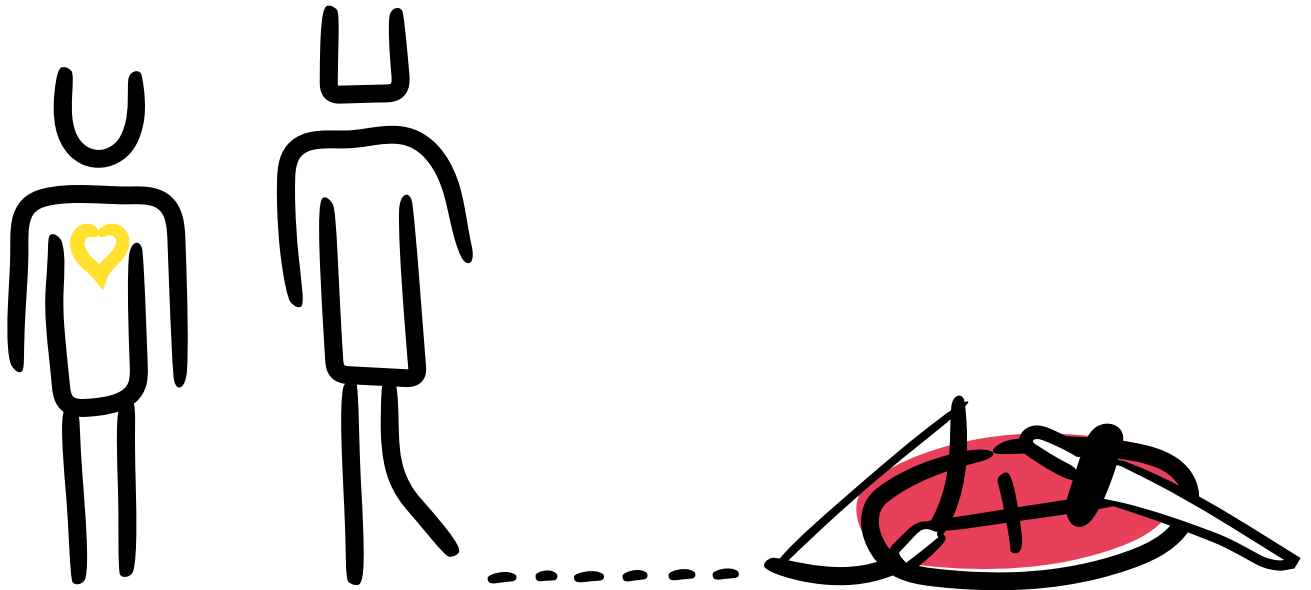
4. ONE OF DAVID'S SECRETS TO LOVING GOD WAS TO OFTEN REMIND HIMSELF OF WHO GOD WAS AND HOW GOOD HE HAD BEEN TOWARDS HIM.

Read David's song (Psalm 23) and fill in the boxes below.

WHO GOD IS	HOW HE BLESSES	HOW DAVID RESPONDS
<i>23:1 A Shepherd</i>	<i>23:1 = His people lack nothing</i>	<i>23:4 = He fears no evil</i>
	<i>23:2 = He feeds and nourishes his people</i>	<i>26:6 = Lives knowing that the blessing of God will always be with him.</i>
	<i>23:3 = He refreshes the souls of his people</i>	<i>26:6 = Lives to enjoy his relationship with God.</i>
	<i>23:3 = He guides his people for His name's sake</i>	
	<i>23:4 = His presence is always with his people.</i>	
	<i>23:4 = He comforts his people.</i>	
	<i>23:5 = He defeats his people's enemies</i>	

5. IN WHAT WAY IS 1 SAMUEL 20:4 SIMILAR TO JOHN 14:15 ?

6. HOW CAN YOU SHOW LOYAL LOVE TO GOD AT HOME, SCHOOL, SPORTS CLUB, ETC?



STUDY SEVEN

1 SAMUEL 20 • WEAPONS DOWN

KEY TEACHING AIMS

Jonathan teaches us how to lay down our weapons of survival.

The more we enjoy our king, the less we will trust in our weapons of survival.

STUDY

1. WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF JONATHAN GIVING THE BOY HIS WEAPONS? LOOK UP 20:35-42

Jonathan giving the boy his weapons (20:40) is full of significance. When Jonathan comes into the presence of his loving king he knows that he is completely secure, safe and able to rest. He does not need the weapons of survival in the presence of the king.

2. HOW CAN WE LEARN FROM JONATHAN?

Every person has weapons of survival. For some of us it will be humour or intelligence, for others their background, or wealth. It might be our looks, sporting prowess or a magnetic personality.

These things are not necessarily wrong, and sometimes they help a young person to survive in a hostile world.

- The wonderful thing about our great King is that none of these things impress him.
- If we put our trust in his kingship, then we are his children and belong to his Kingdom. Therefore when we approach him we can put down our weapons knowing we are loved with God's loyal 'hesed' love (see Study 6).

3. WHAT TRUTHS ABOUT JESUS OUR KING SHOULD MAKE US SECURE?

Look up Matthew 20:29-34

- When the weak call his name he has compassion on them and meets their deepest need.

Look up Matthew 11:27-30

- 11:27 - He's our all-powerful King
- 11:28, 29 - He calls you to come and receive rest (rest = the joy of his presence)
- 11:28, 30 - His yoke* is easy
- 11:29 - He does not condemn but instead is gentle and humble in heart

Look up Hebrews 4:14-16

When we approach him we can be sure that:

- He knows what it's like to be weak
- He knows what it is like to be tempted
- He is our perfect sinless King
- We receive, mercy, grace and forgiveness

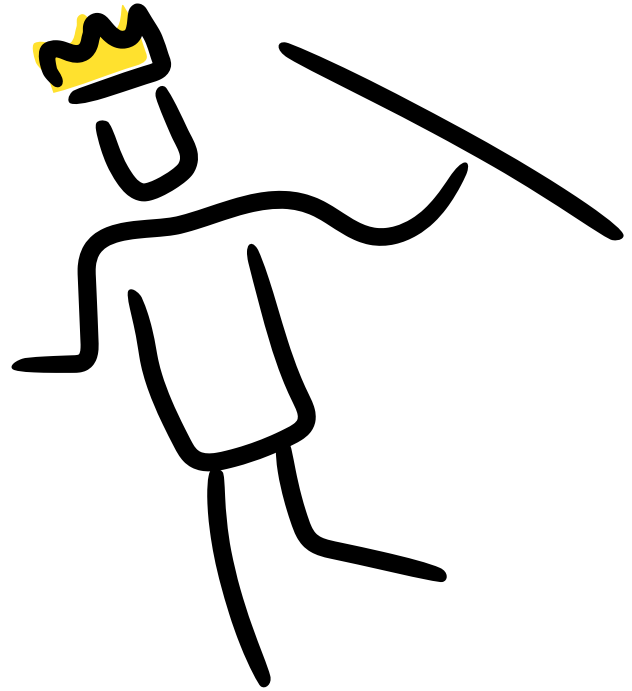
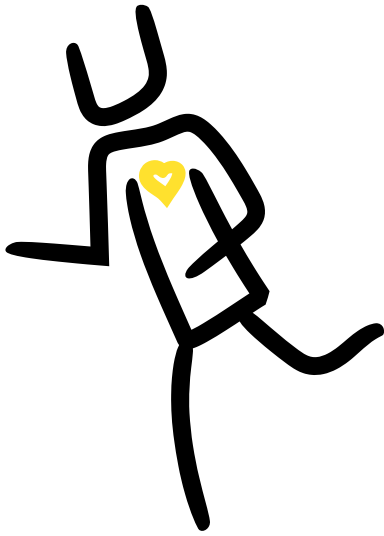
4. HOW DOES PSALM 2 HELP US TO UNDERSTAND THE FINAL SCENE BETWEEN JONATHAN AND DAVID? LOOK UP 20:41-42 AND PSALM 2:10-12

- Jonathan responds in the only wise way by showing God's Anointed the reverence, honour and worship that he deserves. This is revealed by his kiss, as he finds safety and refuge in God's anointed Psalm 2:10-12.

***Yoke: This word is not often used in everyday language, so it is worth explaining in more detail. It is referring to a wooden bar or frame used to join two oxen together so they can work as a team to pull heavy loads more easily. It can also be used to join an experienced ox with a younger one which is still learning.**

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

- 1. HOW SHOULD THE REIGN OF JESUS AFFECT YOUR DAY-TO-DAY LIFE?
LOOK UP 1 PETER 2:21-25, 3:13-18, 2 PETER 3:8-13**
- 2. JONATHAN LAID DOWN HIS WEAPONS OF SURVIVAL. WHAT ARE YOURS?**
- 3. IS IT A COMFORT TO KNOW THAT YOU DON'T NEED THOSE WEAPONS IN YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD? WHY OR WHY NOT?**
- 4. NEXT TIME YOU HAVE FAILED, SINNED OR ARE TIRED, AND DON'T FEEL LIKE READING YOUR BIBLE OR PRAYING, HOW WILL THE CHARACTER OF YOUR KING HELP YOU?**
 - You might want to read these passages again: Matthew 20:29-34, Matthew 11:27-30, Hebrews 4:14-16, Luke 24:26



STUDY EIGHT

1 SAMUEL 24-26 • ON THE RUN

KEY TEACHING AIMS

David learns how to live as a righteous king.

REVIEW

- The last three sessions we have focused on Jonathan and David's relationship, seeing the link between how Jonathan loved David and how we are to love Jesus.

He left

- If Jonathan is going to follow God's anointed then he will have to leave his father's kingdom (1 Samuel 20:2, 9, 16-17). If we are to follow the Lord Jesus then we also have to change kingdoms (Colossians 1:13-14).

He loved

- As we look at Jonathan we see a stunning portrait of what it means to love God's anointed. He declares to David, "Whatever you want me to do, I'll do for you" (20:4), a promise that leads to him being rejected and hated by his own father (20:30-33) as he has pledged his loyal love to

David (20:12-17).

- If we are to follow the Lord Jesus, then he expects the same loyal love from us his followers (John 15:20-21, Luke 14:25-27).

He laid down his ‘weapons of survival’

- Finally, we learn from Jonathan that when he came into the presence of the king he was safe, and could lay down his weapons (20:40-42). Similarly, when we are in the presence of King Jesus we can lay down our weapons of survival and enjoy his rest (Matthew 11:27-30).

SMALL GROUPS DONE SEMINAR-STYLE

In today’s study we have to cover a lot of ground. To help we will look at each story in a small group and then look at application questions at the end.

Alternatively, you can get the young people to feed back what they have learnt from each story.

GROUP ONE - STORY ONE

READ 1 SAMUEL 24. HOW IS DAVID TRUSTING GOD’S PLAN AND PROMISES?

David’s Conscience

- His conscience is so tender that he regrets even cutting off the edge of Saul’s robe. For David this is an act that goes against God’s timing to make him king, which is shown by the names he gives to Saul: ‘master’, ‘LORD’s anointed’ and ‘anointed of the LORD’ (24:5-6).
- He rebukes his men sharply and refuses to take the kingdom by force (24:5).

David’s Courage

- The very fact that David chooses to speak to Saul reveals his trust in God’s plan and promises. We know what kind of force that Saul had with him (24:2). This is a pivotal moment as Saul could easily destroy David and all the men hiding in the cave (24:8).

David’s Communication

In his brilliant speech David appeals to two things:

- The first truth that David appeals to is his innocence, which has been a constant theme all the way through (19:1, 4-5; 20:1, 32). He calls Saul to look at the evidence of how he has just treated him, instead of listening to others (24:9-11). He could have murdered him, but he refused to because Saul is the LORD’s anointed (24:10).
- The second truth that David appeals to is that the LORD is their judge:
24:12 - May the LORD judge between us
24:12 - May the LORD avenge the wrongs
24:15 - May the LORD be the one who vindicates and delivers me
- David puts his complete trust in the LORD

Saul

We will see in 1 Samuel 26 that Saul's tears soon dry and the hunger to murder David returns (26:2).

- What is really significant is that he acknowledges that David will one day be King (24:20). Like his son Jonathan, he asks David to be merciful to his family when he comes to reign (24:21). As with Jonathan, so with Saul - David promises to protect Saul's family (24:22).

GROUP TWO - STORY TWO

READ 1 SAMUEL 25. HOW DOES ABIGAIL TEACH DAVID TO TRUST GOD'S PLAN AND PROMISES?

The Context

- The name Nabal means 'fool' and he certainly lives up to his name, as everyone except Nabal seems to realize (25:10-11,17, 25). It is clear that David and his men have only shown him kindness, (25:7-8, 15-17) yet he repays it with evil (25:21)
- In his anger David decides to teach Nabal a severe lesson (25:22). But where Nabal is extremely foolish, his wife is extremely wise - as we will find out:

What Abigail acknowledges about David

25:28 - The guilt of her husband

25:28 - David's dynasty and lordship

25:28 - David's innocence

25:29 - That the LORD is his protector

25:30,31 - That David will one day reign as Israel's king

What Abigail calls David to

25:31 - In the light of the LORD's kindness in protecting David, and the office that he will one day hold, Abigail calls him to the following:

- To protect his conscience by not causing needless bloodshed and avenging himself
- To act in a righteous way

What David acknowledges

25:32 - That the LORD has sent her

25:32 - That her judgment is right

25:33-34 - That her intervention saved him from taking the law into his own hands

25:35 - Her gift (25:27). He sends her away in peace, the very thing he had wanted for her family to begin with (25:6)

GROUP THREE - STORY THREE

READ 1 SAMUEL 26. HOW IMPORTANT HAS SAUL'S SPEAR BEEN TO UNDERSTANDING SAUL AND DAVID'S RELATIONSHIP?

- **26:7:** The first time we see the spear it is stuck in the ground next to Saul's head. Not only is Saul fast asleep, but also those who are meant to be guarding him. The picture being painted is one where Saul is totally vulnerable with no one to protect him.
- **26:8:** As far as Abishai is concerned, this is a literal 'God-given' opportunity for David to kill his enemy, with the means of killing him being the same spear Saul once used to kill David and his son Jonathan.
- **26:11-12:** For the second time, David refuses to murder God's anointed and instead takes the spear and also the water jug - Saul's means of defence and his means of sustenance.
- **26:15-16:** The fact that David has Saul's spear in his hand is all the evidence he needs to show that Saul's soldiers are guilty of not protecting him.
- **26:22:** The statement that David is making when he returns the spear is huge. The very symbol that represented Saul's hatred of David is now the symbol of mercy and forgiveness. Yet again David is declared righteous and innocent in the way that he relates to Saul.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. HOW DID JESUS TRUST GOD'S PLANS AND PROMISES?

Jesus Is God's Righteous King

- The following are two examples of Jesus' righteousness and faithfulness to his Father's plan and promises that we will hopefully get the young people to better understand.

Philippians 2:6-11 - How is Jesus trusting His Father's plan and promises?

- Jesus gives up what is rightfully his so that he can save mankind.
- Before Jesus is glorified, he had to suffer and rise, and refused to take the Kingdom before that.

1 Peter 2:22-23 - How is Jesus trusting His Father's plan and promises?

- Like David, Jesus is innocent before his accusers. He chooses not to retaliate because he trusts himself to God's perfect judgment.

2. HOW ARE DAVID'S ACTIONS A REFLECTION OF THE RIGHTEOUSNESS THAT ABIGAIL CALLED HIM TO? LOOK UP 1 SAMUEL 26:9-11, 22-24.

1 Samuel 26:9-11

- He refuses to lay a hand upon the LORD's anointed, trusting God's judgment and timing.

1 Samuel 26:22-24

- David's actions are founded upon righteousness and faithfulness. He refuses to take revenge, and instead chooses to trust in God's plans and promises.

This was to be the last time that David and Saul were to meet. Whilst Saul's final words are ones of seeming repentance (26:21) and a blessing upon his future reign (26:25), David doesn't believe that Saul has had a complete change of heart (27:1).

3. HOW IS DAVID A PICTURE OF JESUS?

He refused to take the Kingdom by force

- Just like Jesus, David refuses to take the kingdom by force. It could have been his there and then, but he refuses to take it knowing it is not God's plan or timing.

He chose the path of suffering instead of revenge

- Like the Lord Jesus he makes himself nothing, "taking the nature of a servant" (Philippians 2:7). He chooses the path of suffering instead of vengeance and glory.

He trusted his past, present and future to God's plans and promises

- He clearly trusts his past, present, and especially his future to the plans and promises of God. This is what the wise Abigail called him to, and this is what he does.
- This is a wonderful picture of what the Lord Jesus will do centuries later as he refuses to call down 'twelve legions of angels' to punish those who arrest him (Matthew 26:53).

4. HOW IS THE SPEAR A PICTURE OF THE CROSS?

In the hands for Goliath

- The spear is a symbol that represents hatred towards the LORD's anointed (17:7, 45, 47)

In the hands for Saul

- It is always a symbol of death and destruction towards the LORD's anointed (18:9-11, 19:10) and those who follow him (20:33).
- Twice when the evil spirit enters Saul he is holding his spear (18:10, 19:9)

In the hands of Abishai

- Mistakenly, seen as a symbol of a 'God-given' means for vengeance and murder (26:6-8)

In the hands of the LORD's anointed, David

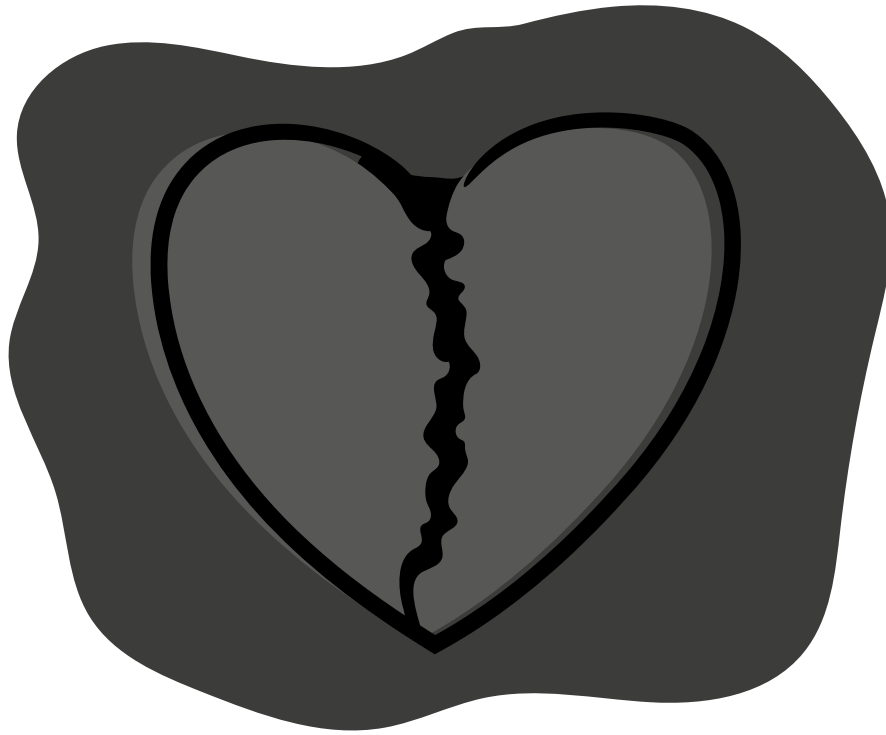
- The spear becomes a symbol of mercy and forgiveness (26:17-25)

The Cross in the hands of evil men

- The cross is a symbol of death and destruction (Matthew 27:21-26, 38-44)
- Mistakenly seen as a symbol of a 'God-given' means to obey God and fulfil the law (John 19:6-7)

The Cross in the hands of the LORD's anointed

- The cross becomes a symbol of mercy and forgiveness (Acts 2:22-24, 36-41)



STUDY NINE

1 SAMUEL 28 • DARK DAYS

KEY TEACHING AIMS

To show the young people that the character Saul developed throughout his reign informed the choices he made in these dark days.

THE UNIVERSAL TRUTHS THAT WE APPLY TO US TODAY

- The choices we make form our character
- Our character affects how we view and respond to God and His people.
- Don't be left without hope like Saul, but instead trust in Christ (Ephesians 2:12-13)

INTRODUCTION

The story today is tragically sad, perhaps one of the saddest in all of Scripture. As we teach it to the young people there must be a sense of the seriousness of what we are seeking to explain. As we apply it we must pray that the young people see the utter seriousness of Saul's situation, and to flee to Christ.

SAUL'S PAST

GOD'S MISSION

1. What was Saul's original mission? Look up 1 Samuel 9:16

- The LORD's plan and mission was for Saul to deliver Israel from their fiercest enemies, the Philistines.

2. How would you sum up his success or failure?

Look up:

14:15-23 – His reign begins with success in battle

14:47, 52 – Initially he is very successful

17:1-3, 11 – Goliath sends Saul and the whole of Israel into fear and turmoil

18:17, 21 – Saul is ready to go to any means so as to kill David

23:26-24:1 – Saul is far more committed to killing David than saving Israel from the Philistines

GOD'S MAN

3. How would you sum up Saul's relationship with Samuel, God's prophet?

1 Samuel 13:7-15

- Saul chooses to do something that he knows the Law says only a priest is allowed to do
- God's eternal plan to save the world will now come through David and not Saul (13:14)

1 Samuel 15:12-35

- Saul rejects God's word by not carrying out the mission that God had clearly given him (15:26). There is evidently no repentance in Saul's heart, but instead a desire to blame his own soldiers (15:21), and to be vindicated before his people (15:30)
- Therefore Saul is a king who chooses not to live under the authority of God's voice. He refuses to see the seriousness of his actions, which leads to him repeating them and living with an unrepentant heart.

GOD'S MESSIAH

4. How would you sum up Saul's relationship with David?

Three words sum up Saul's relationship to David:

Fear – He fears David (18:12, 15, 23)

Hatred – He hates David (18:10-11, 19:9-10)

Persistence – He persists in pursuing David (24:1-2)

SAUL'S PRESENT

5. How does Saul's present situation bring to a head all the problems he has had so far?

GOD'S MISSION

The first verse of this devastating chapter draws our attention to an old foe, the Philistines, who are gathering for a final push for victory over the Israelites. Saul is terrified (28:4-5). As he faces his fiercest enemy, Saul feels utterly alone and without any hope.

GOD'S MAN

- 1 Samuel 28:3 breaks the flow of the narrative to tell us that Samuel, God's prophet, has died, and how Saul, in obedience to God's law (Leviticus 19:31, Deuteronomy 18:10-12), rid the whole land of occult practices (28:3). This reminds us of how influential and important Samuel and Saul's relationship was, and the reason for the flashback will soon become very clear.
- Facing a critical situation, Saul needs to hear the voice of God. Not only is Samuel dead, but also all the priests whom Saul had murdered (1 Samuel 22:6-19). The consequences of Saul's evil act are being realised as now he has nowhere to turn to for guidance. The king is left utterly alone, facing his worst enemy with no guidance from God whatsoever.

GOD'S MESSIAH

- The beginning of 1 Samuel 28 feels very much like Israel's encounter with Goliath (1 Samuel 17). The Philistines appear strong and the favourites to win (28:1, 4) with Israel running scared (28:5). The striking difference is the absence of David to save his people. The reason for David's absence is that he has gone to find refuge among the Philistines (1 Samuel 27:1, 28:1-2).
- The situation could not be worse for Saul, as he faces the Philistines and David is in their camp. His loneliness and vulnerability is complete, with the voice of God silent and his personal enemy, David, among the Philistines.

SAUL'S MISSION

6. How has Saul's mission changed?

- Saul's desperate mission is to find some way of getting guidance. To achieve this he is willing to go to Endor to find a medium (28:7). To reach her Saul will have to risk his life as he will need to go around the huge Philistine army.
- The darkness of Saul's mission is reflected in the time of day that he travels - 'at night' (28:8). Once he was the enemy of such people, now he seeks their wisdom.

SAMUEL'S MESSAGE

7. What is at the heart of Samuel's message?

The whole atmosphere is one of intense fear. When we meet the witch we see that she is fearful of two things: Saul and Samuel (28:8-14), but Samuel is suddenly before them, ready to declare God's message:

- The LORD has departed from you and is now your enemy (28:16)
- The LORD has given the Kingdom to David (28:17)
- The LORD'S judgment is because of your disobedience (28:18)
- The LORD will deliver Israel into the Philistines' hands (28:19)
- The LORD declares that you and your sons will die tomorrow in battle (28:19)

The tragic scene finishes with Saul devastated and full of fear (28:20), and the witch cooking his very last meal (28:21-25).

8. How does the story end?

Saul's Sword

- The story finishes just as Samuel had predicted, with Saul dying at the hands of the Philistines (1 Samuel 31). This tragic king, who had been chosen by the people so they could be like the other nations, now lies dead because of those very nations.

9. How is Saul a picture of Judas?

- It is impossible to miss the striking similarity between Saul and the disciple Judas. In all of Scripture I struggle to think of two more desperately sad figures. Both had huge privileges and opportunity yet both squandered them. Below is a short graph to show their similarities.

SIMILARITIES	CHOSEN	PLOT & BETRAYAL	MEAL & JUDGMENT	DEATH	EVIL SPIRIT
<i>1 Samuel</i>	<i>9:15-16</i>	<i>20:20-21, 24-25</i>	<i>28:16-25</i>	<i>31:1-7</i>	<i>16:14-15</i>
<i>Matthew</i>	<i>10:1-4</i>	<i>26:14-16, 47-50</i>	<i>26:17-25</i>	<i>27:1-5</i>	
<i>Mark</i>	<i>3:13-19</i>	<i>14:10-11, 44-47</i>	<i>14:17-21</i>		
<i>Luke</i>	<i>6:12-16</i>	<i>6:16, 22:4-5, 47-48</i>	<i>22:20-23</i>		<i>22:3</i>
<i>John</i>		<i>13:2, 18:2-5</i>	<i>13:26-30</i>		<i>13:2,27</i>

10. What is the application for our young people today?

Points of Application

- The life of Saul is littered with choices that he made which he knew would displease the LORD.
- Those decisions formed and shaped his character.
- The time came when it was not merely difficult to change, but impossible.
- He lived as an enemy of the LORD's anointed, therefore he died as one.
- The character we form 'now' shapes our eternity.
- For our young people it is not too late to call out to Christ for forgiveness and for his Spirit to begin to change us.

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

1. HOW DOES THE LIFE OF SAUL REFLECT PROVERBS 1:20-30?

- 1:24 = They **refuse** to listen to the call of wisdom
- 1:24 = They **pay no attention** to wisdom's offer
- 1:25 = They **disregard** her advice
- 1:25 = They **do not accept** her rebuke
- 1:29 = They **hate** knowledge
- 1:29 = They **choose to not** fear the LORD
- 1:30 = They **would not** accept her advice
- 1:30 = They **spurned** her every rebuke

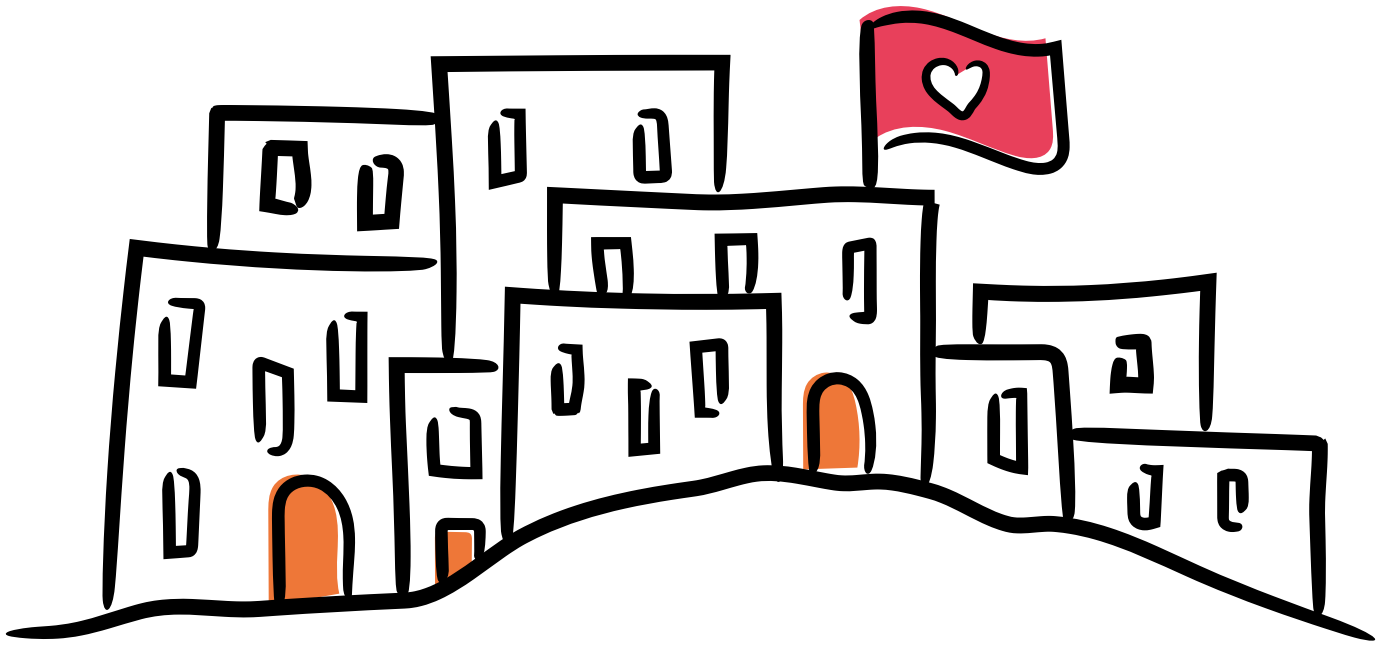
2. CAN YOU THINK OF ANYONE ELSE IN THE BIBLE OR HISTORY WHOSE CHOICES HAVE SO CLEARLY MOULDED THEIR CHARACTER IN SUCH A SAD AND NEGATIVE WAY?

3. CAN YOU LOOK BACK UPON YOUR LIFE AND THINK OF DECISIONS YOU HAVE MADE HAVE LEAD TO GOOD OR BAD CONSEQUENCES?

4. HOW DOES THE LIFE OF DAVID REFLECT PROVERBS 2:1-11?

- David turns all the 'ifs' to a positive 'yes'.

5. WHAT PRIVILEGES HAS GOD PLACED IN YOUR LIFE TO HELP YOU TURN THE 'IFS' OF PROVERBS 2 IN TO 'YES'?



STUDY TEN

1 SAMUEL 29-2 SAMUEL 5

A KINGDOM OF MERCY

KEY TEACHING AIMS

The stories today will reveal to us the kind of kingdom a righteous king desires
He will rule in a kingdom that is marked by mercy, justice and truth
The foundation stones of mercy, justice and truth point forward to the eternal Kingdom
that Jesus will bring

INTRODUCTION

- The tragic life of Saul and all the darkness that it brought to Israel is wonderfully replaced with the light of David's reign. If there was one verse that summed up Saul's life and his time in power it would probably be, "The LORD has departed from you and become your enemy" (28:16).
- The life of David could not possibly be more different as it is summed up with these words, "David reigned over all Israel, doing what was just and right for all his people" (2 Samuel 8:15). Today we will spend our time looking at what that looks like in practice.

SMALL GROUPS DONE SEMINAR-STYLE

In today's study we have to cover a lot of ground. To help we will look at each story in a small group and then look at application questions at the end.

Alternatively, you can get the young people to feed back what they have learnt from each story.

GROUP ONE

1. SAUL AND ISRAEL THOUGHT THAT DAVID WAS FIGHTING WITH THE PHILISTINES AGAINST ISRAEL. CONSIDER THE EVIDENCE AND DECIDE WHETHER DAVID IS GUILTY OR INNOCENT. LOOK UP 27:1-4, 28:1-2.

Read 1 Samuel 29

- David is set to fight Israel (29:1-2)
- The Philistine commanders wisely are having absolutely none of it. Unlike Achish, they are not gullible (1 Samuel 27:6-12, 29:3-4).
- Achish defends David three times, declaring him innocent (29:3, 6, 9)
- They have heard the songs that Israel have sung about him (29:5)
- The Philistine commanders win through and David and his men are made to depart (29:11)

2. LOOK UP 1 SAMUEL 30. WHILE THE PHILISTINES ARE FIGHTING AND KILLING SAUL WHAT IS DAVID DOING?

What kind of leader is he?

- While Saul is seeking the help from a witch, David is seeking help from the LORD (30:7-8)
- David is completely successful in his mission to save his people (30:18-20)
- David again goes against what his soldiers desire and acts graciously towards the soldiers who were too exhausted to fight (30:22-26)

CONCLUSION

When we look at David's behaviour in chapters 27 and 29 it is nearly impossible to get to grips with what David is up to. We know for sure that he never fought against Israel; in fact he spent his time fighting against Israel's enemies while living in Ziklag (27:8-9).

One of the Philistine leaders may have been totally hoodwinked by David's cunning, but the Philistine commanders clearly were not. What plans David had for marching out with the Philistines against Israel we just don't know. What we do know for sure is David never fought against his own people, therefore preserving his right to be their King.

- When we get to 1 Samuel 30 the picture of David could not be more different. He is again the saviour of his people, and rules them with righteousness and justice (30:23-26.)

GROUP TWO

1. SOME PEOPLE MAY HAVE THOUGHT THAT DAVID WAS GUILTY OF SAUL'S DEATH. CONSIDER THE EVIDENCE AND DECIDE WHETHER IS DAVID GUILTY OR INNOCENT. LOOK UP 1 SAMUEL 30:1-2,18-19, 1 SAMUEL 31.

- David is nowhere to be seen, as he is saving his people from the raiding Amalekites.
- The death of Saul in so many ways sums up his whole life. He is left godforsaken, hounded by his fiercest enemies, the Philistines, and finally dies a tragic death (31:1-6)
- The Philistines find Israel's king dead and seek to humiliate Saul and his God (31:8-10)
- The last scene is one of intense bravery and loyalty, as Saul's men retrieve his body from the very citadel of their Philistine enemy (31:11-13)

2. WHAT IS DAVID'S RESPONSE TO THOSE WHO BRING HIM THE MESSAGE OF SAUL'S DEATH? LOOK UP 2 SAMUEL 1:1-16.

Context is Key

We know what really happened to Saul for we have 1 Samuel 31 - in contrast, David did not. When the Amalekite turns up with Saul's crown David has to take what he says as the truth, for he knows no different. As we read this chapter, we must remember this important detail.

Look up 2 Samuel 1:1-16

- If we judge the story that the Amalekite brings to David by 1 Samuel 31 we can see that it is made up of truth and lies.
 - The truth is that Saul and Jonathan are dead.
 - The lie is that he was responsible for completing the job. He obviously knows the history of David and Saul and therefore thinks that the lie will put him in the future king's good books.
- The response of David is stunning: he first mourns (1:11-12), and then he executes judgment (1:13-15). The foolish Amalekite has done the very thing that David refused to do, which was to lay a hand upon the LORD's anointed. What he thought would bring him honour from the king has instead brought judgment.

3. HOW DOES THIS LAMENT REVEAL DAVID'S HEART ATTITUDE? LOOK UP 2 SAMUEL 1:17-27.

- David writes a moving lament for both Saul and Jonathan, which he commands all of Judah to be taught (1:17). We must not rush this lament but instead learn great lessons from it.

"THE MORE WE LOVE THE MORE WE GRIEVE" - M HENRY.

"SORROW WILL BE HARDEST WHERE LOVE IS DEEPEST" - DR DAVIS.

- What we have here is a deep display of David's sorrow for both Saul and his beloved friend Jonathan

CONCLUSION

These two stories give us not only the facts but the feelings, not only the essentials but the emotion. When you consider the facts it is obvious that David is utterly innocent of Saul's death. When we see the grief and tears, we get a clear window into David's heart.

GROUP THREE

1. DAVID PROMISED BOTH SAUL AND JONATHAN TO PROTECT THEIR FAMILY AND NOT TO WIPE THEM OUT. LOOK UP 1 SAMUEL 20:14-17, 24:19-22.

Considering the evidence, does he act with justice in keeping his promises?

2. WHO IS DAVID'S ENEMY AND WHAT DOES HE DO? LOOK UP 2 SAMUEL 2:8-10

- ♦ Abner is the son of Saul's uncle (1 Samuel 14:50), and sets himself up as David's enemy when he makes Saul's son, Ish-Bosheth, king.

3. WHO INSTIGATES THE WAR BETWEEN SAUL AND THE HOUSE OF DAVID? WHO ARE THE CASUALTIES? LOOK UP 2 SAMUEL 2:12-14

- ♦ Having made Saul's son king, he now picks a fight with the head of David's army Joab

4. WHO SUFFERS BECAUSE OF THE BATTLE? LOOK UP 2:18-23, 30-32

- ♦ Joab's brother Asahel is killed by Abner
- ♦ Joab's army kills many more men than Abner's

5. WHO ENDS UP STRONGER? LOOK 2:30-3:1

- ♦ The house of David grows stronger than Saul's

6. HOW DOES IT ALL END? LOOK UP 3:17-39

For Abner?

- ♦ He desires peace (3:17-21)
- ♦ But ends up brutally murdered by Joab (3:22-27)

For Joab?

- ♦ He desires revenge and gets what he desires (3:30)

For David?

- ♦ He is completely innocent of Abner's death (3:26, 28, 37)
- ♦ The people love the way he leads them in righteousness (3:36-37)

CONCLUSION

To say the least this story is a bloody mess, with absurd young men killing each other egged on by their military leaders. As if that is not bad enough, we are then introduced to a blood feud between two families that results in vicious revenge. Just when there seems to be no light at all, David appears again as the righteous king. The house of Saul has caused havoc, but God's chosen king comes out of the blood bath innocent of any of the blood-letting. As the people now reflect on Saul's kingdom, they joyfully look forward to David's reign of righteousness and justice (3:36-37, 8:15).

GROUP FOUR

1. DAVID PROMISED BOTH SAUL AND JONATHAN TO PROTECT HIS FAMILY AND NOT TO WIPE THEM OUT. LOOK UP 1 SAMUEL 20:14-17, 24:19-22

Considering the evidence does he act with justice in keeping his promises? Read 2 Samuel 4.

2. HOW ARE SAUL'S FAMILY DESCRIBED?

- Ish-Bosheth has no courage and is therefore living in fear (4:1)
- Jonathan's son is crippled therefore utterly vulnerable (4:4)

3. WHAT HAPPENS TO ISH-BOSHETH?

- Like Abner, he is brutally murdered (4:5-6)

4. WHY DO YOU THINK THEY BRING ISH-BOSHETH'S HEAD TO DAVID? (4:7-8)

- Their thinking is pretty simple to understand. They know that Saul was David's enemy and that Ish-Bosheth has been set up as a rival to his throne. Their perverted minds think that if they bring Ish Bosheth's head to David he will reward them.

5. WHAT IS DAVID'S RESPONSE?

- He tells them of the judgment that came upon those who claimed to have killed God's anointed Saul (4:9-10)
- He acknowledges Ish-Bosheth's innocence (4:11)
- He judges the evildoers for their evil deed (4:12)
- He shows Israel that evildoers get punished (4:12)

CONCLUSION

- All the stories reveal the callous sin of those who represent Saul's kingdom.
- Amongst the ruins of Saul's kingdom stands David, the innocent and righteous king.

FINAL CONCLUSION

- Today's stories have taken us into the very last days of Saul's sad reign. As we looked at the stories we have seen that David is completely innocent of any sin or vengefulness against Saul and his family. He keeps the promises that he made to both Saul and Jonathan.
- Tragically, others step into the picture to carry out brutal murders of Saul's commanding officer, Abner, and son, Ish-Bosheth. The author's aim is to show us from every angle David is innocent of all the blood that has been shed.
- It should not surprise us that Israel longs for a king like David (2 Samuel 3:36-37). For decades they have lived under a king who was primarily out to serve himself instead of his people:
 - He was a king that made a statue in his honour (15:21).
 - He repeatedly did the opposite to what Samuel the prophet told him to do (13:13, 15:26).
 - He was a king who was more interested in killing David than saving and defending his own people (23:26-24:2).

- When we get to 2 Samuel 5 we see that the whole of Israel have identified David as the LORD's anointed, the righteous king (5:1-5). When it comes to the house of Saul, King David has shown himself to be a king who is faithful to his promises. Therefore, when he makes a covenant with Israel (5:3) they have every assurance that it would be fulfilled (8:15).

As we come to this part of the story of David we should be able to see how it points forward to King Jesus. The world that our young people live in is full of failed 'messiahs' who, like Saul, promise everything but deliver failure.

DAVID AND JESUS

Here are three ways that David's kingdom pointed forward to Jesus'

A KINGDOM MARKED BY MERCY

- The opening chapter of 2 Samuel outlines to us a very different kingdom to the one that Saul chose to create. The kingdom of Saul was marked by jealousy, hatred, and revenge, whereas the kingdom of David is marked by mercy and the desire to forgive.
- In refusing to take revenge upon Saul and his family, David is building a kingdom that will foreshadow the Kingdom of Jesus. In his teaching to his disciples, Jesus teaches them to love and forgive their enemies (Matthew 5:43-48). This we see clearly in David relationship with Saul. The reason David continually gave us for not taking revenge was that he trusted in God's for justice, the very thing that Lord Jesus perfectly fulfilled (1 Peter 2:23).

A KINGDOM MARKED BY JUSTICE

- A kingdom marked by mercy does not mean a kingdom devoid of justice, as we see in today's stories. Those who claimed to kill Saul, God's anointed, were judged (1:15-16), as were those who murdered the innocent Ish Bosheth (4:11).
- When the Lord Jesus preaches, the passage he chose was 61:1-2 in the book of Isaiah. The Lord Jesus is declaring that at the heart of his Kingdom will be justice for the nations (Luke 4:16-21). The rule of David hints at this, the rule of Jesus will be absolutely dominated by it (Matthew 12:18-21).

A KINGDOM MARKED BY TRUTH

- What is clear in the stories of David in 2 Samuel 1-5 is that his kingdom is marked by truth - the covenant that he makes with both Saul and Jonathan he faithfully kept.
- The rule of the Lord Jesus will reflect this same characteristic (John 1:14). He is a God of truth, therefore his kingdom and those who join it will also be marked by truth (John 3:21, 4:23-24).



STUDY ELEVEN

2 SAMUEL 6 • PASSIONATE PRAISE

KEY TEACHING AIMS

The anointed king puts the presence of God at the centre of his rule and reign
A holy God is a dangerous business

INTRODUCTION

Last week we saw that mercy, justice, and truth will mark the rule of God's King. Today we see that these will only be achieved through God's presence and promises becoming a reality to God's people.

STUDY

1. WHAT IS SIGNIFICANT ABOUT THE ARK AND DAVID PUTTING IT AT THE CENTRE OF HIS REIGN? READ 2 SAMUEL 6.

Read 2 Samuel 6:2

- The ark symbolised God's name and God's rule.
- Every time an Israelite looked at the ark they saw the throne, which reminded them that the LORD was their true King.

Read Exodus 25:15-16, 21

- The ark symbolised how God ruled
- Every time an Israelite looked at the ark they were reminded of what was inside the ark.
 - a. Ten Commandments = The only way God rules his people is through His word.
 - b. Manna = God is the only one who can sustain and satisfy His people.
 - c. Aaron's rod that budded – power and guidance.

Read Numbers 10:35-36

- The ark symbolised God's presence.
- Every time an Israelite looked at the ark they would remember that it symbolised that God was with them. This is expressed so clearly in the prayer that Moses offers while leading Israel in the desert.

Read Leviticus 16:14-16

- The ark symbolised death and reconciliation.
- Every time an Israelite looked at the ark they would be reminded that friendship with God was only possible through the shedding of blood.

The Ark at the Centre

- The statement that David is making is clear. He wants Israel to know that at the very core of their being, culture and daily life is the God who rules, speaks, and makes reconciliation. The ark symbolises all those things, therefore it is at the centre of his reign and his people's worship.

2. WHAT IS YOUR FIRST REACTION WHEN YOU READ THE STORY OF UZZAH? READ 2 SAMUEL 6:6-12:

- Our first reaction is often to think that God is being harsh. All Uzzah seems to do is to stop the ark from falling on the floor, which seems to have been a good thing.

3. IS THERE ANY SENSE OF OUTRAGE IN THE STORY AT WHAT GOD DOES TO UZZAH? WHY DO YOU THINK THAT IS?

- The only response that the author gives is David's (6:8-10). When he sees what Uzzah does, and then how God responds, anger and fear grip his heart. He is angry with Uzzah and fearful of God.

4. HOW DO GOD'S COMMANDS CONCERNING THE ARK HELP US TO UNDERSTAND DAVID'S RESPONSE? LOOK UP NUMBERS 4:4-6,11,15,17-20, 7:9.

The commands concerning the ark

- The reason for David's anger is that God's word has been ignored and broken. The law of God was crystal clear as to who, how and why the ark needed to be carried in a certain way.
 - It's the work of the Kohathites and them alone (4:4, 15, 19, 7:9)
 - The leather shield must go over the ark (4:6)
 - It must be carried by polls (4:6, 11)
 - Death is the punishment for anyone who touches or looks at the holy things (4:15, 20)

5. WHAT DO GOD'S COMMANDS CONCERNING THE ARK REVEAL ABOUT HIS CHARACTER?

- What we see in 2 Samuel 6 is a stunning display of God's holiness. As we have seen the ark is a symbol of who God is and what he has done. Therefore the way that Israel relates to the ark is a reflection on how they are relating to God and who He is.

What the ark teaches us about God's character

- Having a holy God dwell among you is dangerous, because Israel are a sinful people.
- Israel can only approach God on his terms alone.
- Disobedience to his word results in death.
- His presence brings blessing to His people (6:11-12)

6. HOW DOES THE ARK POINT FORWARD TO JESUS?

Jesus is the Ark

- When a Christian looks to Jesus they see him reigning at the right hand of the Father who one day they will have to answer to (Luke 22:69, Acts 5:30-32, 7:55)
- When a Christian looks to Jesus they know that he is the only one who can truly sustain them (John 6:48-51)
- When a Christian looks to Jesus they see the one who is the word of God (John 1:14)
- When a Christian looks to Jesus they see the one who shed his blood to reconcile us to the Father (Colossians 1:20)
- When the Christian looks to Jesus they see God the Son therefore the presence of God (Colossians 1:19)

7. THE ARK EXCITED DAVID BIG TIME. HOW SHOULD WE EXPRESS OUR EXCITEMENT ABOUT JESUS? LOOK UP 6:5,13-15, ACTS 4:18-22, 4:32-35.

True excitement about the Lord Jesus will always result in two things:

- A passion to tell others about him, whatever the cost (Acts 4:20)
- A passion to love Jesus' people, whatever the cost (Acts 4:32)

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

1. WHY WAS THE ARK SO IMPORTANT TO DAVID? WHEN ISRAEL LOOKED AT THE ARK WHAT WERE THEY TO REMEMBER?

Inside The Ark

Ten Commandments = God Word/Voice

Manner = Food / Sustenance

Aaron's Rod that Budded = God's guidance

Outside The Ark

Angels = God is Holy

Priest = You can only approach God when blood has been shed.

2. THINK OF THE LATEST SONGS, ADVERTS, YOUTUBE CLIPS, SNAPCHATS YOU HAVE SEEN. WHAT MESSAGES ARE THEY COMMUNICATING TO US? HOW DO THEY PROMISE TO SUSTAIN US?

3. WHY IS GOD A BETTER OPTION?

4. THE STORY WITH UZZAH MAY SEEM PRETTY STRANGE AND ODD. HE IS PUNISHED WITH DEATH FOR DISOBEYING GOD'S CLEAR COMMAND. HOW DOES JOHN'S VISION HELP YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT IS GOING ON WITH UZZAH? READ REVELATION 1:12-18.

WHAT HE SEES AND HEARS	JOHN'S RESPONSE
1:13 = Like the son of man	1:17 = Fell at his feet as though dead
1:13 = Long robe, golden sash	
1:14 = Hair white, like snow	
1:14 = Eyes like blazing fire	
1:15 = Feet like burning bronze glowing in a furnace	
1:15 = Voice like the sound of rushing waters	
1:16 = Tongue like a double edged sword	
1:16 = Face like the sun shining in all its brilliance	
1:17 = Tells John not to be afraid	
1:17 = He is the first and the last	
1:18 = Holds the keys of death and hell	

5. HOW DOES THIS VISION CHANGE YOUR VIEW OF JESUS?

6. THINK OF FIVE REASONS WHY JESUS WORD SHOULD BE OBEYED AND TAKEN VERY SERIOUSLY.



STUDY TWELVE

2 SAMUEL 7 • ETERNAL PROMISES

KEY TEACHING AIMS

David's reign was great, but its effects were temporary. Jesus' reign is both great and eternal.

INTRODUCTION

Last time we journeyed with David into Jerusalem we saw how he put the ark and all that it symbolised at the very heart of his rule. Today we are going to be looking at one of the most important chapters in the whole Bible (2 Samuel 7). The reason the chapter is important is because of eternal promises God makes to David and his descendants.

1. WHAT IS DAVID'S GREAT DESIRE? READ 2 SAMUEL 7:1-3

- With the excitement of the ark still more than in the air, David's big passion is to build a temple for the Ark to dwell in.

2. HOW DOES GOD ANSWER KING DAVID? READ 2 SAMUEL 7:5-11.

- Our God is far too great to be boxed in a house (7:5-7). His plan is to build an eternal dynasty that will fulfil the promises made to Abraham, which will give his people an eternal land (7:10), name (7:9), and protection (7:9-11).

3. HOW LONG DID DAVID'S VICTORIES LAST FOR? LOOK UP 2 SAMUEL 8:13-15.

- The career of David as a military leader has been outstanding. The reason for the success is God's presence (8:14b). Great though he was, his influence will last only as long as he is alive. What is needed therefore is a King whose victories have an eternal affect.

4. HOW IS THE KINGDOM THAT JESUS IS BUILDING GREATER THAN THE ONE DAVID BUILT?

He's building a Kingdom that is eternal

- During the reign of David , rest from Israel's enemies was an experience enjoyed by all of Israel (2 Samuel 7:1; 8:56). But as we saw in the previous question this rest did not last even one generation.
- The promise of 2 Samuel 7:11,16 is that a King will arise who will bring perfect rest to his people. It only takes a brief look at the Old Testament kings to realise that not one of them got any where near.

Revelation 7:14-17

- When we get to the New Testament we are introduced to a King who does finally pull it off. The picture that is painted is one where God's people enjoy perfect rest.
 - a. Complete protection (Revelation 7:15,17)
 - b. Complete health and freedom from suffering (Revelation 7:16)
 - c. Complete victory (Revelation 7:17)

Revelation 21:22-27

- The temple here is no longer a physical building, but instead a physical person (21:22)
- At the centre of all that happens is the Jesus (21:23)
- The Kings victory will extend to the whole earth (21:24,26)
- Complete victory brings complete safety (21:25)
- Entrance to the city is wholly dependant upon your relationship to the King (21:27)

5. HOW CAN WE BE SURE THAT JESUS WILL BE ABLE TO ACCOMPLISH THIS? READ 2 SAMUEL 7:12-16, ACTS 2:29-36.

He's a King that conquers death (7:12)

- To be the King of an eternal Kingdom you have to first defeat death. When the apostle Peter preaches his first sermon he instantly refers back to 2 Samuel 7, and reveals to us all that Jesus is the eternal king Nathan was speaking about (Acts 2:29-32).

He's a King that conquers sin (7:14-16)

- The reign of David after 2 Samuel 7 is tragic. The key verses that lays the foundation for all that follows is 12:10-12. Up to now David has been the suffering, innocent and victorious Messiah. Once we hit David's sin with Bathsheba his whole family and reign sadly begin to implode.
- All the Kings that follow David reflect his attraction to sin, leaving us longing and hoping for something and someone better. The Lord Jesus conquers sin, therefore has the power to forgive and to give the Spirit (Acts 2:38).

He's a King who conquers eternity (7:16)

- To be king of an eternal kingdom means that you have to master death. This is something that Jesus has revealed to the whole world through His death and resurrection. The message of Peter to the people on the day of Pentecost is that one day all people will have to acknowledge Jesus eternal reign (Acts 2:33,36).

6. WHAT SHOULD OUR RESPONSE BE TO SUCH A KING? READ ACTS 2:38-41

- The only response that we can give to such a King is the one that Peter proclaimed on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:38-41). We must bow our knees in repentance and faith and joyfully accept and acknowledge Jesus as our King.

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

Read 2 Samuel 7:1-17

1. WHY ARE THE PROMISES THAT PEOPLE MAKE OFTEN A DISAPPOINTMENT IN THE END?

2. WHAT IS DAVID'S GREAT DESIRE? (2 SAMUEL 7:1-3)

- To build a temple for the LORD

3. WHAT PROMISES DOES GOD MAKE TO DAVID AND ISRAEL? (2 SAMUEL 7:9-15)

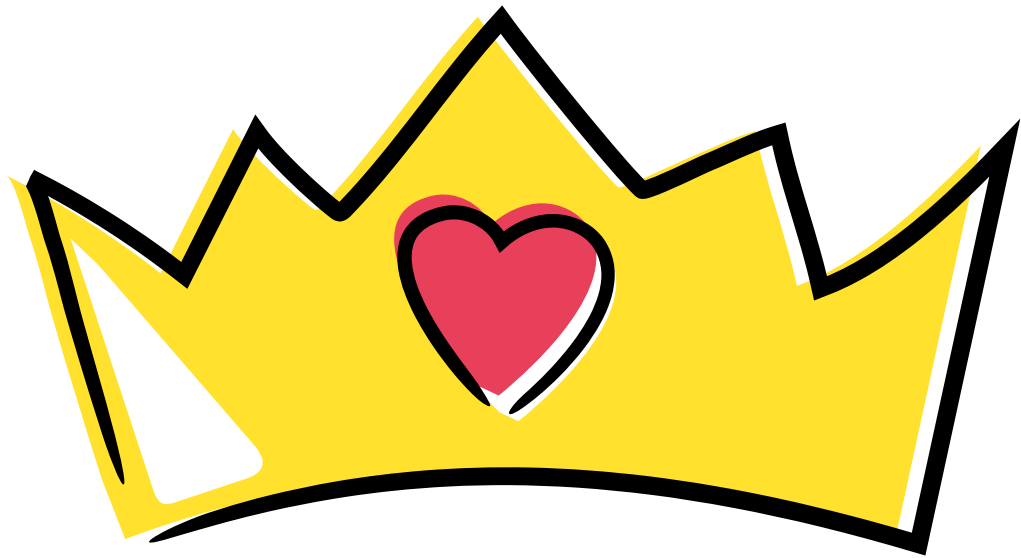
- 7:9 = The LORD will make your name great
- 7:10-11 = The LORD will provide a land for Israel, in which they will be protected and have rest from their enemies.
- 7:11b-13,16 = An everlasting Kingdom.
- 7:14 = His discipline will follow the kings that rebel.
- 7:15 = God's faithful love will never depart from David's line.

4. HOW MANY OF THESE PROMISES CAN DAVID FULFIL? LOOK UP 8:13-15

- David's ability to fulfil the promises is utterly dependent upon how long he lives. All the time he is alive Israel will have rest from their enemies, but as soon as he dies Israel will be vulnerable again to attack.

5. HOW DOES THE APOSTLE PETER SHOW THAT GOD'S FAITHFULNESS TO HIS PROMISES IS FULFILLED PERFECTLY IN THE LIFE OF JESUS? READ ACTS 2:29-36.

- ♦ **2:29** = The apostle Peter reminds us that the reason David could not fulfil the promise was because he died.
- ♦ **2:30-32** = God revealed to David that a greater King would come who could fulfil God's promises. The death and resurrection of Jesus proved that He was that King
- ♦ **2:33** = The triumph of the cross and resurrection mean that Jesus is now seated in the place of eternal power and rule. His enemies days are numbered, for he is at the right hand of the Father, proving that he is Lord and Messiah.



STUDY THIRTEEN

2 SAMUEL 9 • KING OF GRACE

KEY TEACHING AIMS

Having received God's grace in 2 Samuel 7, David teaches us how to pass it on to others. This story reveals David's deep grace to one of his enemies. The grace that is shown by David to Mephibosheth is a picture of the grace Jesus shows to us.

INTRODUCTION

The promises of chapter 7 will be achieved not through David's obedience, but through God's faithfulness. Today's story introduces us to exactly what that Kingdom of grace will look like in practice, as we encounter David's remarkable relationship with Mephibosheth.

1. HOW HAS THE LIFE OF DAVID BEEN MARKED BY THE GRACE OF GOD?

Position – Look up 1 Samuel 16:11-13 2 Samuel 7:8, 11, 12-16

- When everyone else was either overlooking or despising David, God chose him

Protection – Look up 2 Samuel 7:10-11, 8:14-15

- ♦ As we have already seen David's military victories were immense. The only reason we are given for his repeated success is God's presence with him.

Provision - Look up 2 Samuel 7:10

- ♦ Just as his position and protection were clearly from God's hand, so was his provision.

2. HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE WHAT DAVID HAS EXPERIENCED FROM SAUL AND JONATHAN? READ 1 SAMUEL 19:6, 10-13, 23:7-8, 1 SAMUEL 20:1-4,42.

- ♦ A murderer and breaker of promises
- ♦ A friend and keeper of promises

3. WHAT PROMISES DID DAVID MAKE TO JONATHAN AND SAUL AND WHO WITNESSED THEM? READ 1 SAMUEL 19:6, 20:15, 24:20-22.

- ♦ While on the run David made a promise to protect Saul's family in the presence of his soldiers (1 Samuel 24:20-24)
- ♦ When David makes the promises to Jonathan there are no witnesses. This leaves David completely free to break them without any one holding him to account (1 Samuel 19:6, 20:42).

4. WHAT HAS BEEN DAVID'S ATTITUDE TO THESE PROMISES BEEN SO FAR?

- ♦ The power that David had within his Kingdom was huge. As we saw in 2 Samuel 1-5, nearly everyone with any kind of power was happy to contribute to the total destruction of Saul's family. The only person standing in the way was David.

5. HOW DOES DAVID CHOOSE TO RESPOND TO MEPHIBOSHETH, SAUL'S GRANDSON?

- ♦ The beauty of this story is that David clearly chooses to remain completely faithful to his promises. In fact his passion is not merely to spare Mephibosheth, but instead to show 'hesed' God's loyal love towards him (9:3). The love that David has experienced from God, he now wants to lavish upon Mephibosheth (9:7).

Position – 9:7,10,11,13

- ♦ When Mephibosheth first heard that he had to appear before David he must have been in total fear. His fear though will soon turn to joy as four times in seven verses we are told that he will eat at the King's table like one of the royal sons.

Protection – 9:13

- ♦ We are told twice of Mephibosheth's illness therefore twice of his utter vulnerability (9:5, 13). Yet Mephibosheth does not need to fear for he now lives in safety in Jerusalem with God's anointed.

Provision 9:7, 9-10

- ♦ It would seem that every blessing David can find, he wants to lavish upon Mephibosheth. Straight away David tracks down Ziba, Saul's chief of staff, and makes sure that all his family are

deployed to farm Saul's land (9:9-11). All the produce and richness of Saul's estate is there for his son to enjoy.

6. HOW DOES THIS STORY POINT FORWARD TO PROMISED GRACE?

- This story is a beautiful picture of what God's future grace will achieve in the life and ministry of Jesus.

Position

- Just like Mephibosheth we belonged to the wrong Kingdom and were therefore enemies of God (Colossians 1:13). Through the death of the Lord Jesus we are brought into God's Kingdom as sons and daughters.

Protection

- Our only hope is to be saved and forgiven by the one that we have offended. The one that we have offended defeats our enemies so that we can live as his subjects within his Kingdom (Colossians 2:13-15)

Provision

Salvation from the kingdom of darkness brings us into the Kingdom of the Son he loves. We are lavished with forgiveness and free to enjoy our King (Colossians 1:13).

7. HOW SHOULD THE GRACE THAT WE HAVE RECEIVED AFFECT OUR LIVES?

- The amazing thing about David is that he is a picture of both Christ and us. We have just seen that he is a picture of Jesus in that he welcomes and forgives his enemies. So how then is he a picture of us?
- The reason David is so full of grace and mercy towards his enemy, is because He is reflecting the way God has treated him. The LORD took David from being a no body to becoming the King of Israel. This is exactly the grace that God has shown to us, and the grace that we should seek to show and offer to others.

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

1. WHAT ARE THE SIMILARITIES BETWEEN THE STORY OF 2 SAMUEL 9 AND LUKE 5:17-26?

MEPHIBOSHETH	2 SAMUEL 9	LAME MAN	LUKE 5
<i>Crippled</i>	9:3	<i>Crippled</i>	5:18
<i>Brought to the King</i>	9:5	<i>Brought to the King</i>	5:18-19
<i>Made a child of the king</i>		<i>Made a child of the King</i>	5:20
<i>Protected by the King</i>	9:13	<i>Protected by the King</i>	5:22-24
<i>Rejoices in King's grace</i>	9:7,10,11,13	<i>Rejoices in King's grace</i>	5:25

2. DAVID'S ACTIONS TOWARDS MEPHIBOSHETH REFLECT HOW GOD HAS TREATED HIM. HOW DOES DAVID WANT THE WHOLE WORLD TO RESPOND TO WHO THE LORD IS? LOOK AT PSALM 138.

GOD'S CHARACTER	DAVID'S RESPONSE	THE WORLD'S RESPONSE
v2 Holy	v1 Praises the LORD with all his heart	v4-5 David longs for all the Kings of the world to praise God
v2 Unfailing love and faithfulness	v2 Proclaims God's name	
v3 Hears and answers David	v3 Gives David great boldness	
v6 Exalted	v8 Vindicates David	
v6 Kind to the lowly		
v6 Does not miss what proud people do		
v7 Preserves David's life		
v8 Eternal love		

3. HOW CAN YOU LEARN TO DAILY ENJOY GOD'S LOVE? HOW CAN IT GIVE YOU CONFIDENCE AND BOLDNESS TO TELL THE WORLD?

Here are a few verses from Romans 8:31-39. See if you can follow Paul's logical argument.

- a. If God is on our side we will win (8:31)
- b. If God gives us his very best, he will therefore not hold back any other good gift (8:32)
- c. The one we follow has the most powerful position (8:34)
- d. Like David and Jesus we will suffer – 8:34-36
- e. Nothing stopped God loving David, and nothing will stop God loving us – 8:37-39

4. HOW WILL GOD'S UNFAILING LOVE REVOLUTIONISE YOUR RELATIONSHIPS...

At home?

At school?

In your hobbies?



STUDY FOURTEEN

2 SAMUEL 11-12 • FALLEN & FORGIVEN

KEY TEACHING AIMS

God's chosen king is fatally flawed

The success of God's Kingdom is dependent upon His faithfulness and not David's

The failure of David points forward to the perfect sinless Messiah Jesus.

1. IN DEUTERONOMY 17:14-20 WE GET GOD'S BLUEPRINT FOR THE KIND OF ISRAEL KING SHOULD HAVE.

What kind of a King does God say Israel should have, and how is David a fulfilment?

PASSAGE	GOD'S KING	PASSAGE	FULFILLED IN DAVID?
<i>Deuteronomy 17:15</i>	<i>God's choice</i>	<i>1 Sam 16:13</i>	<i>David is clearly God's choice</i>
<i>Deuteronomy 17:15</i>	<i>An Israelite</i>	<i>1 Sam 17:26</i>	<i>He is an Israelite</i>
<i>Deuteronomy 17:17</i>	<i>Not have many wives</i>	<i>2 Sam 5:13</i>	<i>Sadly he has many wives</i>

PASSAGE	GOD'S KING	PASSAGE	FULFILLED IN DAVID?
Deuteronomy 17:17	Money	1 Samuel 22:1-2	For much of the time he is a fugitive with nothing, but later he is able to pass on wealth for Solomon to build a glorious temple for the LORD.
Deuteronomy 17:18-19	God's Word	1 Samuel 17:45-47 Psalm 29:4-11	When facing Goliath he trusts God plan and promises Psalm 29 reveals to us how David views God's word.
Deuteronomy 17:20	Humility	1 Samuel 25:32-34	David responds in humility towards Abigail's advice and plea

2. THE STORY IS BEST UNDERSTOOD BY LOOKING AT THE ACTIONS, WORDS AND THE FINAL OUTCOME OF EACH CHARACTER INVOLVED.

Read 2 Samuel 11-12 and fill in the table below:

VERSE	ACTION/INFORMATION/ VERBS	WORDS	OUTCOME
11:1	He sends Joab to war He remains in Jerusalem		He commits adultery with Bathsheba
11:2	He saw a beautiful woman		He commits adultery with Bathsheba
11:3	He sends someone to find out about her She is Bathsheba She is daughter of Eliam She is married to Uriah	He displeases the LORD	
11:4	He sends to get her He sleeps with her	Bathsheba gets pregnant	
11:6	He sends word to Joab	" Send me Uriah the Hittite"	He involves Joab in his sin He displeases the LORD
11:7		David asked how Joab was doing, how the people were doing and how the war was going	

DAVID

VERSE	ACTION/INFORMATION/ VERBS	WORDS	OUTCOME
11:8	He sends a gift to Uriah's house	"Go down to your house and wash your feet"	Uriah reveals himself as the righteous Israelite.
11:10	He is told that Uriah had not gone home	"Have you not come from a journey? Why did you not go down to your house?"	
11:12	He tells Uriah it stay in Jerusalem	Then David said to Uriah, "Remain here today also, and tomorrow I will send you back."	
11:13	He invites Uriah to his home He gets him drunk		Uriah reveals himself as the righteous Israelite He displeases the LORD
11:14	He writes a letter And sends it with Uriah to Joab		In the hands of David, Joab becomes his weapon of murder He displeases the LORD
11:15		"Set Uriah in the forefront of the hardest fighting, and then draw back from him, that he may be struck down, and die."	Uriah is murdered He displeases the LORD
11:25	David hears two things from the messenger: Firstly, that some of his men have been killed Secondly, that Uriah has been killed	11:25: David said to the messenger, "Thus shall you say to Joab, 'Do not let this matter trouble you, for the sword devours now one and now another. Strengthen your attack against the city and overthrow it.' And encourage him. "	He involves Joab in his sin He displeases the LORD
11:27	David sends for Bathsheba (ESV)		She becomes his wife and gives birth to his son

BATHSHEBA

VERSE	ACTION/INFORMATION/ VERBS	WORDS	OUTCOME
11:2	<i>She bathes</i>		<i>She is seen by David</i>
11:4	<i>She came to David She sleeps with David She was purifying herself according to the law She goes back home</i>		<i>She gets pregnant</i>
11:5	<i>She conceived She sends word to David</i>	<i>"I am pregnant"</i>	<i>David begins to plot and scheme His plot will lead to Uriah's death</i>
11:26	<i>She hears of Uriah's death She mourns for him</i>		

URIAH

VERSE	ACTION/INFORMATION/ VERBS	WORDS	OUTCOME
11:6	<i>He is sent to David</i>		
11:8	<i>He leaves the palace</i>		
11:9	<i>He sleeps at the entrance to the palace, with his servants He disobeys David by not going home</i>		<i>His faithfulness will lead to his murder</i>
11:11		<i>The ark and Israel and Judah dwell in booths, and my lord Joab and the servants of my lord are camping in the open field. Shall I then go to my house, to eat and to drink and to lie with my wife? As you live, and as your soul lives, I will not do this thing."</i>	<i>His faithfulness will lead to his murder</i>
11:12	<i>He obeys David and stays in Jerusalem one more day</i>		

VERSE	ACTION/INFORMATION/ VERBS	WORDS	OUTCOME
11:13	<i>He is invited to David's house He eats and drinks with David and gets drunk He sleeps with David's servants, and does not go home</i>		<i>His faithfulness will lead to his murder</i>

JOAB

VERSE	ACTION/INFORMATION/ VERBS	WORDS	OUTCOME
11:6	<i>Joab sent Uriah to David</i>		
11:14	<i>He is sent a letter from David</i>		
11:16	<i>He obeys David's command and Uriah is dead</i>		<i>Uriah is killed</i>
11:18	<i>He sends a full account of the battle of David</i>		
11:18-21		<i>Key words "Then you shall say, 'Your servant Uriah the Hittite is dead also.'"</i>	

JOAB'S MESSENGER

VERSE	ACTION/INFORMATION/ VERBS	WORDS	OUTCOME
11:22-24	<i>He is sent to David by Joab</i>	<i>Key words: "Then you shall say, 'Your servant Uriah the Hittite is dead also.'"</i>	

THE LORD

VERSE	ACTION/INFORMATION/ VERBS	WORDS	OUTCOME
11:27 12:1	<i>He is displeased by David's sin</i>		<i>He sends Nathan</i>

3. WHAT IS NATHAN'S MESSAGE TO DAVID?

God's Story – Read 11:1-7

12:1-4 = He tells David the story of the rich man's greed and selfishness

12:7 = He tells David that he is greedy and selfish man in the story

God's Statement – READ 11:7-9

12:7 = I anointed him king over Israel

12:7 = I delivered him from the hand of Saul

12:8 = I delivered to him Saul's estate

12:8 = I gave him all of Israel and Judah

12:8 = I would have given him more

12:9 = You have despised God's word.

12:9 = You have done evil in God's eyes

12:9 = You struck down Uriah with the sword

12:9 = You took his wife as your own

12:9 = You killed him with the sword of the Ammonites

God's Sentence – Read 12:10-14, 25

12:10 = The sword will never depart from his house

Why? – “You despised me and took Uriah's wife”

12:11-12 = The sins you have committed will come back to haunt you

12:13 = God has taken his sin away

12:14 = His son will die because of his sin

12:25 = When their second son is born, the Lord names him through Nathan the prophet

4. HOW DOES DAVID RESPOND?

12:5 = He desires justice and punishment for those who do evil.

12:13 = He instantly admits his sin.

12:16 = He pleads with God to take away the judgment upon the child.

12:18-20 = Once he knows the child is dead, he worships the LORD.

12:24 = He comforts Bathsheba after the death of their son.

5. HOW DOES THIS STORY ULTIMATELY POINT TO JESUS?

Read 2 Samuel 7:9-15

At first glance it may look as if the LORD'S promises made to David are now in tatters. Yet to think like that is to totally misunderstand their foundation and purpose.

What is confirmed by reading 2 Samuel 11-12, is that David is not the Messiah that both Israel and we desperately need. As we saw in question one, he gives us many markers as to what we should expect from God's Messiah. Yet here we are looking into the eyes of an adulterer and slimy murderer. He has chosen to despise God's word, and show utter contempt towards Bathsheba, Uriah, and Joab.

“YES, DAVID WAS GOLD – AND WE MUST NEVER FORGET IT – BUT HE WAS FAR FROM PURE GOLD, AND IMMEASURABLY FAR FROM THE UNSPOTTED, UNALLOYED, SUPER-FINE GOLD REQUIRED FOR THE MESSIAH, AND YET TO SHINE WITH THE FULL LUSTER IN HIS COMING SON” A. MOYTER.

The one redeeming feature that marks him out as different from Saul, is that he listens and obeys God’s prophet.

Though David’s name is great, sin will always tarnish it (7:9). Like everyone else, David is a man of sin, therefore a man of death (12:5). His sin leads to the death of Uriah, which is repeatedly mentioned (11:21, 24, 26). His sin leads to the death of his son (12:19,23) and, as Peter reminds us, ultimately it leads to his own death (Acts 2:29).

This brings us back to where we started in 1 Samuel 13:14. It is God’s heart after David, and not David’s heart after God that guarantees the success of God’s plans and promises. What we need is a Messiah who is eternal and sinless, which Peter proclaims at Pentecost (2:29-41).

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

- 1. READ PSALM 51.**
- 2. WHAT DOES DAVID ASK GOD FOR? (51:1-2)**
- 3. WHY HAS DAVID ASKED FOR THAT? (51:3-6)**
- 4. HOW DOES THE PSALM REVEAL DAVID’S SHAME. (51:7-9)**
- 5. WHAT DOES DAVID NEED FROM GOD? (51:10-12)**
- 6. ONCE RECEIVED, WHAT DOES DAVID THEN WANT TO DO? (51:13-19)**
- 7. HAVE YOU EVER EXPERIENCED ANYTHING SIMILAR TO DAVID?**

BIG THEMES & CHAPTER SUMMARIES

STUDIES IN 1 AND 2 SAMUEL

LUKE 24 - MARKS OF THE MESSIAH

1. Suffering and glory- 24:25
2. Suffering and resurrection 24:45-49
3. All nations being blessed by him

THEME 1 - CHOSEN BY GOD

- God chooses David through the prophet Samuel (1 Samuel 16:1-13)
- The LORD is with him as he fights Goliath (16:18, 18:12, 14, 28)
- God departs from Saul (18:12, 28-29)
- God guides David to safety at Keilah (23:7-14; key verse: 23:14)
- God delivers David from Saul's pursuit in the Desert of Ziph and Maon (23:26-29)
- Even Saul recognises that David is the LORDS anointed (24:16-22)
- Abigail identifies David as the LORDS anointed (25:28-31)
- The LORD defeats David's enemy Nabal (25: 38)
- The LORD causes Saul and his men to fall into a deep sleep, so that David's innocence and character as Messiah could be exalted (26:9-25)
- Again Saul recognises and admits to David being the LORDS anointed -(26:25)
- Even pagans (e.g. Achish the Philistine) finds no fault with David (29:3, 6-10)
- Even pagans know the songs of praise that Israel sing to David (29:5)
- Abner, David's enemy, acknowledges that he is God's anointed (2 Samuel 3:8-11)
- Abner acknowledges that all Israel want David as their King (3:17-18)
- All of Israel declare David to be their saviour (5:1-5)
- The LORD's choice of David is confirmed by defeating the Jebusites and securing Jerusalem as the City of David (5:9-12)
- David only has rest from his enemies because the LORD gives it to him (7:1)
- God took David from being an obscure shepherd boy to a king (7:8)

God's Covenant with David – 2 Samuel 7

David's throne will be...

- Established by God (7:11b)
- Eternal – 7:12, 13, 16)
- Established in a Father – Son relationship – 7:14)
- Established in eternal love – 7:15)

David's Prayer

- David's humility (7:18)
- David acknowledges that the Kingdom is for the glory of God's name (7:22,25-26)
- David acknowledges God's utter uniqueness (7:22)
- David acknowledges that Israel's uniqueness is completely tied to their salvation from Egypt by God (7:23-24)
- David acknowledges that God's word is trustworthy (7:2)
- David acknowledges that God's blessing is an eternal one (7:29)

1. SUFFERING / CROSS

- From his own brothers (17:28)
- From Goliath (17:41-44)
- Jealousy of Saul (18:8-9)
- David acts like a mad man (21:10-15)

Saul attempts to kill David

KEY VERSE 18:29 - "HE REMAINED HIS ENEMY THE REST OF HIS DAYS"

- Saul throws a spear at David (18:10-11)
- He plots for the Philistines to kill David (18:17, 25)
- Saul uses his own daughter as bait to kill David (18:20-21)
- Saul tells Jonathan and all his attendants to kill David (19:1)
- Saul's second attempt to kill David with a spear (19:9-10)
- Men are sent to David's house to watch and then kill David (19:11)
- At the feast where David is absent, Saul demands for him to be killed (20:30-32)
- David is forced to act like a mad man to stay safe (21:10-15)
- David has to flee from Saul to a cave (22:1-5)
- Saul pursues David at Keilah & seeks to put him under siege. This leads to David having to flee Keilah (23:7-13).
- David has to flee to the Desert of Ziph / Maon (23:15, 19-29)
- Saul pursues David in the Desert of En Gedi with 3,000 of his best soldiers (24:1-2).
- Saul pursues David in the Desert of Ziph (26:1-4)
- David judges Saul's men who murder Ish –Bosheth, thus showing again the importance raising a hand against the LORD'S anointed (4:9-12)

2. VICTORIES / RESURRECTION

- As far as David is concerned his victory against Goliath is because of the LORD (17:26,34-37, 45-47)
- Successful in all he does (18:5)
- More successful than the rest of Saul's officers (18:30)
- David strikes the Philistines with such force that they flee before him (19:8)
- David defeats the Philistines at Keilah (23:1-6)
- Power over his desire for revenge (24:5-13)
- David has victory over the desire revenge Nabal's stupidity (25:28-35)
- David refuses to take revenge and spares Saul (26:7-12)
- While hiding with the Philistines David wins all his battles (27:8-9, 11)
- David defeats the Amalekites saving his family and people (30:16-20)
- David's men defeat Abner's men (2:17, 30-31)
- David's house grows stronger & Saul's weaker (3:1)
- David's exaltation as King is confirmed by a military victory over first the Jebusites and then the Philistines (5:6-25)
- David secures Jerusalem as the city of David. This is only possible because the LORD is with him (5:9-12)
- David obeys the LORD and is victorious over the Philistines (5:25)
- David only has rest from his enemies because the LORD gives it to him (7:1)
- All the military victories of David were down to the LORD (8:6,14)
- David acknowledges that his victories are Gods doing (8:11-12)
- David defeats the Arameans (10:19)

THEME 2 – DEVOTED TO GOD

- Love for God's name (1 Samuel 17:26)
- As far as David is concerned his victory against Goliath is because of the LORD (17:26,34-37, 45-47)
- David inquires of God before he goes into battle (23:1-2, 4)
- David seeks God concerning Saul's attack upon him at Keilah, and obeys his word (23:9-13)
- Conscience stricken before the LORD that he cut Saul's tunic. He then pleads with Saul for him to make the LORD their judge (24:5-15)
- David promises to spare Saul's family. He has already made the same promise to Jonathan twice already (24:21-22)
- David treats his people in a righteous way (25:4-8, 15-16)
- David shows great humility in listening to Abigail and not avenging and spilling lots of blood (25:32-35)
- Again, David shows complete trust in God by refusing to kill Saul (26:8-11, 22-25)
- Even pagans i.e. Achish the Philistine finds him no fault with him (29:3)
- David faces stoning from his own men, therefore he seeks the LORD (30:6-8)
- David protects his men when the plunder from the Amalekites is shared (30:21-25)

2 Samuel

- David seeks God's face about battle (2 Samuel 2:1)
- David's innocence concerning Abner's murder is made clear (3:26-29)
- David judges Saul's men who murder Ish-Bosheth, thus keeping his covenant with Saul and Jonathan (4:9-12)
- David seeks the face of God about the Philistines (5:19, 23)
- David obeys the LORD and is victorious (5:25)
- Fear the Lord when he judges Uzza because of his treatment of the ark (6:9)

David's Prayer in 2 Samuel 7

- David's humility (7:18)
- David acknowledges that the Kingdom is for the glory of God's name (7:22,25-26)
- David acknowledges God's utter uniqueness (7:22)
- David acknowledges that Israel's uniqueness is completely tied to their salvation from Egypt by God (7:23-24)
- David acknowledges that God's word is trustworthy (7:28)
- David acknowledges that God's blessing is an eternal one (7:29):
 - David is completely faithful to the covenant he made with both Jonathan and Saul – He shows kindness by inviting Jonathan's crippled son Mephibosheth to eat at the King's table as one of his sons (2 Samuel 9:1,3,7,10,11,13)
 - David shows loyal love to Nahash's family (10:1-2)

David's deep heartfelt repentance reveals his devotion and love to God

- He admits to his sin – no defending himself (12:13)
- David pleads, fasts, and wears sackcloth (12:15-16)
- He worships God (12:20)
- He comforts Bathsheba (12:24)

1. DEVOTION TO GOD'S PEOPLE

- His love for his people drive him to fight Goliath (1 Samuel 17:32)
- David promises to protect Jonathan's family (20:14-15)
- David protects his men when the plunder from the Amalekites is shared (30:21-25)
- He sends some of the plunder from the Amalekites to Judah's elders (30:26)

2 Samuel

- David thanks the men of Jabesh Gilead for rescuing Saul's body (2:4-7)
- David is declared innocent in the light of Joab's murder of Abner (3:26-28, 36)
- David is angry with Joab and curses his family (3:28-29)
- David mourns and gets the whole of Israel to mourn the death of Abner - 3:31-34)
- David judges Saul's men who murder Ish-Bosheth, thus keeping his covenant with Saul and Jonathan (4:9-12)
- David is innocent of all the blood shed in Saul's family (4)

- David is God's obedient King, which is always for the glory of God and the good of his people (8:15)
- David is kind = (hesed) = loyal love – mentioned three times (9:1,3,7):
 - David invites Mephibosheth (Jonathan's son) to be one of his sons and to eat at the king's table (9:7, 10, 11, 13)
 - Mephibosheth's crippled condition is mentioned twice (9:3, 13)

2. LOVED BY GOD'S PEOPLE

- Jonathan (1 Samuel 18:1-4)
- All the people including Saul's troops are pleased with David (18:5)
- Women sing David's praise (18:6-7)
- All Israel & Judah love him (18:16)
- Michal (18:28)
- His name becomes well known (18:30)
- Jonathan protects David (19:1-5)
- Jonathan promises to do anything so as to save & protect David (20:4)
- Jonathan reaffirms his oath to David (20:16-17, 23)
- The third time in the chapter David & Jonathan reaffirm the covenant of love between each other (20:41-42)
- Jonathan goes to David in the wilderness to strengthen him (23:15-18) and again they make a covenant (23:18)

THEME 3 – FALLEN AND FORGIVEN

- He doesn't go to war (2 Samuel 11:1)
- He covets and lusts (11:2-5)
- He involves Joab in his sin (11:6,14-24)
- He seeks to cover his sin with deception (11:6-13)
- He murders Uriah (11:14-17)
- He is content for other innocent Israelite soldiers to die (11:17)
- He lies (11:25)
- The LORD was displeased (11:27)

David's response to his own sin

- He admits to his sin – no defending himself (12:13)
- David pleads, fasts, and wears sackcloth (12:15-16)
- He then worships God (12:20)
- He comforts Bathsheba (12:24)

He loses his family

- The sword will not depart his family (12:10)
- His own immorality will breed an immoral family (12:11-12)

He loses Joab

- This is not the first time Joab has shown disregard for David's authority, but here he is even more brazen. Is this a clear sign that David's own moral authority is waning? (12:26-27)

SUMMARY OF CHAPTERS

1 SAMUEL

Sixteen

- David is declared Israel's Messiah

Seventeen

- The victory confirms that David is God's chosen Messiah

Eighteen

- Covenant with Jonathan
- First example of God's people loving and following David.
- Saul's hatred of David exposed for the first time, and a taste of all that will follow.
- The LORD is with David (18:12,14,28)

Nineteen

- Both Saul's son and daughter are used of God to save David's life

Twenty

- This chapter seems to be all about covenant as there times David and Jonathan reaffirm the covenant with each other (20:8, 16-17, 23, 41-42)

Twenty One

- David is on the run
- The first place he turns to is the Priest. This story is the setting for Saul's evil act of killing the whole family of Ahimelek the Priest.

Twenty Two

- The poor, vulnerable, and sinful are drawn to David. Is this a picture of Christ?
- Saul shows complete contempt for God's priest, as his anger and jealousy rule.
- Saul loses the will and heart of his men, as they refuse to kill Ahimelek the Priest
- Is this the turning point for Saul's men? Is this where their hearts move to David?
- Is this Saul's 'Nathan moment'?

Twenty Three

- ♦ David seeks God and him alone for guidance.
- ♦ Saul's hatred of David continues in seeking to stave him out.
- ♦ Jonathan again reassures David of his deep covenant love for him.
- ♦ God delivers David from Saul.
- ♦ Is Jonathan a shadow of John the Baptist? His only desire is for David's Kingdom to be established and for him to serve David. While others clearly do not see that David is God's chosen one, Jonathan does. He is clearly willing to serve David, while others desire to kill him.

Twenty Four

- ♦ David spares Saul's life.
- ♦ David's actions are rooted to his strong belief in God's sovereignty, as he calls Saul to make the LORD their judge.
- ♦ Saul recognises that David is the LORDS anointed and that the kingdom is going to David.

Twenty Five

- ♦ Pivotal point in Israel's history, as the death of Samuel is announced (25:1)
- ♦ Abigail identifies David as the LORDS anointed (25:28-31)
- ♦ David shows great humility in listening to Abigail and not avenging and spilling lots of blood (25:32-35)
- ♦ David admits that to kill would have been an act of shedding
- ♦ Abigail becomes David's wife
- ♦ The chapter finishes with a reminder of Saul's hatred of David (25:25)

Twenty Six

- ♦ Saul pursues David
- ♦ David has a second opportunity to kill Saul but refuses to touch God's anointed
- ♦ Saul acknowledges that David is God's anointed

Twenty Seven

- ♦ David flees to the Philistines
- ♦ David is victorious in all his battles
- ♦ Achish the Philistine leader trusts David

Twenty Eight

- ♦ Achish the Philistine leader has complete trust in David, even to fight against his own people.
- ♦ Achish makes David his own body guard.
- ♦ Saul fears the Philistine army. It feels here that we are back to Goliath days.
- ♦ Saul seeks the LORD, but the LORD does not answer him.
- ♦ Saul seeks a medium.

The Voice of the Medium

- The Lord has departed from Saul
- The Kingdom is now David's
- The Philistines will triumph over Israel, and you and your sons will be dead

Twenty Nine

- Even in the eyes of pagans David is seen as special and without fault.

Thirty

- Disaster, as all of David and his men's families are plundered and taken by the Amalekites.
- David and his men gain victory over the Amalekites and retrieve all their families.
- David divides the plunder to all of Israel not only to those who fought for it.
- David acts like a righteous King.

Thirty One

- The book finishes with the Philistines victors over Israel.
- Saul and his sons are dead, and life for Israel looks bleak.
- Saul is honoured by the men of Jabesh Gilead.

2 SAMUEL

One

- David is shown to be guiltless concerning Saul's death.
- He kills the man who raised his hand to kill Saul the Lords anointed one.
- He weeps over Saul & Jonathan's death (1:11-12)
- He writes a song of lament and teaches Israel to sing it (1:17-27)

Two

- David seeks God
- Abner kills Asahel though clearly did not want to (2:21-23)
- Joab seeks revenges for Asahel death but is unsuccessful.
- David's men are clearly the victors (2:17, 30-32)

Three

- David's house grows in strength (3:1-5)
- Abner who is David's enemy, acknowledges that David is Gods anointed (3:8-11, 17-18)
- Abner seeks an agreement with David so that the Kingdom goes to him (3:12-21)
- Abner leaves David in peace (3:21)
- Joab takes the law into his own hands as Joab seeks to get even with Abner (3:26)
- David's innocence is made clear (3:26-29, 36)
- Joab murders Abner (3:26-27)
- David is angry with Joab and curses his family and all involved in the murder (3:28-29, 36-39)
- David mourns and gets the whole of Israel to mourn the death of Abner (3:31-39)

Four

- Ish-Bosheth hears of Saul's death and is fearful
- Mephibosheth Jonathan's crippled son is mentioned for the first time
- Two of Saul's leading soldiers murder Ish-Bosheth
- Saul's men take the head of Is-Bosheth to David.
- David is utterly unimpressed and judges both of them with death
- Key point is David is again declared innocent. In no way is he guilty of killing any of Saul's family.
- David loyally keeps the covenant that he made with both Saul and Jonathan – to never kill any of their family.

Five

- All of Israel declare David to be King.
- David's Kingship is confirmed by God through military victories over the Jebusites (5:10) and the Philistines (5:25)

Six

- The LORD is the true King of Israel. This is shown through:
 - The make up of the ark
 - The death of Uzzah
 - The fear David has of the LORD
 - The blessing that Obed - Edom receives

Seven

- The LORD establishes his eternal covenant with David
- The Messiah David, puts his full trust in God His Saviour.

Eight

- All the military victories of David were down to the LORD (8:6, 14)
- David acknowledges that his victories are Gods doing (8:11-12)
- David is God's obedient King, which is always for the glory of God ad the good of his people – (8:15)
- David's cabinet (8:15-18)

Nine

- David is kind = hesed (loyal love) is mentioned three times (9:1, 3, 7)
- David invites Mephibosheth (Jonathan's son) to be one of his sons and to eat at the king's table (9:7, 10, 11, 13)
- Mephibosheth crippled condition is mentioned twice (9:3,13)
- The key purpose of this chapter must be to reinforce again David's complete loyalty to his covenants with the house of Saul.

Ten

- David again shows loyal love
- David's love is rejected
- It leads to a battle which Israel win
- First time Joab is mentioned positively (10:9-12)

Eleven

- The mighty, righteous David falls into terrible sin as he avoids war, covers up, lusts, deceives, murders and lies
- David's sin displeases the LORD.

Twelve

God's Message – You are The Man

- The LORD sends Nathan to David (12:1)
- Nathan's story convicts David of his sin (12:2-7)

God's Gifts – You Are The Messiah

- God anointed David (12:7)
- God delivered David from Saul (12:7)
- God gave David the whole of the Kingdom (12:8)

God's Judgement – You will Reap What You have Sown

- Nathan declares that David despised God by doing what was evil (12:9, 10). Latter the term 'utter contempt is used' (12:14)
- You struck down Uriah and stole his wife (12:9,10)
- You killed him with the sword of the Ammonites (12:9)
- Therefore you will reap what you sow - the sword will not depart your family (12:10)
- Therefore you will reap what you sow – your immorality will bread an immoral family (12:11-12)
- David's 'utter contempt' for God will lead to the death of their baby (12:14)

God's Man - Repentant

- David's repentance is deep and heart felt
- He admits to his sin – no defending himself (12:13)
- David pleads, fasts, and wears sackcloth (12:15-16)
- He then worships God (12:20)
- He comforts Bathsheba (12:24)
- Even after his despising of God, there is forgiveness and therefore more victories (12:29-31)

Thirteen

- A horrific story of a brutal rape (13:1-19)
- David's fury seems to have no substance as no action is taken (13:23)
- Could Absalom plotting have been prevented if David have of acted and punished Amnon

- A brutal rape leads to a brutal murder as two years of plotting leads to the murder of Amnon by Absalom (13:23-29)
- David mourns both the death of Amnon and the fleeing of Absalom (13:37-39)
- Are we to read between the lines that David's inactivity allowed both the rapes and the murder to happen? Was he not suspicious of both Amnon scheming (13:6-9), and Absalom plotting (13:24-27, 32)?

