

Growing Deeper Together

Life of David

Winter/Spring 2024

Schedule

	Date	Reference	TOPIC	TEACHER
1	1/7	Introduction	Introduction to the United Kingdom	Smith
2	1/14	1 Samuel 16:1-18:30	The Anointing of David and the Rejection of Saul	Smith
3	1/21	1 Sam 19:1-20:42; Psalm 59	David's Flight and Friendship	Damaschke
4	1/28	1 Sam 23:15-24:22 and 26:1-25; Ps 54	David Spares Saul	Ross
5	2/4	1 Sam 25:1-44	The Future King	Russ
6	2/11	2 Sam 2:1-3:5 and 5:1-15; 1 Chr 11:1-3	David is Made King Over All	Smith
7	2/18	2 Sam 6:1-8:18; 1 Chr 13:1-14 and 15:1-18:17; Psalm 89	Worship, Covenant, and Blessing	Smith
8	2/25	2 Sam 11:1-12:25; Psalm 51 and 32	Sin, Rebuke, Judgement, and Blessing	Damaschke
	3/3	MISSIONS SUNDAY	Missions Sunday School	
9	3/10	2 Sam 18:1-19:44	The Consequences of Sin	Russ
10	3/17	2 Sam 21:15-23:39; 1 Chr 11:10-47 and 20:4-8	Heroes and Praise	Smith
11	3/24	1 Kings 1:1-2:46; 1 Chr 29:22-30	Succession to the Throne and Establishment of the Kingdom	Smith

Questions for Lesson 1 ~ January 7, 2024

Introduction to the United Kingdom

1. Get to know each other at your tables! Meet any people you don't know and learn what everyone did over the holidays.
2. What do you first think of when you think of David in the Bible? Why is he a "complex" figure?
3. In what ways is David worthy of emulation? In what ways is his life a warning?

Questions for Lesson 2 ~ January 14, 2024
The Anointing of David and the Rejection of Saul
1 Samuel 16:1 - 18:30

1. When you look for friends, or perhaps potential business relationships, how important is outward appearance to you? Why? Does the outward appearance of leaders impact your view of them? Why?
2. What has been the message(s) you have heard in the past about the David and Goliath story? Have they been faithful to the text of Scripture? How or how not?
3. In 1Sam 16:1-18:30, how many times is the "Spirit of the LORD" or the "LORD" referred to? What is the context for each?

4. What is the significance of height in this passage?
5. Why do you think the events of 1Sam 16 precede the amazing events of 1Sam 17? In what ways do we learn through reading 1Sam 16-17 that “no experience is wasted in the providence of God”?
6. What notions of love and hatred are in this passage? Who loves whom? Who hates whom? Does this necessarily say anything about the individual’s relationship with God? It is not explicitly stated in the text, but with what you know of Jonathan, why do you think he loved David so much?

Questions for Lesson 3 ~ January 21, 2024

David's Flight and Friendship

1 Sam 19:1 – 20:42; Psalm 59

1. Why was Saul so intent on killing David?

2. Why didn't David strike back during the decades when Saul was trying to murder him?

3. At 1 Sam 19:9, the Lord sent an evil spirit to come upon Saul. Why would God do that? Does God send evil spirits to test believers today?

4. What does it mean to enter into a covenant, or take an oath with God as your witness? What can you learn from David and Jonathan's covenant; from the marriage covenant; from God's covenant with his chosen people (Deut 7:7-9)?

5. In 1Sam 20:31 Saul said to Jonathan, "As long as the son of Jesse lives on this earth, neither you nor your kingdom will be established." Was Saul right? To what degree did Jonathan share that perspective?

6. David and Jonathan swore allegiance to each other and to each other's families (1Sam 20:42). Note how David expressed his sorrow at Jonathan's death (2Sam 1:19-27), and how he honored his commitment to Jonathan's family (2Sam 9:7 and 21:7)

Questions for Lesson 4 ~ January 28, 2024

David Spares Saul

1 Sam 23:15 - 24:22 and 26:1-25; Ps 54

1. Referring to 1Sam 23:19-24, where was Ziph, and why would David seek refuge there? And who were the Ziphites (See Joshua 15:21-24, 55)? What was the role played by the Ziphites in this passage? What impact would the role that the Ziphites played have on David (See Psalm 54)? Why would David call them strangers (Ps 54:3)?
2. In 1Sam 23:24-29, how does the Lord rescue David? What impact would such a close encounter have on David's view of the Lord? Meditating on your own life, can you look back and see the Lord's hand in rescuing you from a close encounter?
3. In 1Sam 24:1-7, what was the advice of David's men? How did David react to this advice? In 24:8-15 who does David rely on for justice?

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Questions for Lesson 5 ~ February 4, 2024

The Future King

1 Sam 25:1-44

1. Can you think of an example where you have had difficulty transferring the wisdom learned in one area of your life to another area of your life? Why do you think this transfer is so difficult at times?
2. Can you think of incidents in your life when God's providential intervention has saved you from a wrong course of action? Do such interventions have a role in your thankful worship?
3. Who are the "characters" in this story (don't forget the unnamed one!)? What is the *character* of each?

4. How many times does Abigail say “my lord” to David? In her speech in vv. 23-31, what does she say about herself? About her husband? About David?
5. What can we learn from Abigail in her approach to confronting David? What can we learn from David in his response to Abigail? How were both honoring to God?
6. In our day and age it is difficult to grasp how unique Abigail’s interaction with David truly was. She was “righteously bold” in foiling both her husband’s and David’s folly. Given that Abigail is presented as a real heroine, full of godly wisdom, what do you think of her words and actions in light of 1Peter 3:1-6? Did Sarah’s submission to Abraham differ from Abigail’s submission to Nabal? How and why?

David is Made King Over All
2 Sam 2:1 – 3:5 and 5:1-15; 1 Chronicles 11:1-3

2 Sam 2:1 - 3:5 and 5:1-15; 1 Chronicles 11:1-3

3. Compare and Contrast 2Sam 2:1-4a and 5:1-5.

4. Read again 2Sam 5:6-12. What circumstances contributed to David's hostility to the Jebusites and hospitality to those from Tyre?
5. What issues of justice and mercy are included in our texts (read 2Sam 3:6 – 4:12 for more examples)? How did David demonstrate a passion for *both* justice and mercy (for a full picture, again read 2Sam 3:6 – 4:12)?
6. In light of 2Sam 3:1, reflect on David's rise to power since 1Sam 16. Can you draw any parallels to Jesus' reference to the kingdom of God as a mustard seed? In what way(s)?

Questions for Lesson 7 ~ February 18, 2024

2 Sam 6:1 – 8:18; 1 Chr 13:1-14 and 15:1-18:17; Psalm 89

1. How central is worship – public and private – to your relationship with God?

Where has God demonstrated to you recently that His wisdom is deeper than your own? How do we usually learn this?

3. Read again 2Sam 6:5-23 and 7:18-29. List each instance of fear, awe, or joy. Do these emotions parallel your own before God?

4. How many times did David say “O Lord God” in 2Sam 7:18-29? How many times did he use “servant”? Any significance?
5. Read Hebrews 2:10-18. In what ways does 2Sam 7:6-7 help prepare us for New Testament passages like this one? Does Hebrews 2 go beyond our text? How?
6. When preaching on 2Sam, John Calvin (*Sermons on 2 Samuel*, 396) said, “[W]hen we have apprehended the power of God, we still need love and assurance quickly to enter into our hearts. And how? By continual meditation, so that we know not only in passing what God declares to us, but commit it to memory, so that when we pray to him, we might seek to call on him in such a way that he will never be far from us.” From what we can see in this week’s text, what place did the Word of God have in David’s prayer life? What place does the Word of God have in your prayer life? Do you think a growing knowledge of Scripture deepens prayer? If so, in what way?

2 Sam 11:1 - 12:25; Psalm 51 and 32

3. When Joab instructed his messenger to say to David, “Didn’t a woman throw an upper millstone on him from the wall, so that he died in Thebez?” (2Sam 11:21), he was sending a message to David. Was he saying a) “I know your weakness for women, and I figured out that you are having an affair with Uriah’s wife; this woman will surely bring about your downfall”, or is he saying b) even though I know the lessons of military history, I ordered this foolish military blunder as you commanded, but I’m not to blame for this loss of innocent lives – you are!” Other interpretations?

4. Compare these two verses, “Don’t let this displease you” [David to Joab, 11:25], and “But the thing David had done displeased the Lord” [11:27]. What message is the writer sending?
5. Because of her encounter with David, Bathsheba suffered the death of her husband (11:26); she bore the humiliation of giving birth to a child conceived out of wedlock; and she painfully endured the loss of her infant child (12:18). Is Bathsheba being punished as David’s accomplice, or is she a victim?
6. What can you learn about God’s justice and God’s mercy from this passage?

Questions for Lesson 9 ~ March 10, 2024

The Consequences of Sin

2 Sam 18:1 – 19:44

1. Read 2Sam 2.18-19 and 1Chron 2.13-17, and draw a family tree to include Jesse, David Zeruiah, Abigail, Joab, Abishai, Asahel, Absalom and Amasa. How are these people related to each other? What are the advantages and disadvantages in hiring one's family members? Did this work in David's favor or against him?
2. Why did David's men feel such deep animosity for Absalom?
3. When Joab disobeys David's orders and strikes and kills Absalom, is this justice?

4. Describe how you think David felt about the death of Absalom as a king and as a father.
5. Joab shocked David out of his grief with harsh words for the king's behavior. This confrontation had the desired effect, but was it the best way to handle the situation? How would you have spoken to David if you were in Joab's place?
6. David makes three decisions regarding Shimei, Mephibosheth and Barzillai (vv. 16-39). Describe each decision, and tell whether you think each was the "right" decision.

Questions for Lesson 10 ~ March 17, 2024
Heroes and Praise
2 Sam 21:15 - 23:39; 1 Chr 11:10-47 and 20:4-8

1. Who are our “mighty men” today? How do we remember them?
2. Does your spirituality have a memory? That is, when you give thanks to God, do you recount specific instances of God’s faithfulness in your life? What impact does this have on your relationship to God?
3. In 2Sam 22:17-20, 30-46 what does David attribute to God in his life? Give specifics.

4. In 2Sam 21:15-21 and 23:8-39, what specific characteristics do we learn about the enemies of the people of God?
5. Why do you think the writer of Samuel gives this amount of space recounting the exploits of David and his mighty men?
6. After what we have learned of David's house from 2Sam 11-20, do you find it remarkable what David says in 23:3-5? In what ways, at this best, did David function like the king in 23:4? In what ways does Christ bring the blessing described here?

Questions for Lesson 11 ~ March 24, 2024

Solomon's Succession to the Throne and Establishment of the Kingdom

1 Kings 1:1 - 2:46; 1 Chr 29:22-30

1. The world tells us that if we want something we are to go out and get it; and in most cases, we are told, the ends justify the means. Considering our study thus far, including this passage, how does a follower of God approach life differently?

2. Can you give a theological account for “what goes around comes around”? How does grace fit into that picture?

3. Having read this passage along with the narrative from 2Sam 12 onward, what is your estimation of David as a father?

4. What is said of Adonijah in 1Kgs 1:6? Compare this with previous accounts of physical appearance in 1-2Sam.
5. Read 2Sam 7:8-16 alongside 1Kgs 2:1-4. What is the relationship between God's law and the king?
6. Read 1Kgs 2:27; 8:20; 12:15; 15:29; and 16:12. Notice how important the fulfillment of God's earlier promises was to the writer of Kings. When you read Scripture, do you take note of promise and fulfillment? Read 2 Corinthians 1:20 and reflect on David's life, specifically how the promises made to him have been either fulfilled or await greater fulfillment.