





**DAILY ASSIGNMENTS:**

- Day 1: Do section A,B. Read 1 Samuel 16.
- Day 2: Do Thought Questions.

Lesson 1  
**David is Chosen  
as the Next King**  
1 Samuel 16

**A. David is Anointed. Read 1 Samuel 16:1-13**

1. What work did God have for Samuel? Whose choice was this?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. What would be the occasion for Samuel to contact David? Why was Samuel concerned?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. How did the inhabitants of Bethlehem react to Samuel's arrival? Why do you think they did?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. What did Samuel do in regard to Jesse and his sons?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. What mistake did Samuel make in his estimation of God's next choice? What did God say was the difference between His selection and that of Samuel or Israel?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. Where did they find David? What appearance did David have?

**B. David Chosen to Comfort Saul. Read 1 Samuel 16:14-23**

1. What problem did Saul develop? Why? What solution was suggested?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. What qualifications did David possess? Which of these was most important?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. How did Saul respond to David's music?



# Thought Questions

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1. What part did David have in being selected as king? What part did God have? Did David just happen to be in the right place at the right time? What part does God play in the selections we make (friends, school, job, husband/wife)? What part do we have?
  
2. God chose according to the heart, whereas Israel had chosen (or at least accepted His first choice) based on appearance.
  - What are some outward characteristics that are important today when someone is being chosen for a position? (Give some examples). Are these bad or good characteristics? Is it wrong to possess these things?
  
  - What are some inner characteristics of the heart that matter most to God? Why do some people possess these and some people don't? Can we make them a part of our life? What does it require?
  
3. Where was David when Samuel was looking for the one to anoint? What other qualifications did David possess? 1 Sam. 16:18 How do you think David developed these abilities? How can we develop good qualities of leadership and responsibility?

**DAILY ASSIGNMENTS:**

- Day 1: Do Section A. Read 1 Samuel 17:1-27
- Day 2: Do Section B. Read 1 Samuel 17:28-58
- Day 3: Do Thought Questions.

Lesson 2  
**David Kills Goliath**  
1 Samuel 17

**A. David Seeks Out His Brothers. Read 1 Samuel 17:1-28**

1. Describe the scene where the Philistines and Israelites had gathered to battle each other.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Describe Goliath. What challenge did he offer? What did the Israelites do when he made this challenge?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. How did David find out about this battle? What reward was offered for fighting Goliath? What was David's reaction to this challenge?

**B. David Accepts Goliath's Challenge. Read 1 Samuel 17:28-58**

1. How did Eliab react to David's questions? Of what did he accuse David?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Why did Saul think David could not fight Goliath? What qualifications did David give? Did he convince Saul?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. What did Saul do in preparing to send David to the battlefield? How did David respond? Why?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. How did Goliath respond to David? What power did David claim? How did he defeat Goliath?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. What did the Israelites do when they saw Goliath was defeated?



## Thought Questions

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1. Contrast Saul and David in their attitude toward Goliath. What is the difference between them? Who should have been fighting Goliath? Why wasn't he?
  
2. Sometimes we have "Goliath's" that we must face. What are some situations we face that are intimidating? What can we learn from David that will help us overcome these difficult circumstances?
  
3. Did David know that he could conquer Goliath or just believe that he could? What is the difference between these?
  - What training did he have that enabled him to think that he could do this despite all the odds?
  
  - How do small challenges help prepare us for bigger challenges?
  
  - What are some small challenges we face now that might prepare us for bigger challenges later?

**DAILY ASSIGNMENTS:**

- Day 1: Do Section A. Read 1 Samuel 18
- Day 2: Do Section B. Read 1 Samuel 19
- Day 3: Do Thought Questions

Lesson 3  
**Saul Resents David's  
Popularity**  
1 Samuel 18-19

**A. Saul Grows Jealous. Read 1 Samuel 18**

1. Describe the friendship of Jonathan and David. Why do you think it was so strong?
2. How did Saul react to the praise given to David? Did he ignore Saul? What did Saul fear David would gain?
3. How did Saul attack David? Why?
4. What did Saul offer to David concerning his daughter? Why did David not receive her? Who did Saul then promise to David? Why was Saul interested in this?
5. How did David react to the possibility of being Saul's son-in-law? Did David earn his right to marry Saul's daughter?
6. What did Saul recognize about David? What attitude did this cause him to have toward David?

**B. Saul Persecutes David. Read 1 Samuel 19**

1. What did Saul want to do to David?
2. What did Jonathan suggest to his father? How did Saul react?
3. What did Saul do on the next occasion as David played his harp? What do you think caused him to change his mind concerning David?

4. What did Saul send messengers to do to David? How did Michal help David escape? What was her explanation for helping David?
  
5. Where did David go next? What happened to the different groups of messengers Saul sent to take David? What happened to Saul?



## ThoughtQuestions

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1. Saul became very jealous of David's success. He developed a fear of David, convinced he was out to take the kingdom from him.
  - Is it good to be jealous of others? What can jealousy lead us to do? What did Saul eventually try to do to David? We may seek to kill someone else, but what destructive steps do we sometimes take against others?
  
  - Why do we become jealous? What should be our reaction to someone who has something that we want? Or an ability that we desire? Is it possible to appreciate their ability rather than see them as a rival? What attitudes can we develop that will keep us from becoming jealous?
  
2. Jonathan developed a very close and personal relationship with David. He could have easily become jealous like his father, especially since David was destined to receive the throne that would normally have fallen to Jonathan.
  - What qualities did Jonathan possess that made him a good friend? Why do you think he formed a close friendship with David? Does our choice of friends say something about who we are?
  
  - What determines the kind of friends we make? Is it determined by people with whom we spend time? (school, neighborhood, etc.) Is it also determined by our interests? What about our character?



**DAILY ASSIGNMENTS:**

- Day 1: Do Section A. Read 1 Samuel 20-23
- Day 2: Do Section B. Read Psalm 52,54

Lesson 4  
**David Flees from Saul**  
1 Samuel 20-23;  
Psalm 52,54

**A. David Flees from Saul. Read 1 Samuel 20-23**

1. How did David feel about Saul's attitude toward him? Describe the plan heard Jonathan enacted in order to discover what Saul's intentions were toward David.
  
2. How did Saul act toward Jonathan when Jonathan tried to find out about David?
  
3. What agreement did David and Jonathan make with each other?
  
4. What two things did David request from Ahimelech when he visited him at Nob?
  
5. Where did David go next in an attempt to hide from Saul? How did he act?
  
6. When Saul was at Gibeah, what complaint did he make against his own men? Who "confessed" to him? What happened to Ahimelech as a result?
  
7. Who escaped from the slaughter of Ahimelech? How did David feel when he heard this news?
  
8. Who did David attack at Keilah? What assurance had he been given? Did the men of Keilah appreciate what David had done?
  
9. How was David able to escape Saul in the wilderness of Maon?

## B. Psalms Written by David During His Escape. Read Psalm 52,54

1. Name three attitudes of an evil man, according to Psalm 52. What did David believe that God would do to this kind of man? What is the significance of David waiting on God's name? (vs.9) When is this psalm supposedly written?
2. Psalm 54 may have been written as a result of the Ziphites reporting David's location to Saul. On what did David depend while being pursued? What characteristics does this suggest that God has?



## Thought Questions

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1. Saul's anger at David caused him to become angry at Jonathan. Saul even cast his fear at Jonathan, just as he had at David.
  - How would you describe the relationship that Jonathan had with his father Saul? Did he understand him? Was he loyal to him? Did he participate in evil with him?
  - What is the ideal relationship between a father and a son or daughter? Do children always understand their father's actions? Are his actions always right? Should they respect him despite his flaws?
2. Saul starts believing that everyone is out to get his throne. He fears David will take the throne from his son Jonathan (21:31).
  - How did he think his own men were conspiring against him? 22:7,8 Were they?
  - Is it easy for us to start thinking other people are "out to get us?" Name some ways this might happen. Why does it happen? What can we do to keep it from happening?
3. On the other hand, Saul was out to get David. How did David respond? How should we?
4. Saul had been disobeying God throughout his reign, but he reaches a new point when he puts Ahimelech to death. Even his own men refused to raise their hand against the priests of God. Do sins that we repeat tend to get worse and worse? If so, why?

**DAILY ASSIGNMENTS:**

- Day 1: Do Section A. Read Judges 15
- Day 2: Do Section B. Read Judges 16
- Day 3: Do Thought Questions

Lesson 5  
**David Spares Saul's Life**  
1 Samuel 24-26; Psalm 142

**A. David Encounters Saul a Second Time. Read 1 Samuel 24**

David had already been pursued by Saul in the Wilderness of Ziph (23:14). Jonathan had encouraged him (vv.14-19) and David escaped when learning the Philistines had invaded. Saul now pursues him a second time.

1. Where was David this time? Find out what you can about this location. Why would David go here?
2. What did David's men urge David to do when Saul came into the cave in which David was hiding? What was David's reply? What did David do?
3. What did David say to Saul after he emerged from the cave? What did this prove about Saul's fear that David was seeking to take his throne?
4. How did Saul respond? Do you think this was genuine? How do you know? What did he request of David?

**B. Nabal and Abigail. Read 1 Samuel 25**

1. What foolish action did Nabal take? How did David respond? Was this good?
2. What actions did Abigail take? What appeal did she make to David? How did David respond?

### C. David Encounters Saul a Third Time. Read 1 Samuel 26, Psalm 142

1. Where did Saul pursue David?
2. With whom did David go into Saul's camp? What did David's men encourage him to do? How did David respond?
3. What did David take away with him from the camp?
4. What did Saul admit? What did he promise? How did he describe himself?
5. How did David feel when pursued by Saul? (Ps.52:4) What did he seek from the Lord? In what would this result?



## ThoughtQuestions

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1. On both these occasions when David confronts Saul after being pursued by him, Saul admits his error and seems sorry. Yet, Saul has pursued David a second time after seemingly having had a change of heart.
  - We sometimes find our emotions leading us to act in a rash way, just as Saul's fear caused him to pursue David. What are some feelings that might cause us to make rash decisions?
  - Saul seemed genuinely sorrow for his actions and even confessed to David that he had sinned, yet continued to pursue him. Had he really repented of his sin? What is involved in repentance? 2 Cor.7:9,10 Is it enough to feel sorrow and admit we have sinned? What else is involved?
  - Paul says godly sorrow leads to repentance (2 Cor.7:10). How can we obtain godly sorrow? (cf. Rom.2:4)
2. David refused to harm Saul, yet was ready to kill Nabal and all those around him. Was it right for him to revenge Nabal's foolishness? What had he trusted concerning Saul that he should have trusted concerning Nabal? What are some situations where we might respond with anger against someone? Are we justified in feeling this way? What should we do?

**DAILY ASSIGNMENTS:**

- Day 1: Do Section A. Read 1 Samuel 27
- Day 2: Do Section B. Read 1 Samuel 29,30
- Day 3: Do Section C. Read Psalm 63

Lesson 6  
**David Lives with  
the Philistines**  
1 Samuel 27,29,30; Psalm 63

**A. David Returns to the Philistines. Read 1 Samuel 27**

1. Why did David decide to escape to the Philistines? Who went with him? Did this work?
2. What city did Achish assign to David? How long did he stay there?
3. What nations did David raid? What did he do with the spoil? What did he tell Achish? Why?

**B. The Philistines Prepare to Battle Saul. Read 1 Samuel 29,30**

1. Where did the Philistines prepare to battle Saul?
2. What did the princes fear about David? Did Achish defend David?
3. What decision was Achish forced to make? Did this help or hinder David?
4. What happened at Ziklag while David had been with the Philistines? Whom did David consult? How?

### C. David Seeks Refuge. Read Psalm 63

1. This psalm describes David seeking refuge in the wilderness of Judah. It reflects feelings he must have had while fleeing from Saul.
2. David must have had occasion to be both hungry and thirsty, yet for what was he earnestly seeking?
3. The word "lovingkindness" describes God's loyalty and devotion to us. How did David describe it? What did it lead David to do?
4. What was David confident about concerning those who sought him?

## Thought Questions

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1. Do you think David made a wise decision when he went to live with the Philistines?
  - Was his life in danger? Did this justify his actions?
  - Did David have to use deceit to hide his real motives? Was this right for him to do?
  - How do you think David felt as he was preparing to go and fight Saul and Jonathan? Was he glad for the opportunity? Why or why not?
  - How did he get in this situation? How could he have avoided this?
2. Sometimes we find ourselves in difficulty. It may be because of something we have done wrong or it may be that those who should do right have done something wrong to us.
  - Does being in trouble make it right for us to deceive or harm someone else?
  - David tried to deceive the Philistines into thinking he was fighting for them. What problems arise when we begin to use deceit to help ourselves? Do it ever help our problem? What does the Bible teach about deceit? List one or two passages.

**DAILY ASSIGNMENTS:**

- Day 1: Do Section A. Read 1 Samuel 28
- Day 2: Do Section B. Read 1 Samuel 31; 1 Chron. 10
- Day 3: Do Thought Questions

Lesson 7  
**The Death of  
Saul and Jonathan**  
1 Samuel 28,31; 1 Chronicles 10

**A. Saul Seeks Samuel. Read 1 Samuel 28**

1. What had Saul done to the mediums and spiritists?
2. Look at the following passages concerning witchcraft. Match the verses with their appropriate description.

**Passage**

- \_\_\_ Leviticus 19:26-31
- \_\_\_ Deut. 18:10-11
- \_\_\_ 1 Samuel 15:22-23
- \_\_\_ Jeremiah 27:9-10
- \_\_\_ Micah 5:12-14
- \_\_\_ Galatians 5:20

**Teaching**

- A. Prohibited child sacrifice, witchcraft, soothsaying, interpreting omens, sorcery, conjuring and spellcasting, consulting mediums or spiritists, and seances.
- B. Sorcery included as work of the flesh.
- C. Rebellion like witchcraft or idolatry.
- D. Prohibited eating blood, divination, soothsaying, ritual mutilation, tattoos, and consulting mediums or familiar spirits.
- E. Warned against listening to false prophets, diviners, interpreters of dreams, soothsayers or sorcerers.
- F. Warned that God would destroy sorcerers, soothsayers, carved images, sacred pillars, and other objects of devil worship.

3. What motivated Saul to seek out this medium? What did he do to make sure no one knew about it?
4. How did the woman react when Samuel appeared? Did she expect this to happen? Did Samuel appear because of her power?
5. What message did Samuel give Saul? How did this make him feel?

**B. Saul and Jonathan are Killed in Battle. Read 1 Samuel 31; 1 Chronicles 10**

1. What happened to Saul and his sons in the battle?
2. Why did Saul ask his armorbearer to kill him? Did he? What did Saul do?
3. What did the Philistines do with his body? What did the men of Jabesh Gilead do in response?
4. What judgment had God exercised? (1 Chronicles 10)

 **ThoughtQuestions**

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1. Witchcraft was condemned by God in the Old Testament and is still condemned today (note chart on previous page).
  - What are some practices today that are similar to the prohibitions against witchcraft? Are there people today who place importance on such practices? Why do you think God forbids us to practice these?
  - Would it help us to be able to know the future? Would it result in greater godliness on our part? Would it be desirable to know when our life was going to end?
2. Samuel had told Saul that rebellion was like witchcraft or idolatry.
  - What does this tell us about the need to obey God's commands? Is this true even when we are following instructions about worship or how to be saved?
  - Why do you think God is so concerned about doing things just the way He said to?



**DAILY ASSIGNMENTS:**

- Day 1: Do Section A. Read 2 Samuel 1,2
- Day 2: Do Section B. Read 2 Samuel 3,4
- Day 3: Do Section C. Read 2 Samuel 5

Lesson 8  
**David Becomes King**  
2 Samuel 1-5; 1 Chronicles 11:1-3

**A. David Saddened Then Crowned King. Read 2 Samuel 1-2**

1. Who reported Saul and Jonathan's death to David? What did he claim? What did David do?
2. How did David describe Saul and Jonathan? How did David describe his friendship with Jonathan?
3. Who anointed David as their king? Where was he crowned? How long did he reign in this capacity?
4. Who was Abner? Who did he bring to Mahanaim? Why?
5. What happened when Abner and Joab met in battle? Who pursued Abner after the battle? What happened to him?

**B. The House of David and Saul Contest Their Rule. Read 2 Samuel 3,4**

1. Who was consolidating their power in this struggle?
2. How many sons were born to David in Hebron?
3. What was Abner doing within Saul's household? What did he offer to make with David? What did David require to do so?
4. How did Joab react to the news of David's agreement with Abner?
5. What did Joab do to Abner? Why did he do this? What was David's reaction?
6. What happened to Ishbosheth(ch.4)? How did David respond to this?

### C. David Captures Jerusalem. Read 2 Samuel 5

1. What happened to David at Hebron? How long did he reign over all of Israel?
2. What did the Jebusites say to David? How did David take the city?
3. What did Hiram, king of Tyre, do for David?
4. What did David do to the Philistines?

## ThoughtQuestions

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1. After Saul's death, David began to consolidate his empire. On at least two occasions, men came to David, claiming they had killed his enemies, perhaps expecting a reward. Instead, David ordered them killed.
  - Why did David have such a loyalty to men who opposed him?
  - David refused to take matters in his own hands, relying upon God to confirm him as king. Is there ever a time where we have to wait on God to understand what He wants? What does this require of us?
2. Joab and Abishai killed Abner to avenge the death of their brother Asahel. Can you think of a situation where you are tempted to retaliate against someone because of the evil they have done to you? What is the problem with trying to even things up?

**DAILY ASSIGNMENTS:**

- Day 1: Do Section A. Read 2 Samuel 6-7:17
- Day 2: Do Section B. Read 2 Samuel 7:18-9
- Day 3: Do Thought Questions

Lesson 9  
**The Ark is Returned to  
Jerusalem**  
2 Samuel 6-9

**A. The Ark is Brought to Jerusalem. Read 2 Samuel 6**

1. Where was the ark? Why was it there? (Note 1 Samuel 7:1)
  
2. How was it transported? What happened on the way?
  
3. David was angry as a result and asked "How can the ark of the Lord come to me?" (vs.9) He left the ark in the house of Obed-Edom for three months, then decided to bring it to Jerusalem. What change did he make in the way it was transported? (Note 1 Chron.15:1,2,12-15) Why?

**B. God Makes A Covenant with David. Read 2 Samuel 7:1-17**

1. How did David feel once the ark was in Jerusalem? What did he propose? What did Nathan say?
  
2. God then spoke to Nathan. What did He reveal about His need for a house? What did He tell Nathan He would do for David's house?
  
3. In vv.12-15, God reveals the covenant He will make with David. This is one of the great promises in the Old Testament, often referred to in the New Testament as having been fulfilled. Fill in the blanks below.
  - a. You shall \_\_\_\_\_ with your fathers
  - b. I will set up your \_\_\_\_\_ after you - and I will establish his \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. He shall build a \_\_\_\_\_ for my Name
  - d. I will establish the \_\_\_\_\_ of his \_\_\_\_\_ forever
  - e. I will be his \_\_\_\_\_ and he shall be My \_\_\_\_\_
  - f. My \_\_\_\_\_ shall not depart from him, as from \_\_\_\_\_
  - g. Your \_\_\_\_\_ and your \_\_\_\_\_ shall be \_\_\_\_\_ forever; your \_\_\_\_\_ shall be established forever

### C. David's Exploits. Read 2 Samuel 7:18-9:13

1. How did David respond to God's offer of a covenant? Was he gracious or did he expect it?
2. Look through chapter 8. What different people did David conquer? What does this suggest about his ability as a leader?
3. Who was Mephibosheth? What did David do for him? Why? What does this suggest about David's character? How important is it for us to keep promises we make to others and show good will?

## Thought Questions

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1. Do you think it was fair of God to strike Uzzah dead?
  - Why might we feel like it was unfair? Why would God be so severe in punishing someone who had not carried out His instructions?
  - Was David responsible for this? Why or why not? How did he correct the matter?
  - Is God concerned today about such details in our worship? Why or why not?
2. God had made a promise to Abraham in Genesis 12:1-3, 6-7. He had kept two of the three promises made to Abraham. When He makes a covenant with David, He further defines how the third of the promises made to Abraham would be defined.
  - What is important about knowing that the future king would come from David's seed?
  - What is significant about an everlasting throne and kingdom? How would this compare with other kingdoms?

**DAILY ASSIGNMENTS:**

- Day 1: Do Section A. Read 2 Samuel 10-12
- Day 2: Do Section B. Read Psalm 51
- Day 3: Do Thought Questions.

Lesson 9  
**David Takes  
Another Man's Wife**  
2 Samuel 10-12; Psalm 51

**A. David Takes Bathsheeba. Read 2 Samuel 10-12**

1. How did David try to show kindness to the king of Ammon? For what did the Ammonites mistake his actions? Who fought against David and Joab? What was the outcome?
  
2. Where was David when Joab and the Israelites went to fight against Rabbah? When David saw Bathsheba bathing, what did he request? After they had sexual relations, what did Bathsheba discover?
  
3. David made several attempts to cover up what he and Bathsheba had done. Describe his motives in each situation. Why did his first two plans not succeed?
  - a. Called Uriah home from battle and encouraged him to go to his house.
  - b. Got Uriah drunk and encouraged him to go to his home.
  - c. Asked Joab to put Uriah in the heat of the battle.
  
4. What happened to Bathsheba after the death of her husband? Had David succeeded in his plan? How did the Lord feel?
  
5. What story did Nathan tell David? How did David respond? What did Nathan tell David? What had David done concerning the Lord's command?
  
6. What did Nathan promise concerning the sword? What would happen to David's wives?
  
7. What happened to David and Bathsheba's child? How did David respond? What other child did they have?

## **B. David's Confession. Read Psalm 51**

1. Both Saul and David confessed their sin when confronted by it (note 1 Samuel 15:30; 2 Samuel 12:13). Saul regretted his sin, yet never seemed to turn from it. On the other hand, David genuinely repented. David probably wrote Psalm 51 after this sin.
2. What must we seek from God when we sin? Why do you think this is so?
3. David had sinned against Uriah and Bathsheba, but against whom does he confess this sin?
4. What did he ask God to create in him? What do you think he means by this?
5. Name some emotions David felt. What did he realize that the Lord most desired? Sacrifices?

## Thought Questions

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1. We live in a very sexually permissive society. Many people will admit that adultery or fornication is a sin, but no worse than any other sin. Do you agree? How was David affected by it? (note 2 Samuel 12:10) What does the Bible teach concerning this kind of sin? 1 Corinthians 6:19; Galatians 5:19
2. David's sin arose partly because of his idleness (2 Samuel 11:1). If he had been out leading his men in battle, he would probably not committed his sin with Bathsheba. Is it good for us to have leisure time? Give some examples of leisure time. What are some dangers associated with it? How can we avoid such dangers?
3. David must have been discouraged when God told him his child would not live. What did he do? How did he react when he learned the child had died? Did he feel sorry for himself or seek to serve others? What lessons can we learn from David about being discouraged?

**DAILY ASSIGNMENTS:**

- Day 1: Do Section A. Read 2 Samuel 13,14
- Day 2: Do Section B. Read 2 Samuel 15-17
- Day 3: Do Section C, Thought Questions. Read Ps.3

Lesson 11  
**Absalom Plots  
Against David**  
2 Samuel 13-17; Psalm 3

**A. Absalom and Amnon. Read 2 Samuel 13,14**

1. What did Amnon do to Tamar? How did he feel about her afterwards? How did Tamar feel? How did Absalom feel about Amnon?
2. How did Absalom plot Amnon's murder? Where did Absalom go? How did David feel?
3. How did Joab convince David to let Absalom return to Jerusalem? What restriction was placed on Absalom? Why do you think David was reluctant to meet with Absalom?

**B. Absalom Seizes the Throne, David Flees Jerusalem. Read 2 Samuel 15-17**

1. What did Absalom do at the city gate? What effect did this have on the people? Why do you think it did?
2. Where did Absalom go to seize power? How did David respond to this news?
3. On his way from Jerusalem, describe David's exchanges with:
  - Ittai the Gittite-
  - Zadok - concerning the ark of the covenant-
  - Hushai-
  - Ziba (how did Ziba misrepresent Mephibosheth?) -
  - Shimei -
4. What was Ahithophel's advice about pursuing David? What did Hushai advise? Which advice did Absalom follow? What did Ahithophel do?

### C. David's Flight from Jerusalem. Read Psalm 3

1. What charge is made concerning God and his help?
2. Even though David fled from Jerusalem, what does this psalm tell us he trusted in? How is this reflected in his conversations as he left Jerusalem?
3. What was David's true hope of salvation?

## Thought Questions

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1. Does it really make sense that Amnon would desire Tamar so greatly then lose all interest in her?
  - Did he really love her? Are such strong desires proof of our love for someone?
  - What does this suggest about our feelings and desires? Why is it dangerous to let such emotions control our actions?
2. Nathan had told David that the Lord would raise up adversity against him from his own house (2 Sam.12:11). What are some ways in which this came true? Was David responsible for these actions? Were Amnon, Absalom and Joab responsible for their actions? Why does a sin committed by one person often lead to sin in the lives of others?
3. Was Absalom right or wrong in killing Amnon? Should David have forgiven Absalom? Was Absalom really concerned about forgiveness? Why are there so many problems when we try to retaliate against the evil of others?



**DAILY ASSIGNMENTS:**

- Day 1: Do Section A. Read 2 Samuel 18
- Day 2: Do Section B. Read 1 Samuel 12
- Day 3: Do Thought Questions

Lesson 12  
**David Returns to Jerusalem**  
2 Samuel 18-19

**A. David and Absalom do Battle. Read 1 Samuel 18**

1. Did David desire to do battle with Absalom? Why didn't he?
  
2. What instructions did David give concerning Absalom when his soldiers left to fight? What does this suggest about his feeling for Absalom?
  
3. Who won the battle? What happened to Absalom?
  
4. Why did Joab scold the man that found Absalom? What had he refused to do? How did Joab show his contempt for Absalom?
  
5. Where was Absalom's body placed? How did this contrast with the memorial he had built for himself?
  
6. Based on previous experiences, what danger was there in delivering the news of victory and Absalom's death to David? Why did two messengers go to tell David?
  
7. What was David's reaction on hearing of Absalom's death?

**B. David Reclaims His Throne. Read 2 Samuel 19**

1. Why did David's reaction to Absalom's death cause a problem? How did it make his soldiers feel?
  
2. Was David's place as king secure now that Absalom had been killed? What dispute arose? Who was the last tribe to be persuaded to accept David's rule?

3. Who met David at Gilgal? How did Shimei act? What was David's response?
4. What request did Mephibosheth make? How had he been misrepresented? How did he show his innocence?
5. Why did Barzillai refuse David's offer to return with him to Jerusalem? What kindness had he shown to David?
6. What feud developed between the men of Israel and the men of Judah?

## Thought Questions

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1. David seemed ready to lead his men against Absalom, yet reluctant to defeat him. He mourned his death once the battle had been won.
  - Why do you think David had such mixed feelings? Was it wrong for him to mourn the death of Absalom? Can you think of a situation today where a father would have such mixed feelings about an action of his child?
  - Did the problems David have with Absalom stem from his own sin with Bathsheba? How would his actions toward Bathsheba and Uriah affect Absalom? Why is our example as a Christian important? How many other people do we influence by our actions?
2. Absalom serves as a good example of how a young man can end up out of control. He was good looking, possessed a great deal of wealth, and had many advantages that others did not possess. Yet, there were flaws in his character. His anger toward Amnon and his ambition did him in. Is it good or bad to have such privileges as Absalom? Could he have avoided his actions? What do you think motivated him? Could David have taken any action with Absalom to avoid this outcome? If so, what?

**DAILY ASSIGNMENTS:**

- Day 1: Do Section A. Read 2 Samuel 21-23:7
- Day 2: Do Section B. Read 2 Samuel 23:8 - 24:25
- Day 3: Do Thought Questions

Lesson 13  
**The Last Days of David**  
2 Samuel 21-24

These chapters in Second Samuel are not necessarily a chronological continuation of the narrative ending in chapter 20. If so, these units can each be studied as an appendix, supplementing the main material in the book of Second Samuel.

**A. Famine and Philistine Wars. Read 2 Samuel 21**

1. What caused the famine afflicting Israel? What had Israel promised the Gibeonites during the time of Joshua? (Joshua 9)
2. What price was exacted for the violation of this agreement?
3. What happened to David in his battle with one of the Philistines? What did Abishai say in warning? What irony is there in this statement in view of what happened to David?
4. This section mentions four sons of the "giant." Apparently this is a reference to Goliath. David apparently began his fighting days by slaying Goliath and ended them by slaying four of his sons.

**B. Psalms of Thanksgiving. Read 2 Samuel 22:1-23:7**

1. Here are published two of the psalms David wrote, in addition to those in the book of Psalms.
2. Upon whom did David rely in his battles? 22:2-7
3. What picture is described of his deliverance? 22:8-20 Did God literally do all these things in order to deliver David? How does this figurative language help us to appreciate the part God plays in helping us? Would they have an application to God's deliverance of Christ from the grave?
4. Notice the descriptions in 22:26-28. What is the Lord merciful to some and shrewd to others?

### **C. Saul's Mighty Men; The Census. Read 2 Samuel 23:8 -24:25**

1. This list includes 37 of David's mighty men. Give one example of their exploits. Would these men be considered heroes today? What does their willingness to bring water from the well of Bethlehem demonstrate about their loyalty to David? Who is listed last?
2. What did the census that David took accomplish? Was God pleased with him taking a census? Why - considering that God had ordered a census for the same reason after the Israelites had wandered 40 years in the wilderness?
3. What punishment did David choose? What happened? Could it have been worse?
4. Describe the altar David built. Did this show repentance on his part? Why or why not?

## Thought Questions

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1. David was a leader who had men that were very loyal to him. List some of the qualities of David that made him such a good leader. Are these qualities we should have? Would we need such qualities today? Why or why not?
2. In 24:1, it says God moved David to number the people, whereas in 1 Chron. 21:1 it says Satan caused David to number the people. Those who attack the Bible often cite this as an example of the Bible contradicting itself. Is this contradiction? Can the passages be reconciled? What must be true if there is a real contradiction?
3. The punishment upon the members of Saul's family for breaking the covenant with the Gibeonites seems severe. What does this tell us about the importance of keeping our word? Is this true for us today?

# Lesson 13

## How The World Began

Genesis 1-4

