



FAMILY DEVOTIONAL

YEAR 2

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WELCOME TO *Generations of Grace*



This curriculum has been designed to deepen your own study of God's word so that you might be able to properly understand and accurately teach each lesson. It's our prayer that this curriculum would be a blessing to your ministry and home as God uses it to encourage your family.



Share the Lesson

- **Five-Day Devotionals** – Guides the family through the Generations of Grace lesson, a cross-reference passage, and a passage about Christ to lead the family through the whole counsel of God.
- **Generations of Grace Passages** – Reinforces the lesson that your child learned in Sunday School.
- **Cross-Reference Passage** – Points to another passage that reinforces the central truth of each week's lesson.
- **Christ-Centered Passage** – Connects each week's lesson to Jesus Christ and to the gospel.
- **Explain** – Helps parents clarify key truths from the passage for their children.
- **Ask** – See what the children learned and help them remember key facts from the passage.
- **Discuss** – Help parents counsel their children in real life based on the passage.

Additional Resources

Use these additional resources to help support your lessons and to knit together the church and the home, ensuring that what is taught on Sunday matches what is learned throughout the week.

- **Coloring Book**
- **Craft Book**
- **Activity Book**
- **Student Journal**
- **Teacher Book**

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SHARE THE BIBLE LESSON
WEEK 14

God gives Israel a prophet and judge

1 Samuel 1:1–7:17



DAY 1

God gave Hannah a son • 1 Samuel 1:1–2:10

READ 

1 Samuel 1:1–2:10

EXPLAIN 

The truth of 1 Samuel 1:1–2:10

Do you remember what happened in Judges? Israel had forsaken their God again and again. So Israel's only hope was for God to step in with undeserved grace. And He did. His grace to Israel began with His gift to a barren woman, to show that His grace is able to overcome human inability. In fact, Hannah's name means "grace." But first, God used trouble to drive Hannah to Himself (1 Sam 1:6–10). Trouble caused Hannah to cry out to God. When God answered (1:11–19), Hannah named her son Samuel, which means "one requested from God" (1:20). She knew Samuel was a gift from God, so she sang a beautiful prayer. In this song she praised God for His holiness and grace. Since He is holy, He does not tolerate the proud and the wicked. And since He is gracious, He rescues the humble. This is what He had done for Hannah by giving her children. And this is what He would do for Israel. He would use Samuel to lead Israel back to Himself and eventually to anoint a true king over Israel (2:10; 7:3–4; 16:13).

ASK 

1. What was Hannah's problem?
She was barren. She could not have children, and Peninnah made fun of her because of this.
2. What did Hannah do?
She prayed to God.
3. How did God show grace to Hannah?
He gave her a son despite her own inability.
4. What did Hannah praise God for when He answered her prayer?
She praised God for His holiness, for opposing the proud but giving grace to the humble, and for being faithful to His anointed king.

DISCUSS 

1. When trouble arises, do you run to God in prayer (Ps 10:17)? Can you describe a time when God used trouble to drive you to Himself?
2. What does God's gift to barren Hannah and to rebellious Israel show you about God's grace? Are you, like Hannah and Israel, powerless and empty apart from God's grace?

DAY 2

God gave Israel a prophet • 1 Samuel 2:11–4:1

READ

1 Samuel 2:11–4:1

EXPLAIN

The truth of 1 Samuel 2:11–4:1

What was it that Hannah praised God for? God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble. That is good news for the humble, but bad news for the proud. So don't be like Eli's sons! As priests, they were to be *holy, dedicated completely to God*. But they took advantage of their position and lived for themselves instead of for God (1 Sam 2:12–17, 22). Eli was also guilty. Although he told his sons to stop (2:23–25), he did nothing to stop them. As a result, God would punish both Eli and his sons (2:30–34). Don't be like them. Instead, be like Samuel. Samuel served God (2:11) and was ready to obey as God's faithful servant (1 Sam 3:10–18). So God used him. Before, God's word had been rare in sinful Israel (3:1), but now God spoke through Samuel as His prophet. Samuel's words spread from the northern boundary at Dan to the southern boundary at Beersheba (3:20). God's words through Samuel were a precious gift to His people Israel. They were grace, an undeserved blessing.

ASK

1. How did Eli's sons despise God's holiness?
They took whatever meat they wanted from God's sacrifices and were immoral.
2. Did Eli do anything to stop his sons from sinning?
He told them to stop, but he didn't really mean it (he did nothing to stop them).
3. How would God punish Eli's sons?
Both would die on the same day.
4. How was Samuel different than Eli's sons?
He faithfully obeyed God.

DISCUSS

1. Children, do you want your parents to let you disobey, like Eli did? Parents, by not disciplining your children, are you setting up your children for destruction (Prov 13:24; 19:18; 23:13–14; Eph 6:4)?
2. What are some gifts God has given you? Like Eli's sons, do you use those gifts in a way that dishonors God? Or like Samuel, do you respond with grateful obedience?

DAY 3

God gave Israel a judge • 1 Samuel 4:2–7:17

READ

1 Samuel 4:1–11; 5:1–7; 7:7–17

EXPLAIN

The truth of 1 Samuel 4:1–11; 5:1–7; 7:7–17

Is God's holiness scary or comforting? Both. It is scary for those who do not treat Him as holy. He punished Israel for treating the ark, which represented His own presence, like a good-luck charm (1 Sam 4). So God allowed the Philistines to defeat Israel, kill 30,000 men, and capture the ark. But then the Philistines thought that they had won because their god, Dagon, was stronger than God (5:2)! This dishonored God, so

He humiliated Dagon and struck the Philistines with a terrible plague (5:3–6). Eventually, the Philistines returned the ark, admitting that they had sinned and were powerless before the holy God (6:1–12). Yet when the ark returned, Israel still failed to treat God as holy, and even more died than before (6:19)! Then, after 20 years of Samuel's faithful ministry, Israel finally began to seek God (7:2). Now God showed that His holiness comforts those who humble themselves before Him. When the Philistines attacked, God answered Samuel's prayer. He defended His people by confusing the Philistines with scary thunder, just as Hannah had predicted (7:10; 2:10).

DAY 3 CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

ASK 

1. What happened when Israel tried to use the ark like a good-luck charm?
God caused them to be defeated and the ark to be captured.
2. What happened when the Philistines brought the ark into Dagon's temple?
God knocked Dagon down, cut him in pieces, and struck the Philistines with a plague.
3. What did the Israelites do when the Philistines prepared to attack again?
They asked Samuel to pray on their behalf.
4. How did Israel defeat the Philistines?
God thundered and confused the Philistines.

DISCUSS 

1. How did Israel try to manipulate God? Do you try to manipulate God in order to get what you want? How does that turn out?
2. God's holiness is a blessing to those who love Him most (Matt 6:33). Is God first in your life and in your family?

DAY 4*Perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect • Matthew 5:48***READ** 

Matthew 5:48

EXPLAIN **The truth of Matthew 5:48**

Your sin might not be as obvious or as extreme as the sins of Hophni and Phinehas. But does that mean that you are good enough? Have you really treated God as holy? Are you safe from getting punished like they were, when they were killed on the same day (2:34)? In the middle of the Sermon on the Mount (Matt 5:1–7:29), Jesus said that you “must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect” (5:48). Have you been perfect? You have not perfectly kept God's Law (Jas 2:10), which means you are like Hophni and Phinehas. You have failed to treat God as holy. As Jesus' sermon teaches, a major purpose of the Law is to show you that you are guilty before God; and not only guilty, but completely unable of doing anything to earn God's favor and forgiveness (Rom 3:19–20). Jesus shows that the true requirements of the Law go much deeper than most people think—the law's requirements reach all the way to your heart (Matt 5:28). So is there any hope for you? Yes. The same hope Hannah found: God's grace (Eph 2:8–9).

ASK 

1. How were Hophni and Phinehas punished for their failure to treat God as holy?
They were killed on the same day.
2. What have all men failed to do?
To treat God as holy.
3. What a major purpose of the Law?
To show that all men are guilty sinners before God and that there is nothing they can do to please Him.
4. What is your only hope to be saved?
To trust God's grace to wipe away your sins.

DISCUSS 

1. How do you fail to treat God as holy? What are some laws of God that you have broken (Exod 20)?
2. Why is God's grace so important and so good (Rom 3:19–24)?

DAY 5

For he will be great before the Lord • Luke 1:5–25

READ

Luke 1:5–25

EXPLAIN

The truth of Luke 1:5–25

Samuel was gracious gift born to a barren woman, and he prepared the way for a coming king. Can you think of someone else like that? Yes, John the Baptist. Like Hannah, John's mother Elizabeth was barren (Luke 1:7). Like Hannah, Elizabeth rejoiced that God had taken away her disgrace (1 Sam 2:1; 1:25). Also, even though we don't have a song from Elizabeth, later in the chapter Mary's song echoes Hannah's: God scatters the proud but lifts up the lowly (1 Sam 2:1–10; Luke 1:51–52). So like Samuel, John was a gift of God's grace. John even means "God is gracious." As Samuel prepared the way for King David, John prepared the way for a greater king, the Son of David (Luke 1:15, 17; cf. Isa 40:3–5). Like Samuel, John would do this by speaking the truth even when people did not want to hear it (1 Sam 3:18; Luke 3:7–9, 19). Like Samuel, John would call Israel to return to their God (1 Sam 7:3; Luke 1:16). So God has not changed. He saves by grace. Will you receive His grace by humbly repenting?

ASK

1. How was Elizabeth like Hannah?
She was barren (unable to have children) and prayed for a son.
2. How was Mary's prayer like Hannah's?
Both rejoiced that God crushes the proud but lifts up the lowly.
3. How was John the Baptist's mission like Samuel's?
Both called Israel to repent. Both introduced a king to Israel.
4. What does John's name mean?
John means God is gracious. It comes from "Yahweh" and "Hannah".

DISCUSS

1. Would people who know you describe you as humble? Do you brag or think you are good enough? Are you the kind of person God crushes or shows grace to?
2. What grace did John announce? What grace can you have through Jesus?

NEXT WEEK

Israel rejects God as King

1 Samuel 8:1–12:25



SHARE THE BIBLE LESSON

WEEK 15

Israel rejects God as King

1 Samuel 8:1–12:25



DAY 1

Israel rejected God as their king • 1 Samuel 8:1–22

READ

1 Samuel 8:1–22

EXPLAIN

The truth of 1 Samuel 8:1–22

Why was Samuel upset when Israel asked for a king (1 Sam 8:5–6)? After all, God had promised that one day Israel would be blessed with a king (Gen 49:10), and the system of judges seemed broken (1 Sam 8:3; Deut 16:19). So why was Samuel upset? Because Israel's motive was wrong. They didn't want God's choice of a king, a king to lead them in obedience to God's law (Deut 17:14–20). They wanted a king in order to be like everyone else (8:20)—even though God had called them to be different (Lev 20:26). Instead of trusting God to fight their battles (Exod 14:14; Deut 3:22; Josh 10:14), they wanted a human king to fight their battles (1 Sam 8:20). Instead of putting their hope in God, they foolishly put their hope in human kings (Ps 118:8–9; 146:3). Ultimately, they were rejecting God as their King (1 Sam 8:7). God told Samuel to warn Israel of all the king would take from them (8:9–18), but they didn't listen. So how did God choose to punish them? By giving them what they wanted (8:22).

ASK

1. Why did Israel want a king?
They wanted to be like the nations around them. They trusted in human kings instead of in God to fight their battles.
2. Why was Samuel upset?
Israel was called to be different from other nations, and to trust God instead of man.
3. Did they listen to Samuel's warning?
No. They foolishly chose human thinking instead of God's wisdom.
4. Did God give them what they wanted?
Yes. Getting what you want is not always a good thing!

DISCUSS

1. What are some ways you reject God as king over your life?
2. What is peer pressure? How does peer pressure affect your thoughts, attitudes, desires, dress, speech, and behavior?

DAY 2

God gave Israel a human king • 1 Samuel 9:1–10:1

READ

1 Samuel 9:1–10:1

EXPLAIN

The truth of 1 Samuel 9:1–10:1

What kind of person would you choose to be king? Israel wanted a king like the other nations had, so that's what God gave them. Saul was tall, strong, and good-looking (1 Sam 9:2; cf. Deut 1:28; 2:10; 9:2). But he was also very foolish. If he couldn't keep track of two donkeys, how was he to lead a nation? He didn't even know who Samuel was, even though Samuel was famous and lived near Saul's home (1 Sam 9:6–18; 3:20)! So be careful what you pray for! God might give you what you want, but it might not be a good thing! So what does this show you about God? First, God is *just* and *fair* in His discipline. Second, He is still *sovereign* even when we sin. He was *in control* of all the details—the donkeys, the search, and the servant's suggestion—to make Saul king (9:1–16; Prov 16:9; 20:24). Third, God is *merciful*. He is *kind to those who do not deserve it* (Ps 103:11). He would even use foolish Saul to rescue Israel from their enemies (1 Sam 9:16).

ASK

1. What kind of a king did God give Israel?
A tall, handsome, and godless king, just like the other nations.
2. How was God just in this story?
He gave Israel the king they deserved.
3. Israel rejected God as King, but was God still King?
Yes. He controlled all the events to make Saul king.
4. How was God compassionate toward Israel despite their sin?
Through Saul, God would rescue Israel from their enemies.

DISCUSS

1. Do your parents give you everything you ask for? Are you thankful they often say no? What kinds of things should you ask God for, and with what attitude (Matt 6:9–13)?
2. Can you think of some other times God did something good through people's sinful choices (Gen 50:20; Acts 2:23)?

DAY 3

God used Saul as king to rescue Israel • 1 Samuel 10:2–11:15

READ

1 Samuel 10:2–11:15

EXPLAIN

The truth of 1 Samuel 10:2–11:15

Why did Samuel give Saul such strange signs? For two reasons. First, to prove that God was in control when He chose Saul. In fact, the people couldn't even find their king without God's help (1 Sam 10:22)! Second, the signs proved that Samuel was God's true prophet. So even after Saul became king, he needed to keep doing what Samuel said (10:8). Saul still needed to submit to God's rules for a king (10:25), because

human rulers are accountable to God (Col 4:1). After making Saul's position clear, God began to use Saul to rescue Israel. Nahash, whose name means "Snake," was threatening to mutilate the warriors of Jabesh-Gilead (1 Sam 11:1–2). But the Spirit transformed Saul from a foolish farmer into a brilliant military general (11:6). In less than a week, Saul united Israel, assembled an army of over 300,000 men, coordinated an all-night march, and utterly defeated a foreign enemy before morning was over! All this from a man who was so shy he had hidden in the baggage! Clearly it was God, not any human leader, who won the victory.

DAY 3 CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

ASK 

1. What was Saul doing when his name was chosen?
Hiding in the baggage.
2. As king, could Saul do whatever he wanted? Why or why not?
No. The signs proved he was still under God's control and needed to obey God's words.
3. How was Saul able to defeat the Ammonites?
Because the Spirit of God changed him.

DISCUSS 

1. Samuel was God's authority over Saul. Who is the authority over you? When you grow up, even if you become an important ruler, will you be free from authority (John 19:11)?
2. The people in authority over you will never be perfect (and some will be very foolish like Saul). How does Saul's story help you obey and trust that God can still do good through them?

DAY 4*Samuel rebuked Israel for rejecting God • 1 Samuel 12:1–25***READ** 

1 Samuel 12:1–25

EXPLAIN **The truth of 1 Samuel 12:1–25**

God is so patient! He gives us many chances to come back to Him. So when Israel officially crowned Saul king, Samuel called them back to God. He reminded Israel that they should listen to him, because he was God's true prophet (1 Sam 12:1–5). Then he reminded Israel that they should trust God, because God was faithful to deliver (12:6–11). That's why they were wrong to cry out for a human king instead of to God (12:12). They had forgotten God's faithfulness and chased after man-made solutions. Then God proved Samuel's words: He sent thunder and rain, which almost never occurred at that time of year (12:16–17). This also proved that no human king could rescue Israel from God's wrath, since rain during harvest could destroy the crops, ruin months of labor in a moment, and cause famine. So whether Israel recognized it or not, God was still in charge. He was still Israel's real King. So when Israel repented (12:18), God gave them another chance. If they would now follow God, God would still be their God and Samuel would still be their prophet (12:20–25).

ASK 

1. How did God show Israel how much He hated their sin?
He sent thunder and rain during wheat harvest.
2. Why was it silly for Israel to choose a human king?
God had already proven that He could rescue them. Their problems were the result of sin, not lack of a king. A human king could do nothing without God. A human king could not protect against God's wrath.
3. Why doesn't God forsake His people?
For the sake of His own name, and because God had chosen Israel (1 Sam 12:22).

DISCUSS 

1. How has God proven His faithfulness to you, despite your sin (Lam 3:22–23)?
2. How terrible is your sin in God's eyes (Ps 5:4–5)? How great is His wrath (Ps 7:11)? Who is the only king who can rescue you from God's wrath (Luke 1:32; Rom 8:1)?

DAY 5

God gives good gifts to those who ask • Luke 11:11–13

READ

Luke 11:11–13

EXPLAIN

The truth of Luke 11:11–13

As Israel discovered, you should be careful what you pray for (1 Sam 8:4–21). Israel asked for a human king just like the nations around them, and that's just what they got. Saul was tall and handsome, but he was godless. So be careful to pray with pure motives and a right perspective (Matt 6:9–13). At the same time, don't be afraid to ask. Since God is a loving, kind, all-knowing, and all-powerful heavenly Father, you can confidently ask God to supply all your needs. For, as Luke writes, if sinful, earthly fathers know how to give good gifts to their children, how much more will your sinless heavenly Father whose love, care, concern, knowledge, power, and resources are so much greater? And what is the best gift He can give you? Not new toys or lots of stuff or good grades or a nice vacation. The best gift is the Holy Spirit, who is the source of all goodness, blessing, truth, help, and comfort. So ask God for what you need, and rejoice when His answer is much better than any human solution.

ASK

1. Why should we never fear God's answers to prayer?
Because God is a perfect heavenly Father who is loving, kind, all-knowing, and all-powerful. He will never fail to give good gifts to His children.
2. Is it natural for a sinful earthly father to care for the needs of his children?
Yes.
3. What does God give to those who ask Him?
The Holy Spirit.
4. Why is the Holy Spirit God's good gift to those who ask?
He is the source of all goodness, blessing, truth, help, and comfort.

DISCUSS

1. What good gifts has your father given you? What good gifts has your heavenly Father given you? Or have you not yet received the Holy Spirit?
2. Is there any limit to what God can do in answer to your prayers (Eph 3:20)?

NEXT WEEK

Saul disobeys God

1 Samuel 13:1–15:35



SHARE THE BIBLE LESSON

WEEK 16

Saul disobeys God

1 Samuel 13:1–15:35



DAY 1

Saul rejected God's word about the sacrifice • 1 Samuel 13:1–23

READ

1 Samuel 13:1–23

EXPLAIN

The truth of 1 Samuel 13:1–23

When things in your life seem like they're falling apart, where do you look for help? Even though Jonathan had an initial victory (1 Sam 13:3), things began looking bad for Saul. His troops were leaving him because the Philistines sent a massive army in response to Jonathan's raid (13:4–7). As his army fell apart, Saul did not cry out to God. Instead, he took matters into his own hands. Because he feared man rather than God (Jer 17:5–8), he disobeyed God's word spoken through Samuel and impatiently offered the sacrifice himself (1 Sam 13:9). The sacrifices were a mere ritual to him—a hoop to jump through in order to get the blessing he wanted (13:12). Then, when given the opportunity to repent, Saul blamed everyone but himself (13:11–12). His sin led to terrible trouble. Because he despised God's word, God's sacrifices, and God's mercy, he gave up an eternal dynasty (13:13). He also lost Samuel's help, and his own forces were overwhelmed by the Philistines. Israel was outnumbered, undersupplied, and incapable of stopping Philistines from roaming wherever they wanted (13:16–22).

ASK

1. Why did Saul offer the sacrifice instead of waiting for Samuel?
He feared man (the Philistines) more than he feared God.
2. Why was Saul's reason for offering the sacrifice foolish?
He said he offered the sacrifice to seek God's favor, but disobedience never pleases God.
3. Did Saul confess his sin?
No. He blamed everyone else.
4. What were the consequences of Saul's sin?
His kingdom would not continue (1 Sam 13:13–14). Samuel left him (13:15). The Israelites were unable to stop Philistine raiding parties (13:16–18).

DISCUSS

1. Have you ever disobeyed because it seemed like the best thing to do? What are some reasons you disobey God's word (fear, greed, pride, unbelief, etc.)? Was your disobedience blessed or cursed (Deut 28)?
2. Where can you turn when things in your life seem to be falling apart (Ps 62)?

DAY 2

Saul rejected God's word in battle • 1 Samuel 14:1–52

READ

1 Samuel 14:1–52

EXPLAIN

The truth of 1 Samuel 14:1–52

Who acted more like a king, Saul or Jonathan? Jonathan was a brave warrior, but more importantly, he believed the battle was entirely in God's hands (1 Sam 14:6–10). Through Jonathan's faith, God saved Israel (14:10, 15, 23). In contrast, Saul did not leave the battle in God's hands. At first, Saul called the priest to seek God's guidance, but he was too impatient to see what God would say (14:18–19). Later, Saul didn't even bother calling the priest. This time it was the priest who interrupted Saul, reminding him to seek God's approval regarding his plans (14:36). Ironically, Saul acted as if his own words were more important than God's (14:24). He would have even killed his own son if his people had not defied him (14:45)! Because of his impatience and foolish words, Saul stopped chasing the Philistines, allowing them to run away to safety. He ruined the great victory that God had begun through Jonathan. Throughout the rest of his reign, he was usually successful in battle, but he was always spiritually blind (14:47–48).

ASK

1. How did Saul dishonor God's word during the battle with the Philistines?
Saul was too impatient to wait see what God would say.
2. How did Saul hurt his own troops during the battle?
He made an oath that they should not eat any food that day. He wanted people to obey his foolish words, but he didn't obey God's perfect word.
3. What happened because of Saul's sin?
Israel's victory was small.

DISCUSS

1. When have you disobeyed God because you were too impatient to seek God's will? What does the Bible say about those who live their lives apart from God (Ps 14:1)?
2. Think about your typical week. Do you guard time to seek God's word? Or by letting it get crowded out with business, do you show that you trust more in yourself than in God?

DAY 3

Saul rejected God's word about the Amalekites • 1 Samuel 15:1–21

READ

1 Samuel 15:1–21

EXPLAIN

The truth of 1 Samuel 15:1–21

God gave Saul another opportunity to obey Him (1 Sam 15:1). Saul's mission was to kill all the Amalekites. The Amalekites deserved this because they attacked Israel in the wilderness after leaving Egypt (Deut 25:18). Also, despite 300 years of God's patience, the Amalekites had not changed (1 Sam 15:33). That's why God called Saul to carry out His judgment. So why didn't Saul obey? Because he was greedy and

afraid of man. Saul spared Agag and kept the best of the animals (1 Sam 15:9, 19, 24). Do you remember Achan (Josh 7:21)? Like Achan, Saul kept some of what was devoted to destruction. Then he tried to cover up by lying and saying that he had obeyed (1 Sam 15:13, 20). Then he made excuses and tried to make it seem like his disobedience was good (15:21). Don't make that mistake! Remember what Samuel said: "To obey is better than sacrifice" (15:22; Ps 51:15–17; Isa 1:11–17; 1 John 2:3–4). Sacrifice is good, but disobedient sacrifice is false worship. More than anything else, God wants you to obey from the heart.

DAY 3 CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

ASK 

1. Did God give Saul another chance to obey Him?
Yes. God told Saul to kill the Amalekites.
2. Why did God tell Saul to kill the Amalekites?
God wanted to punish them and stop their cruelty to His people, Israel.
3. Did Saul repent when Samuel confronted him about his disobedience?
No. Saul made excuses.
4. How did Samuel respond when Saul kept making excuses?
To obey is better than sacrifice.

DISCUSS 

1. Did Saul partly obey? Do you obey your parents all the way, or only enough to make it seem like obedience? Why is partial obedience still disobedience?
2. When you are confronted with sin, what do you do? It is hard to admit being wrong, but is it ever better to try to hide your sin or make excuses?

DAY 4*God rejected Saul as king • 1 Samuel 15:22–35***READ** 

1 Samuel 15:22–35

EXPLAIN **The truth of 1 Samuel 15:22–35**

What is true repentance? Even though Saul's sin caused him to be rejected as king, Saul still could have repented. But he did not. He acted as if a quick confession could fix everything and make it all ok again (1 Sam 15:25). This proved that he still did not understand just how terrible disobedience is. In his fake repentance, Saul cared more about his own honor, not God's glory (15:30). So the story ends with both God and Samuel grieving over Saul's failure (15:35). Because of Saul's sin, God regretted making him king (15:11, 35). God loves His creation, and He grieves deeply when He sees people dishonoring Him and turning from their greatest good (Gen 6:6). However, this does not mean that God made a mistake or was caught by surprise (1 Sam 15:29). God does not change either His nature or His predetermined plan (Num 23:19). God was sad to see Saul's hard heart, but all along God had planned to give Israel the king they deserved. And all along God had in mind a better king, a king after His own heart (1 Sam 13:14; 15:28; 16:1).

ASK 

1. Why did God reject Saul as king?
Because Saul rejected God's word.
2. How did God punish Saul for his sin?
God rejected Saul and his descendants as kings.
3. Why was Saul's repentance fake?
He quickly confessed just to try to fix his problem. He was not sorrowful about his sin, only about the consequences (2 Cor 7:8–10). His heart was still not right.
4. How did Samuel and God respond when Saul pretended to repent?
They grieved over him.

DISCUSS 

1. How do you seek forgiveness from your parents? Do you realize how bad your sin, or are you just sad about the consequences? Do you just say the right words, or do you genuinely desire to be right with them again?
2. When is the last time you confessed your sin to God?

DAY 5

Jesus perfectly obeyed God's word • Luke 2:39–52

READ

Luke 2:39–52

EXPLAIN

The truth of Luke 2:39–52

Do you see how different Jesus was from Saul? Unlike Saul, Jesus obeyed God's word in every way. Jesus had a special mission from God, and He knew it. That's why He had to be in His Father's house, the temple (2:49). And if God was His true Father, that meant that Jesus was the Son of God. He was divine. He was greater than his earthly parents! But did that mean he did not need to obey them? No. Jesus did obey them (2:51). He was the Creator, and they were His creation. But He was also their child, and God's word commands children, "Honor your father and mother" (Exod 20:12). By obeying His earthly parents, Jesus proved that He was perfectly obedient to God's word. He did this because he came to "fulfill all righteousness" (Matt 3:15). Because of that, all those who trust in Him can receive His own righteousness (2 Cor 5:21). So Jesus' example should challenge you to obey God's word by obeying your parents. But His perfect life should also comfort you. Despite your sin, His righteousness can count for you, so that you can be saved.

ASK

1. What was Jesus doing when His parents found Him in the temple?
Asking and answering questions with the leading teachers of Israel.
2. Where did Jesus tell His parents He had to be?
In His Father's house (temple).
3. Did Jesus obey His parents?
Yes. He returned home with them to Nazareth.
4. What is the fifth commandment?
Honor your father and mother (Exod 20:12).

DISCUSS

1. How can you honor your father and mother this week (Exod 20:12)?
2. Why did Jesus have to perfectly obey God's word (2 Cor 5:21)?

NEXT WEEK

God sees David's heart

1 Samuel 16:1–23



SHARE THE BIBLE LESSON

WEEK 17

God sees David's heart

1 Samuel 16:1-23



DAY 1

God sent Samuel to anoint the next king • 1 Samuel 16:1-5

READ

1 Samuel 16:1-5

EXPLAIN

The truth of 1 Samuel 16:1-5

Samuel was still sad about Saul. But while Saul was lost, God's plan for a king was not. About 800 years earlier, Jacob had prophesied that kingship would belong to Judah (Gen 49:10), not to Saul's tribe of Benjamin. Nearly 400 years after this prophecy, God rescued Rahab the Canaanite by granting her true faith and making her an Israelite (Josh 2:8-14; 6:25). Rahab's son was Boaz, who married Ruth the Moabitess. Boaz and Ruth lived in Bethlehem and had a grandson named Jesse (Ruth 4:17), and now God was sending Samuel to Bethlehem to anoint Jesse's son. But what would Saul think about all this? Saul knew God had chosen someone to replace him. He would have been watching Samuel to see if he went out of his ordinary judging circuit, and he may have tried to kill Samuel or the one Samuel came to anoint. So God gave Samuel wisdom. He showed Samuel how to keep the mission secret from Saul, protecting both Samuel and Israel's future king (1 Sam 16:2-3).

ASK

1. Why was Samuel sad?
Because Saul had rejected God.
2. What hope did God give Samuel to encourage him to keep serving God?
God told Samuel He had chosen a new king, one He had planned hundreds of years before.
3. Why was Samuel afraid to go to Bethlehem?
He was afraid that Saul would find out and kill him.
4. How did God protect Samuel?
He told Samuel how to keep his mission secret from Saul.

DISCUSS

1. When was the last time you were sad? Why were you sad? How can the story today give you hope in sad times (Rom 8:28)?
2. When God tells you to do something, can you also trust Him to give you what you need (like wisdom) to do it (Jas 1:5)?

DAY 2

God chose a king loyal to Him • 1 Samuel 16:6–13

READ

1 Samuel 16:6–13

EXPLAIN

The truth of 1 Samuel 16:6–13

Do you remember how Israel wanted a tall and handsome king the first time? Well this is what Samuel was looking for again (1 Sam 16:6–7). But Saul's failure shows how foolish it is to judge a person based on appearance. God does not judge as man judges. He looks straight into the heart (1 Kings 8:39; Ps 44:21). God sees your innermost thoughts, motivations, and desires. He sees what you truly love and value. So after rejecting the next six sons of Jesse, God chose the youngest. It wasn't that David was short or ugly (16:12), but that his heart belonged completely to God. God desires those who love Him with heart, soul, and might (Deut 6:5), who treasure His word in their heart (Deut 6:6; Ps 119:11), and whose hearts are completely loyal to Him (2 Chron 16:9). This is the kind of man God uses, just as God took control of David and used him in powerful ways (1 Sam 16:13). This is also the kind of leader you should follow, and this is who you should strive to be.

ASK

1. What is the difference between how man sees and how God sees?
Man looks a person's appearance, but God looks at the heart. He knows even secret thoughts and desires.
2. Why wasn't David with his brothers?
David was the youngest, so he was away watching the sheep.
3. What kind of people does God want?
God wants people whose hearts are loyal to Him.
4. When Samuel anointed David, who took control of David?
The Spirit of God took control of David.

DISCUSS

1. Why is it foolish to judge by appearance? What kind of people do you honor, follow, or try to please?
2. What do people, who see your outside, think about you? Is this the same or different from what God would say when He sees your heart? Do you care more about your appearance or your heart?

DAY 3

God brought David to Saul • 1 Samuel 16:14–23

READ

1 Samuel 16:14–23

EXPLAIN

The truth of 1 Samuel 16:14–23

Which is easier: to obey or disobey? Sometimes disobedience seems easier at the moment, but it is always much harder in the end. Because Saul had forsaken God, Saul lost God's presence and instead was tormented by an evil spirit (1 Sam 16:14). By contrast, David was elevated to Saul's court because people knew God was with David (16:18). Just as God was with Joseph to give him success in difficult

situations (Gen 39:2, 3, 23), so God was with David and would give him success through the many difficulties to come. God's presence made all the difference between David's honor and Saul's anguish. Does the story of David's anointing remind you of Hannah's song? Her song sets the tone for the entire book of Samuel. It is a story of God's grace to the humble and provision of a godly king to His people. Hannah praised God for giving power to His king and lifting up the strength of His anointed one (1 Sam 2:10), and this is what God did for David. So which do you choose: a heart for God like David, or miserable disobedience like Saul?

DAY 3 CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

ASK 

1. What happened to Saul?
The Holy Spirit left Saul, and an evil spirit tormented him. It is much better to be loyal to God!
2. Why did God take His Spirit away from Saul?
Because Saul had forsaken God.
3. What did David do for Saul?
David played the lyre for Saul to stop the evil spirit from tormenting him.
4. Who is David's descendant, the perfect King after God's own heart?
Jesus is the perfect King, and He can give us hearts pleasing to God.

DISCUSS 

1. Compare walking with God (Prov 4:18; Rom 5:10; John 13:17) with rebelling against Him (Prov 4:19; 13:15; Rom 5:9). Which is better?
2. David obeyed God because he had a heart for God. How can you get a right heart (Ezek 36:26; John 3:3)?

DAY 4*The heart is the control center of our lives • Proverbs 4:23***READ** 

Proverbs 4:23

EXPLAIN **The truth of Proverbs 4:23**

Why do you do what you do? Because of what is in your heart. The heart is the control center of your life. The word "heart" describes a lot of who you are. First, it includes your mind, where thinking and reason occur (Prov 6:21). Second, it includes your emotions, the way you feel (15:15). Third, it includes your will, your desires and decisions (11:20). So the word "heart" is describing your whole inner being (3:5). So watch over your heart diligently (4:23), because whatever is in your heart controls what comes out in your words and actions. If your heart is good, your words and actions are good. But if your heart is bad, your words and actions will be bad (Luke 6:45). Your heart is like a tree, and your words and actions are like the fruit: good trees bear good fruit while bad trees bear bad fruit (6:43). So what does your fruit say about your heart? Do your words and actions show that they come from a good heart or a rotten one (6:44)? .

ASK 

1. What is your heart?
It is the control center of our lives.
2. What does the word "heart" describe?
Our thinking, emotions, and will. Our whole inner being.
3. Why must you watch over your heart diligently?
The condition of the heart affects our thinking, speech, and will.
4. How are hearts like trees?
Just like trees are known by their fruit, so hearts known by their words.

DISCUSS 

1. What do your thoughts, words, and actions reveal about your heart? Can you hide your thoughts from God (Palm 44:21)? What do you need to do about a disobedient heart (Ezek 18:31)?
2. Do you guard your heart? What do you let into your heart? Are the things you watch, listen to, and think about good for your heart?

DAY 5

David's righteous descendant • Acts 13:13–25

READ

Acts 13:13–25

EXPLAIN

The truth of Acts 13:13–25

Why did God choose David? Because David was a man after God's own heart (Acts 13:22). But even David was not perfect. Even though he loved God, he still sinned. So David was just the beginning of something much greater. Who is greater than David? David's descendant, the Messiah (2 Sam 7:12–16; Ps 132:11; Isa 11:10; Jer 23:5). David, as a humble shepherd and a godly king, pointed forward to the great Shepherd (Heb 13:20) and eternal King (Rev 19:16). Unlike any other human, Jesus, the Son of David, was truly a man after God's own heart. He is perfect in every way, completely sinless (2 Cor 5:21). No matter the temptation or pain, Jesus prayed, "Not My will, but Yours be done" (Matt 26:39). His will was the Father's will, and His words were the Father's words (John 6:38; 12:49). Jesus' heart was devoted to the Father even to the point of death (Phil 2:8). That is good news for you, because apart from Jesus your heart is not for God. But through Jesus you can be recreated with a new heart pleasing to God (2 Cor 5:17).

ASK

1. Why did God choose David to replace Saul?
Because David was a man after God's own heart.
2. Who is the king who is greater than David?
Jesus, the Messiah.
3. Why is Jesus truly a man after God's own heart?
Because He never sinned. Everything He did was in perfect obedience to God's will.
4. How can you have hearts that are pleasing to God?
By trusting in Jesus you can become a new creation (2 Cor 5:17).

DISCUSS

1. Take some time to praise Jesus for living a perfect life in perfect submission to God. Are you thankful for what this makes possible for you?
2. If you have already been born again and given a new heart, how should your attitude be like Christ's?

NEXT WEEK

David fights for God's honor

1 Samuel 17:1–58



SHARE THE BIBLE LESSON

WEEK 18

David fights for God's honor

1 Samuel 17:1-58



DAY 1

Goliath attacked God's glory • 1 Samuel 17:1-11

READ

1 Samuel 17:1-11

EXPLAIN

The truth of 1 Samuel 17:1-11

What are you afraid of? What do you do when you are afraid? Saul and Israel were afraid. They were once again powerless before the Philistines, and they cowered before a monstrous champion (1 Sam 17:1-3). Goliath was 9 feet 9 inches tall, at a time when 6 feet was unusually tall. Also, at a time when Israelite soldiers did not have metal weapons or armor (13:22), Goliath's armament was stunning. His bronze scale armor weighed 125 pounds, over twice as heavy as even a large soldier would wear. Goliath also wore a helmet on his head and greaves on his shins, and he had a massive shield carried by his armor-bearer. He was loaded with weapons—a straight sword, a javelin, and a massive spear. His spearhead alone weighed 15 pounds, compared to about 1 pound for a typical spearhead. How did Saul and Israel respond? They were paralyzed with fear. They focused on Goliath's external appearance and forgot that God can win even against overwhelming odds (14:6). They did not care enough about God to risk their lives to defend God's honor.

ASK

- How tall was Goliath?
Goliath was 9 feet 9 inches tall.
- Why were Saul and Israel so afraid of Goliath?
They were afraid because they focused only on Goliath's terrifying appearance.
- What did Goliath trust in??
His own strength and weapons.
- What was so bad about Goliath defying the army of Israel?
By mocking the army of Israel, Goliath was also mocking the living God of Israel.

DISCUSS

- What are you afraid of? Why are you afraid? Does your fear come from looking at things from a human perspective instead of remembering God?
- Do you hear or see people around you dishonoring God? When they do, how do you respond? This week, how can you speak and act to honor God?

DAY 2

David was jealous for God's glory • 1 Samuel 17:12–30

READ

1 Samuel 17:12–30

EXPLAIN

The truth of 1 Samuel 17:12–30

What David saw didn't scare him. It angered him. By defying and insulting the army of the living God, Goliath was defying and insulting God Himself—not a dead, lifeless idol, but the living God who is alive and present with His people (1 Sam 17:26). This simple shepherd from Bethlehem was *jealous* for God's glory. He was so in love with God's honor that he became angry against those who dishonored God. What mattered to David was not Goliath's size but God's *glory*, God's *honor, greatness, and praise*. After all, God's glory is the reason for everything (Isa 43:7; Rom 1:21–23; 9:17; 1 Cor 10:31). David's older brother didn't see things as David did (1 Sam 17:28). Perhaps Eliab was still angry at having his little brother chosen over him (16:6–7), or maybe, like the rest of Israel, Eliab saw only the outside and misjudged David's heart. Either way, Eliab shows once again how radically different David was. What about you? Are you tempted to see things like the world around us, according to human judgment and outward appearance? Instead, see things from the perspective of God's glory.

ASK

1. Who sent David to visit his brothers?
Jesse, David's father, sent David to deliver food to his brothers and their commander.
2. What was different about the way David responded to Goliath?
Instead of being afraid of Goliath's appearance, David was jealous for God's glory.
3. Why was David's older brother angry with him?
Eliab may have been jealous or thought David was showing off. He was judging from a human perspective.
4. How was David different from the rest of the soldiers?
David cared about God's glory more than anything.

DISCUSS

1. Normally jealousy is bad thing. Why was David's jealousy a good thing? Is it ever right to be angry (Eph 4:26; Col 3:8; Jas 1:19–20)?
2. What makes you angry? Is it when people offend God's glory? Or is it when people offend you?

DAY 3

David prepared to defend God's glory • 1 Samuel 17:31–40

READ

1 Samuel 17:31–40

EXPLAIN

The truth of 1 Samuel 17:31–40

Does your view of God affect your behavior? Because Saul ignored God, he judged David by his appearance just like Eliab did (1 Sam 17:33). Saul saw that David was not a trained warrior. But David had a right view of God. In fact, David gave his own king a lesson in *theology*, in truth about God (17:34–37). David gave God the credit for his victories over lions and bears. He saw God at

work in the past, so he trusted in God to make Goliath just like all the other wild animals. Some trust in chariots, or in big giants encased in armor, but David trusted in God (Ps 20:7; Ps 33:16–19; Ps 147:10–11). But Saul, who was still consumed with externals, offered David his armor (1 Sam 17:38). The king was supposed to fight Israel's battles, but instead he sent his armor-bearer to fight! Saul became the armor-bearer, and David acted as king. In the end, David rejected Saul's armor and any outward appearance of kingship. Instead, he went out like a shepherd to protect his people (17:40). David's view of God made all the difference.

DAY 3 CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

ASK 

1. Why did Saul think David would be unable to defeat Goliath?
Because David was young and Goliath was a veteran warrior.
2. Why did David expect to beat Goliath?
David knew God had delivered him in the past, and David knew God always acts for His glory.
3. What did Saul put on David?
His armor.
4. What does the arming scene show about David?
It shows that David will be a true shepherd of his people, and Saul is not.

DISCUSS 

1. Do you know someone who really knows God and trusts Him? How can you tell? How does it affect their attitude and actions?
2. Like Saul, we all naturally fear man and judge by appearance. So what can you do to correct your theology, so that you will have a right view of God?

DAY 4*David fought for God's glory • 1 Samuel 17:41–58***READ** 

1 Samuel 17:41–58

EXPLAIN **The truth of 1 Samuel 17:41–58**

Did you notice that Goliath actually agreed with David on one thing? They both knew this was more than a battle between two men, or even two armies. It was a battle between two opposing worldviews. Is God the true God, or are Goliath's gods the true gods? This perspective motivated David in two ways. First, David was jealous for God's glory (17:45). No matter the risk, he could not sit idly by while godless men dishonored God. He wanted all men to know that God is God (17:46–47). Second, David trusted in God's power. He believed he would be victorious because the victory would be God's, not his own (17:47). David fought for God's glory with confidence because he knew God also fights for His glory—and always wins. So with a run and a whirl, David hurled the stone into Goliath's skull (17:48–49). As Goliath lay dying, he got what he deserved—he was decapitated with his own sword (17:50–51). Just as Hannah predicted, God crushed the proud and gave strength to His anointed king (2:10).

ASK 

1. What motivated David to fight?
(1) David fought for God's name, so that everyone would know that God is the true God. (2) He fought by faith in God's power.
2. How did Goliath get what he deserved?
David cut off his head with Goliath's own sword.
3. Who actually won the victory that day?
God did. God fights for those who trust Him, because He fights for His own glory.

DISCUSS 

1. David was a man after God's own heart because he valued God above all (1 Sam 13:14). What do you care about the most?
2. David was courageous because he was on God's side and God always wins. How can this truth help you to say no to sin and do what is right even when it is hard or scary?

DAY 5

Jesus cleanses the temple • Matthew 21:12–17

READ

Matthew 21:12–17

EXPLAIN

The truth of Matthew 21:12–17

Why does the story of David and Goliath end by mentioning David's hometown of Bethlehem (1 Sam 17:58)? Because 1,000 years later, another would be born in Bethlehem—another humble shepherd jealous for God's glory (Matt 2:6). Jesus showed His jealousy for God's glory when He cleansed the temple. Right after His triumphal entry into Jerusalem, He drove out everyone selling sacrifices and exchanging money in the court of Gentiles, a large open area that was part of the temple complex (Matt 21:12). He could not bear to see His Father's house—a place of prayer—turned into a house of thieves (21:13). He was jealous for the glory of His Father. In fact, He cared so much about His Father's glory that He died for it (John 21:19). But just as God saved Israel from the Philistines through David, so He now rescues believers from death through Jesus (Rom 6:6–8). Why does He do this? In order that those He saves will go on to live by faith in God (2 Cor 5:7, 9) for the glory of God (1 Pet 2:9–11), just as David did.

ASK

1. What town is mentioned at the end of the story of David and Goliath?
Bethlehem, the home of David and of David's descendant, Jesus.
2. Who did Jesus drive out of the temple?
Those selling animals for sacrifices and those exchanging money.
3. Why did Jesus cleanse the temple?
Because those buying and selling had dishonored the temple, His Father's house.
4. What do David and Jesus have in common?
They were both jealous for God's glory.

DISCUSS

1. How do David and Jesus show us the right way to act based on godly anger? Is it a human outburst or is it controlled by God and dependent on God?
2. Who should be afraid of God's passion for His glory? Who should be encouraged by God's passion for His glory? Do you live for His glory?

NEXT WEEK

God gives David a friend

1 Samuel 18:1–20:42



SHARE THE BIBLE LESSON

WEEK 19

God gives David a friend

1 Samuel 18:1–20:42



DAY 1

Jonathan faithfully loved David • 1 Samuel 18:1–4

READ

1 Samuel 18:1–4

EXPLAIN

The truth of 1 Samuel 18:1–4

What is true friendship? It is when one soul is knit to another, like Jonathan's and David's (1 Sam 18:1). They were united because they shared the same faith, the same love for God's glory, and the same courage in battle (13:3; 14:4–14). Because Jonathan loved David, he made a covenant with him (18:3). A **covenant** is an unbreakable promise that unites two people or groups. Jonathan was imitating God's covenant love. Because God loved Israel, He swore an oath to them that will never be broken (Deut 7:7–8; Rom 11:28–29). Do you imitate God's love in the way you love others (1 John 4:19)? Jonathan also shows that godly friendship is selfless. He took off his princely robe and military gear and gave them to David (1 Sam 18:4). By doing that, Jonathan gave up his right to be king and instead supported David's kingship. From a human perspective, Jonathan should have been the next king. He was the oldest son of Saul, a famous warrior, and a godly man. But Jonathan was **humble**. He was willing to give up his own rights to put God's kingdom first.

ASK

1. Why did Jonathan love David so much? *When Jonathan saw David fight Goliath, he realized that they both loved God's honor and trusted God completely.*
2. What did Jonathan make with David? *A covenant.*
3. What is a covenant? *An unbreakable promise that unites two people or groups.*
4. What did Jonathan give David? *Jonathan gave David his royal clothes. Jonathan should have been king after Saul, but he let David be king instead.*

DISCUSS

1. Who are your friends? Why are they your friends? What passions do you share? Do you and your friends share a passion for God?
2. In what ways do you cling to your own rights and privileges? How does loving God most help you love others selflessly?

DAY 2

Saul tried to kill David • 1 Samuel 18:5–19:24

READ

1 Samuel 18:5–19:24

EXPLAIN

The truth of 1 Samuel 18:5–19:24

Saul was nothing like Jonathan. He used David instead of loving him. He sought his own interests rather than God's (1 Sam 18:2, 5). As a result, he feared David. Instead of rejoicing in what God was doing through David to bless Israel, he considered David his enemy (18:12, 15, 29). His bitter jealousy is a reminder of sin's destructive power (Prov 27:4). Saul's jealousy led him to seek David's life several times. First, he tried to kill David privately (1 Sam 18:10–11). Then he plotted David's death at the hands of the Philistines (18:12–30). When these schemes failed, he openly called for David's death (19:1–21). Finally, he went out to kill David himself (19:22). However, God is with His godly ones, especially in suffering. God's presence protected David (18:12, 14, 28). He guarded David in battle, used Jonathan to save David's life (19:1–7), and directly intervened to save his life again (19:23). Not surprisingly, David praised God by writing a song about this difficult time (Ps 59).

ASK

1. What did the women say as Israel's soldiers returned home from war?
Saul has killed his thousands, David his ten thousands (1 Sam 18:6–8).
2. How did God use Jonathan's friendship to help David?
Jonathan risked his own life for David.
3. What did Saul try to do to David?
Saul tried to kill David several times in different ways.
4. When Saul could not kill David, how did Saul feel?
Saul was very afraid of David. He should have rejoiced that God was blessing Israel through David.

DISCUSS

1. How do you feel when others are honored for their success? Are you able to rejoice with them? Are you thankful when God shows His glory, even if it is not through you?
2. How do you seek your own glory? Why is this foolish (Isa 2:11–12)?

DAY 3

Jonathan remained faithful to David • 1 Samuel 20:1–42

READ

1 Samuel 20:1–42

EXPLAIN

The truth of 1 Samuel 20:1–42

True friends are there for one another, especially in the hard times. You can see this when David turned to his friend in a time of trouble. First, when David was confused (1 Sam 20:1), Jonathan was able to confirm that David had done nothing wrong (20:8–9). Second, Jonathan stayed loyal. He even made a greater covenant with David than before. This covenant was with the entire house of David—a lasting agreement between

David's family and Jonathan's family (20:15–16). Third, Jonathan helped David by investigating to find the truth (20:18–29). Fourth, Jonathan showed selfless love. When Saul became angry, Jonathan stood up for David, at great cost to himself (20:30–34). He was furious with his father, but not for his own sake. His concern was for David and his honor (20:34). Fifth, after telling David the bad news (20:35–40), Jonathan comforted David by pointing him back to God. He sent David away in peace (20:42), peace that endured in the midst of trouble because it was rooted in covenant friendship and trust in God (23:16).

DAY 3 CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

ASK 

1. Who did David go to when he was in trouble?
Jonathan.
2. Why did David go to Jonathan?
Because they had made a covenant and were true friends.
3. How did Jonathan prove to be a true friend?
He helped David understand what was going on, and he stayed true to David even though it harmed himself.
4. How did Jonathan encourage David?
Jonathan reminded David of his own friendship, and he pointed David back to God.

DISCUSS 

1. What are the characteristics of a true friend? How can you be kind and encourage a friend this week? Do you know someone who needs an encouraging friend right now?
2. Jonathan was faithful to help God's chosen king. Are you willing to be a helper and support instead of the one who gets all the attention?

DAY 4*A friend loves at all times • Proverbs 17:17***READ** 

Proverbs 17:17

EXPLAIN **The truth of Proverbs 17:17**

A *friend* is valuable gift. Jonathan shows this. Jonathan was a *like-minded companion who loves loyally and selflessly*. Even though he should have been the next king, he gave up his rights and privileges in order to serve David. In so doing, he became closer to David than a brother (Prov 18:24). He was a true friend because he loved David at all times, not just when it was easy (17:17). Jonathan shows us that friendship is not about meeting our needs but faithfully meeting the needs of others. At times you may find yourself in David's shoes, called to suffer. If so, thank God if He chooses to bless you with friends like Jonathan (Eccl 4:9–10). At other times, you may find yourself in the shoes of Jonathan, sacrificing your rights and privileges for the benefit of another. If so, choose to decrease in order that your friend may increase (John 3:30). When you put others first out of love for God (Rom 12:1, 10), you humbly magnify God as Christ did (Phil 2:1–5). So whether you find yourself like David or like Jonathan, thank God for friendship.

ASK 

1. Why was Jonathan a true friend?
He loved David at all times and willingly sacrificed his rights and privileges for him.
2. How often does a friend love?
At all times, especially the hard times (Prov 17:17).
3. Is friendship about meeting our needs or the needs of another?
The needs of another.
4. Why does God give the gift of friendship?
To honor God by sacrificially loving. To encourage His people when they are suffering.

DISCUSS 

1. Describe something kind a friend has done for you lately. Thank God for the friends He has given you.
2. How can you be a friend like Jonathan to your brothers and sisters? What rights or privileges can you give up for them?

DAY 5

Jesus is the greatest friend • 1 John 3:16–18

READ

1 John 3:16–18

EXPLAIN

The truth of 1 John 3:16–18

Who is the greatest friend? Jesus is. Jesus sets the standard for friendship and true love. He showed us what true love is when He sacrificed Himself for sinners. Even though He is God, Jesus willingly humbled Himself, taking on the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of man, in order that He might suffer and die on a cross to satisfy the Father's wrath against sin (Phil 2:7–8). This is the same type of love God expects of you, but that is impossible until you first receive Christ's love (1 John 3:16). So when you find it hard to humble yourself, look to Jesus. By His humble death your sins may be forgiven, the power of sin in your life broken, and peace with God restored. But since Jesus did not stay dead (2:9–11), you may also find life in His life (Rom 6:5) and reign with Him as He reigns (Rev 5:5). So even when life is hard, even when you must let go of your ambitions, you may have peace, because Jesus offers Himself as your truest friend.

ASK

1. What is the standard by which all other love is measured?
The love of Jesus.
2. How did Jesus demonstrate His love?
By laying down His life for us.
3. Who is the greatest friend?
Jesus. He gave up the glory He had in heaven in order to honor God and give His life for sinners. He is a friend to the very end, our only source of peace.
4. How can you be true friends?
Only when we first accept Christ's love for us. Then after that we can love with His love—selflessly, sacrificially, faithfully, encouraging others in the Lord for the glory of God.

DISCUSS

1. Describe some examples of earthly love (parent and child, husband and wife, soldier and fellow soldier, etc.). How do they compare to Jesus' love?
2. What is true love?

NEXT WEEK

God judges between David and Saul

1 Samuel 24:1–22



SHARE THE BIBLE LESSON
WEEK 20

God judges between David and Saul

1 Samuel 24:1–22



DAY 1

David trusted God for vengeance • 1 Samuel 24:1–7

READ 📖

1 Samuel 24:1–7

EXPLAIN 🎯

The truth of 1 Samuel 24:1–7

Many times God's way is not the easy way. David found this out when he was hiding from Saul at Engedi, an oasis on the shores of the Dead Sea. It was a seaside retreat with massive cliffs full of caves—a good place to rest and hide. But Saul soon came after David again (24:1–2). The tables turned, though, when Saul unknowingly entered David's cave alone (24:3). David's men excitedly took this as a God-given opportunity for David to kill Saul. Staring at his enemy in the darkness, David had to decide: should he wait for God, or seek vengeance himself? Should he trust God's timing, or should he end his troubles in a moment? Instead of cutting Saul, David chose only to cut Saul's robe. Yet David regretted doing even that. His conscience bothered him because he knew the law prohibited even speaking badly against a ruler (Exod 22:28). Any action against God's anointed was an action against God Himself (1 Sam 24:6). So David spared Saul and even sternly warned his men not to attack Saul (24:7). He chose God's way, not the quick way.

ASK ❓

1. What opportunity did David have?
David had a chance to kill his enemy, Saul, when Saul was alone in the cave.
2. What did David's men tell him to do?
David's men told him to kill Saul. They thought God was giving David the opportunity to become king now.
3. Why did David feel bad about cutting off the edge of Saul's robe?
David knew that this dishonored the one God had put in authority over Israel.
4. Did David let his men attack Saul?
No. Saul was allowed to leave safely.

DISCUSS 🗣️

1. Do you find it easy or hard to wait for God's timing? Why is God's timing best?
2. Do you ever get impatient with your parents and complain when you don't get what you want fast enough? What can you learn from David?

DAY 2

David proved his innocence • 1 Samuel 24:8–15

READ

1 Samuel 24:8–15

EXPLAIN

The truth of 1 Samuel 24:8–15

While you must not violate God's law, this does not mean you cannot offer a defense when you are suffering unjustly. David spared Saul, but he also delivered a powerful speech against Saul's unjust pursuit. David first showed honor by bowing and calling Saul "my lord the king" (1 Sam 24:8). This genuine respect for Saul's kingship reinforced his words. After this, David proved he was not Saul's enemy (24:9). First, he gave personal testimony and physical evidence of his loyalty (24:10–11). Second, he used a proverb (a well-known phrase) to say, in effect, "You know I won't act wickedly against you because I am not a wicked person" (24:13). Third, he used logic to show Saul how silly it was to waste so much energy chasing someone so unimportant (24:14). Fourth, David appealed to God, twice calling on Him to take vengeance on Saul (24:12, 15). David was able to resist the temptation to take personal revenge because he knew God would do it. So David defended his innocence with humility, integrity, wisdom, respect, and faith in God. This is the right way to respond to persecution.

ASK

1. After Saul left the cave, what did David do?
David showed him the corner of the robe and used words to defend his innocence.
2. How did David show respect for Saul's position as king?
He called Saul "my lord the king" and bowed before him (1 Sam 24:8).
3. Did David excuse Saul's wickedness?
No. He looked to God for judgment.
4. What did David ask God to do?
To repay Saul for his evil pursuit.

DISCUSS

1. How do you respond when you feel someone has treated you unfairly? Do you react rashly, or do you stay under control and speak logically, with respect and humility?
2. How do you respect someone's position (1 Pet 2:17), even when the person is not honorable (Ps 15:4)? When those in authority do wrong, is there a highest authority to appeal to (Rom 13:1)?

DAY 3

Saul confessed David's innocence • 1 Samuel 24:16–22

READ

1 Samuel 24:16–22

EXPLAIN

The truth of 1 Samuel 24:16–22

The right decision is often hard, but it is always the best way, because God honors those who trust Him and do right (Rom 2:10). God showed David this through the words of wicked Saul. Saul confirmed David's righteousness (1 Sam 24:17) and also confirmed God's word that David would be king and bring blessing to Israel (24:16, 20). David had refused to take the easy way out by killing Saul, and now God

encouraged David that he had made the right choice. David trusted God's word, waited for God's way, and left vengeance in God's hand. Jesus, the promised Davidic king, did the same thing. Like David, Jesus knew He would be exalted as King (Ps 2:8–9). He was also tempted to by-pass God's plan in order to get what God had promised (Matt 4:8–9). He too left vengeance in God's hand (26:53). Like David, Jesus chose instead to do what is right and entrust Himself to God (1 Pet 2:22–23). Because Jesus obeyed, God exalted Him as King (Phil 2:9–11). So choose God's way: it is hard at first, but it ends well (Prov 4:18).

DAY 3 CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

ASK 

1. What did Saul do when he heard David's speech?
Saul wept, but he did not truly repent.
2. How did Saul's response encourage David?
It showed David that he was innocent and that he was right to trust God to make him king.
3. Who else refused to take a shortcut on the way to becoming king?
Jesus. He waited for God's plan and did not seek sinful vengeance.

DISCUSS 

1. Is it sometimes hard to obey your parents (Eph 6:1)? How do the examples of David and Jesus encourage you that the best choice is to obey, even when it seems hard or unfair?
2. Saul still continued to pursue David even though he knew it was wrong. Do you continue to sin, even when you know it's wrong? Why?

DAY 4**Submission to authorities • Romans 13:1-4****READ** 

Romans 13:1-7

EXPLAIN **The truth of Romans 13:1-4**

David illustrates what Paul is saying. Even dishonorable rulers like Saul must be honored for their positions of **authority**, since God establishes rulers (1 Sam 24:10; Rom 13:1). To rebel against those whom God has placed in positions of leadership is to rebel against God (Rom 13:2). Honor government because it is designed by God to encourage good and restrain evil (13:3-4). But what should you do when you are oppressed by the authority who is supposed to protect you? David left **vengeance** in God's hands, trusting God to punish Saul as payback for harming others. Asking God for vengeance is not wrong (Pss 54:5; 58:6-9; 139:19-24). In fact, those who pray for God to avenge can be the most gentle and peaceful towards their enemies, because they do not need to take their own revenge (Rom 12:19; Deut 32:35-36; Lev 19:18). This is how you should respond to all people, but especially to authority over you. So when your rulers are wicked, cry out to God (Pss 57; 142). He hears the prayers of the oppressed, and He fights against the arrogant oppressor (1 Sam 2:1-10).

ASK 

1. What is vengeance?
Payback for harming others.
2. Why did David honor Saul?
Because his position as God's appointed king was to be honored.
3. Who establishes leaders?
God. They are designed by God to reward good behavior and punish evil behavior.
4. What should we do when our leaders treat us unfairly?
We can make a lawful defense, as David did. We can appeal to a higher human authority (Acts 25:12). Ultimately, we can pray to God as the highest authority.

DISCUSS 

1. Identify as many authorities as you can: government officials, parents, teachers, policemen, etc. When you have a position of authority, who will ultimately hold you accountable for your actions?
2. Who are you really rebelling against when you rebel against earthly authorities? How can trusting in God's justice and vengeance free you from acting sinfully against wicked rulers?

DAY 5

Jesus left vengeance to God • Matthew 26:53

READ

Matthew 26:47–56

EXPLAIN

The truth of Matthew 26:53

When you feel like it is too hard to suffer unjustly, remember that Jesus knows what it's like. On the night before His death, Judas betrayed Jesus into the hands of an armed mob sent by the elders and chief priests (Matt 26:47–49). Peter tried to defend Him, showing heroic courage in the face of overwhelming enemies (26:50–51; cf. John 18:10). So why did Jesus tell Peter to put away his sword (Matt 26:52)? Because Jesus knew He had to do the Father's will (26:56). Jesus could have easily beaten His enemies. He could have called more than 12 legions of angels to fight for Him—up to 72,000 angels (26:53). Remember that it only took one angel to kill 185,000 Assyrians in a single night (2 Kings 19:35)! Yet Jesus refused to take the easy way. He trusted in God's will and God's timing, not His own. He left vengeance in God's hands, knowing that the time for judgment will eventually come (John 5:22; Rev 19:11–20:15). If Jesus was willing to leave vengeance to God, then you must leave it to Him too.

ASK

1. Who betrayed Jesus?
Judas betrayed Jesus with a kiss.
2. Who drew their sword to defend Jesus Peter. However, Jesus told him not to resist the crowd.
3. Could Jesus have resisted the crowd sent by the chief priests and elders?
Yes. He could called 72,000 angels to defend Him.
4. Why didn't Jesus seek vengeance that night?
Because it was God's will for Him to die on the cross the following day; Jesus left vengeance to God.

DISCUSS

1. When is the last time you were treated unfairly? How did you respond?
2. Is it better that Jesus did left vengeance to God? How have you benefited from Jesus' submission to God's will and God's timing?

NEXT WEEK

God makes David king

2 Samuel 1:1–2:7



SHARE THE BIBLE LESSON
WEEK 21

God makes David king

2 Samuel 1:1–2:7



DAY 1

David mourned and avenged Saul's death • 2 Samuel 1:1–16

READ

2 Samuel 1:1–16

EXPLAIN

The truth of 2 Samuel 1:1–16

After spending years escaping from Saul, wouldn't you think that David would be glad to hear that Saul was dead? That's what the Amalekite messenger thought, too. He invented a story about helping Saul take his own life (1:6–10; 1 Sam 31:3–5), expecting David to reward him for his part in Saul's death. But David did not rejoice (2 Sam 1:12). He mourned for Jonathan, his close friend and fellow soldier. He also mourned for all those who had died in battle, as well as for the rest of Israel, now kingless and cowering before the Philistines. Even more amazing, David wept for Saul, his lifelong enemy. He imitated God in this, since God takes no pleasure in the death of anyone (Ezek 18:32). But David wasn't just sad. He was also shocked that the Amalekite messenger had not been afraid to harm Saul, God's anointed king (2 Sam 1:14). So David justly executed him based on the Amalekite's own testimony (1:16). Both in his grief and in his respect for God's anointed king, David proved his integrity. He was qualified to be Israel's next king.

ASK

1. Who came to David with bad news?
An Amalekite messenger from Saul's camp.
2. What did the messenger say?
Israel was beaten and Saul, Jonathan, and many Israelites were dead.
3. Who did David weep for?
For Saul, for Jonathan, for God's people, and for all Israel. He was a good leader because he loved God's people and honored the kingship.
4. Why did David kill the messenger?
David killed him because he said he killed God's anointed.

DISCUSS

1. Have you experienced the death of a friend, family member, or pet? Talk about the sadness that comes with death (Jer 9:1; 1 Thess 4:13).
2. Should you rejoice when bad things happen to your enemies (Prov 24:17)? Why is it wrong to rejoice over anyone's death (Ezek 18:32)? Should you rejoice in God's justice (Ps 58:10; Prov 11:10)?

DAY 2

David commemorated the dead • 2 Samuel 1:17–27

READ

2 Samuel 1:17–27

EXPLAIN

The truth of 2 Samuel 1:17–27

God gave music as a tool for us to express our emotion and help us remember. So David channeled his grief into a song to *commemorate, honor, and remember* Saul and Jonathan. He even taught this *lament*, this *song of sorrow*, to all the people of Judah. The song has three main themes. First, David lamented Israel's shame, showing again his deep love for God's people and God's glory (2 Sam 1:19–21), since enemies of God's people are also enemies of God (1 Sam 17:26, 45–47). Second, David honored Saul and Jonathan (2 Sam 1:22–23). He never mentioned Saul's failures. Instead, he remembered Saul's brave defense of Israel. Third, David mourned the deaths of Saul and Jonathan (1:24), and he expressed special love for Jonathan (1:26). Rather than hinting at anything inappropriate between them (Lev 20:13; 1 Cor 6:9), this verse shows how good and strong friendship can be when it is based on a selfless, fearless, and passionate love for God's glory. By mourning and honoring the past king, his friend, and his people, David once again proved that he would be a good king.

ASK

1. After David wept and fasted, how did he keep grieving?
He wrote a lament so that Israel would not forget.
2. What is a lament?
A sad song.
3. Who did David teach this sad song to?
The people of Judah.
4. Why was it important for Israel to remember this sad day?
It would motivate them to fight the Philistines. It would also remind them that David was a worthy leader who loved his people.

DISCUSS

1. David's lament, along with Lamentations and many Psalms, shows that it is good to thoughtfully express and remember sorrow. What are some different ways people express sorrow?
2. What are some ways you remember those who have passed away?

DAY 3

David honored God and man • 2 Samuel 2:1–7

READ

2 Samuel 2:1–7

EXPLAIN

The truth of 2 Samuel 2:1–7

Isn't it amazing that after waiting for so long to be king, David still kept waiting? He waited because he knew it was better to receive the kingdom as a gracious gift from God, instead of trying to take it his own way. Unlike Saul, David continued to seek God's word and obey it (2 Sam 2:1). As a result, David became king of Judah (2:2–4). While there, he waited seven more years

before becoming king of all Israel. During this time he continued to act with integrity instead of selfish ambition. Incoming kings would usually punish the supporters of the previous king. But David honored the people of Jabesh-gilead for risking their lives to honor Saul and Jonathan with a proper burial (1 Sam 31:11–13; 11:1–11). This proved once again David's loyalty to God's anointed, to God's people, and to God Himself. Finally, all Israel welcomed him as king (5:1–3). David shows us that it is always better to do what is right and wait for God to provide in His time (Isa 33:15).

DAY 3 CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

ASK 

1. How did David know what to do next?
David asked God. David was very careful to obey what God said.
2. Why did David honor the men of Jabesh-gilead?
He honored them because they had heroically rescued the bodies of Saul and Jonathan. David again showed his loyalty to Israel.
3. Did God reward David's loyalty and patience?
Yes. David was made king of Judah at Hebron, then king of all Israel 7 years later.

DISCUSS 

1. Have you ever had to wait a long time for something you really wanted? Was it difficult? Why is it important to patiently wait for God's timing?
2. What are different ways you can show your loyalty (reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, defending someone, attending an event, obeying, etc.)? How can you show your loyalty to God this week?

DAY 4*Weep with those who weep • Romans 12:9-21***READ** 

Romans 12:9-21

EXPLAIN **The truth of Romans 12:9-21**

One day, when Christ conquers death, there will be no death or sadness (1 Cor 15:54; Rev 21:4). But until then, it is good to grieve over suffering and death. David did, and so did Jeremiah (Jer 9:1). Death is real. It is part of the curse (Gen 2:17). It is the result of sin (Rom 6:23). It is the final enemy to be destroyed (1 Cor 15:26). But as believers, we don't just mourn for those who have died. We also mourn with those who remain behind, whether or not we have been personally affected by their loss. To "rejoice with those who rejoice" and to "weep with those who weep" is an essential part of what it means to be a Christian (Rom 12:15). No matter your personal circumstances, Paul urges you to be sensitive and understand the joys, triumphs, sorrows, and disappointments of others. In so doing, you place yourself in their shoes: you experience their happiness, mourn their loss, and share their hardship. Personally enter into their situation so that you may truly sympathize with them.

ASK 

1. Why is it right to grieve over those who have died?
Death is sad. It is the result of sin (Rom 6:23).
2. How do we weep and mourn with others?
We place ourselves in their shoes, allowing ourselves to feel what they're feeling.
3. Do we still weep with others even when we're not sad ourselves?
Yes. We weep with others, no matter what our personal circumstances might be, in order that we might sympathize with them.

DISCUSS 

1. Why did death enter the world (Rom 5:12)?
2. Do you know someone who is hurting right now? What are some practical things you can do to show your care and concern for those who are hurting?

DAY 5

Jesus wept over Jerusalem • Luke 19:28–44

READ

Luke 19:28–44

EXPLAIN

The truth of Luke 19:28–44

When David grieved over Saul, his lifelong enemy, he showed us that we also should grieve and not rejoice over the destruction of our enemies (Prov 24:17). Samuel and David both wept for Saul (1 Sam 15:35), and Paul wept for faithless Israel (Rom 9:2–3). Their sadness reflects God’s heart, since He takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked (Ezek 18:32). Even Jesus, as He rode into Jerusalem to the shouts of the multitude, wept over the city and its inhabitants. Though the crowds were filled with joyful praise, it would only be a matter of days before these same crowds would cry out for His death (Luke 23:21). So Jesus wept with deep sorrow and powerful sobbing, because He knew they were rejecting salvation. While the excited crowds shouted “peace in heaven,” Jesus knew there would be no peace (19:38, 42–44). There would only be divine judgment, for the people had rejected those things which lead to peace with God—repentance and faith. So while you should rejoice in God’s justice (Ps 58:10), you ought to grieve when people choose the way of sin and death.

ASK

1. What was Jesus riding as He went up to Jerusalem?
A colt.
2. Why did Jesus weep over Jerusalem?
Because most of the people had rejected Him and His message. They wanted peace, but they rejected the way to peace (repentance and faith in Jesus).
3. Who would crucify Jesus only a few days after His triumphal entry into Jerusalem?
The same people who joyfully welcomed Him into the city.

DISCUSS

1. How do you respond when your enemies are mistreated?
2. God takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked. As a family, pray for a family member or friend who does not know Jesus as Lord and Savior. Ask God to rescue this person from their sin.

NEXT WEEK

God makes a covenant with David

2 Samuel 7:1–29



SHARE THE BIBLE LESSON
WEEK 22

God makes a covenant with David
2 Samuel 7:1-29



DAY 1

David wanted to build a house for God • 2 Samuel 7:1-7

READ 

2 Samuel 7:1-7

EXPLAIN 

The truth of 2 Samuel 7:1-7

Man-made religions all try to earn something from God. In David's time, other rulers would build temples to try to win the favor of their gods. But the true God is not like that. The true God is gracious. Instead of requiring His favor to be earned, He freely loves. He did this with David, making him king (2 Sam 5:3), giving him victory over Jerusalem (5:6-10; Josh 15:63), defeating the Philistines (2 Sam 5:17-25), providing a palace (5:11), and bringing the ark to the nation's new capital (2 Sam 6). Then, when David wanted to build a temple for God, God said no. David's desire was not wrong, for he was simply showing his gratitude and honor for God (7:2). But God wanted to avoid all confusion: He did not need a temple, nor had He ever demanded one (2 Sam 7:6-7). There would soon be a temple, but like the tabernacle before it, the temple would be God's gift to His people. It would be the gracious gift of God's own presence coming down to be with His unworthy people (Isa 7:14; Phil 2:6-8).

ASK 

1. How was David able to become king and have victory and peace?
God was present with him.
2. Why did David want to build a house for God?
David didn't think it was right for him to live in a palace while the ark was in a tent. He wanted to honor God.
3. Did God need David to build Him a house?
No.

DISCUSS 

1. Does God need anything from you (Ps 50:10)? Why do you give Him your time, talents, energy, obedience, devotion, and money?
2. Why is God's presence with us the best gift ever (Gen 3:8; Exod 25:8; Ps 16:11; Isa 7:14; Gal 2:20; Rev 21:3)?

DAY 2

God promised to build a house for David • 2 Samuel 7:8–17

READ

2 Samuel 7:8–17

EXPLAIN

The truth of 2 Samuel 7:8–17

Do you see why God stopped David from building the temple? God's promise here is greater than all that God had already done for David, and God wanted to make it clear that this great gift was entirely unearned. First, God promised to make David's name great (7:9), a special promise He had not made to anyone except Abraham (Gen 12:2). Second, God promised land and peace to His people Israel (2 Sam 7:10–11). Third, God promised to build David a house, a **dynasty**, a line of kings from the same family (2 Sam 7:11). David had wanted to build a house (a temple) for God, but God says, "No, I am the Giver. I will build a house (a dynasty) for you." So this covenant is full of God's grace. It is also unchanging. It cannot be broken by death (7:12), by time (7:13, 16) or even by sin (7:14–15). Though any individual king in David's line may be removed for his sin, God will never destroy the line of David. Three times the word "forever" emphasizes that God's gracious covenant is unbreakable (7:13, 16).

ASK

1. What did God promise for David?
God promised to make his name great in all the earth.
2. What did God promise for Israel?
God promised that through the Davidic reign Israel would live in their land in peace.
3. What did God promise about David's descendants?
David's son would build a temple for God and be like a son to God. David's dynasty—a line of kings from his family—would last forever.
4. How would God keep His promise about David's dynasty?
God kept His promise through Jesus, the Son of David, whose reign will last forever.

DISCUSS

1. Do you delight in God's unearned favor, or do you go through life feeling like you have to somehow be good enough or do something special to earn it?
2. Has God made any unbreakable promises to you (Rom 8:38–39)?

DAY 3

David praised God and prayed that God's promise would come true • 2 Samuel 7:18–29

READ

2 Samuel 7:18–29

EXPLAIN

The truth of 2 Samuel 7:18–29

The proper response to God's grace is gratitude, and the way to receive God's gift is faith. David was overwhelmed with gratitude (2 Sam 7:18). God had already done so much for him, and now God promised to do much more, promising blessing that would reach far beyond David (7:19). Through David's line God would bless the entire world (Gen 49:10; Num 24:17). Yet David also recognized again God's special blessing on His chosen people Israel (2 Sam 7:22–24). Just as

God's covenant with David was permanent, so God's commitment to the nation of Israel is permanent (2 Sam 7:24; Lev 26:44–45; Rom 11:26–28). After expressing his gratitude, David then expressed his faith in prayer (2 Sam 7:25–29). David teaches us to pray (1) according to God's will and kingdom (7:25); (2) for the purpose of God's glory (7:26); and (3) on the basis of God's promise (7:27). This is faith, when you have confidence to ask for God's promises to come true because you believe that God keeps His promises. Is your life a life of gratitude, and is it marked by prayer rooted in God's word?

DAY 3 CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

ASK 

1. How did David respond to God's grace?
With gratitude. He praised God.
2. How did David accept God's promises?
By faith. He prayed on the basis of God's promises.
3. How long will Israel be God's people?
Forever.
4. Who is the focus of David's prayer, God or man?
God: His glory, His will, His promises.

DISCUSS 

1. When is the last time you thanked God for His blessings in your life? Spend some time making a list of His blessings to you and your family.
2. We need to learn how to pray (Luke 11:1). Let God's word shape your prayers this week as you thank Him for the grace His word reveals and ask from Him based on the promises His word contains.

DAY 4*Jesus prayed that God's promises would come true • John 17:20–26***READ** 

John 17:20–26

EXPLAIN **The truth of John 17:20–26**

How do you know what to pray for? And how do you know that God will hear your prayers? We saw with David that God's promises are the basis for our prayers. God's promises show us what to pray for and give us confidence that He will hear those prayers. Jesus shows us the same thing. On the night before His death, Jesus asked His Father to fulfill His promises to the disciples and to all future believers (John 17:20). If you are a believer, this last part includes you (17:20–26). Jesus asked God to grant unity to all believers, unity as intense as the unity between Father and Son (17:21–23). This oneness comes when believers are committed together to God's word, and it is made possible by the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:4). When the world sees this kind of unity, it proves that God has sent His Son into the world in order to redeem sinful man (17:23). This unity will be complete when God unites all believers together with Christ in heaven (17:24–26). This is God's will for us, and it is Christ's prayer.

ASK 

1. What was the last thing Jesus did on the night of His arrest?
He prayed for His disciples and all Christians, including us.
2. What formed the basis of Jesus' prayers?
Jesus prayed based on the Father's promises.
3. What is unity the result of?
A shared commitment to God's word.

DISCUSS 

1. What does Jesus' commitment to prayer show you about the importance of prayer for you?
2. Can a Christian have true unity with someone who doesn't believe the Bible is God's word?

DAY 5

Jesus' thousand year reign • Revelation 20:1–6

READ

Revelation 20:1–6

EXPLAIN

The truth of Revelation 20:1–6

God's covenant with David was a big part of His great rescue plan. This covenant came true in part through David's son Solomon. Solomon built the temple, was like a son to God, and had a lasting dynasty (1 Chron 22:7–10). But the Davidic covenant ultimately comes true in the Messiah, the Son of David. The prophets looked forward to His eternal, righteous reign (Isa 9:6–7), and Gabriel told Mary that Jesus would fulfill the Davidic Covenant (Luke 1:32–33). Jesus is the Son of the Most High (Heb 1:5), He will sit on David's throne and reign over Israel (Luke 1:32), and His kingdom will never end (1:33). When Israel rejected their Messiah, this delayed Christ's earthly reign (Matt 23:39). But one day Jesus will return and reign over Israel and over all the earth, exactly as God promised (Isa 24:23; Ezek 37:24–25; Zech 14; Matt 25:31; Rev 19). At this time the redeemed will reign with Christ for a thousand years (20:4; cf. Dan 12:2; 1 Thess 4:13–18). Do you look forward to joining in the blessing God promised to David so long ago?

ASK

1. Did God's covenant with David come true in David's son Solomon?
Yes, but it came true in an even greater way in Jesus.
2. Why was Jesus' earthly reign delayed?
Because Israel rejected their Messiah.
3. How long will Jesus reign on Earth?
A thousand years.
4. Who will reign with Jesus?
All the redeemed: those who have been saved by faith throughout all time.

DISCUSS

1. How big is God's great rescue plan? Who is at the center of His plan? What is your place in His plan?
2. What are the reigns of normal kings like? How will Jesus' reign be different?

NEXT WEEK

God forgives David

2 Samuel 11:1–12:25



SHARE THE BIBLE LESSON
WEEK 23

God forgives David

2 Samuel 11:1–12:25



DAY 1

David sinned and sinned some more • 2 Samuel 11:1–27

READ

2 Samuel 11:1–27

EXPLAIN

The truth of 2 Samuel 11:1–27

When you are tempted, don't do what David did. David was tempted when he saw a beautiful woman taking a bath (2 Sam 11:2). David had a decision to make: He could turn his eyes away (Job 31:1) and flee sin's temptation, or let his eyes linger and allow lust to master him. Sadly, instead of fleeing from temptation (2 Tim 2:22), David pursued it (2 Sam 11:3). He was **tempted**, lured into sin by his own desire. Then, when he pursued that desire, he committed **adultery**, loving another married woman like his own wife (11:4). When Bathsheba became pregnant (11:5), David still had a choice: confess his sin or hide it. Again David made the wrong choice. He tried to make it seem like Uriah, Bathsheba's husband, was the father of her baby (11:6–13). Then he hid his sin by having Uriah murdered and marrying Bathsheba (11:14–27). David thought he had gotten away with it, but God knew, and He was not happy about it (11:27; Heb 4:13; Ps 11:4). So learn from David. Flee from temptation and confess sin quickly, because you cannot fool God.

ASK

1. When David was tempted, did he turn away from the temptation?
No. David pursued the temptation and sinned.
2. How did David cover up his sin?
He planned for Uriah to be killed, then he married Bathsheba.
3. How did God feel about David's sin and cover up?
He was displeased.
4. Could David hide his sin from God?
No. God sees everything.

DISCUSS

1. What are some ways you are commonly tempted? What can you do to turn away from the temptation before you sin?
2. Do you ever try to hide your sin from your parents? Did trying to hide your sin makes things better or worse? Why is it foolish to try to hide your sin?

DAY 2

God responded to David with gracious discipline • 2 Samuel 12:1–25

READ

2 Samuel 12:1–25

EXPLAIN

The truth of 2 Samuel 12:1–25

When you sin, do you want to hide it? Are you afraid of the shame? Or do you realize that God exposes your sin for your own good, so that you can come back to a right relationship with Him? That's what God did for David. He used Nathan to graciously pursue David and expose his sin in order to set him free from sin and restore him to God (2 Sam 12:1–4). He showed David that at the root of his lust was ingratitude (12:7) and unbelief (12:8). When you sin, it is because you are not thankful for God's grace toward you, and you are not trusting that God is enough for you. Ingratitude and unbelief lead to breaking God's law, and those who break God's law are justly punished. David had done evil to another man's family, so he would receive evil in his own family (12:11). Yet even God's just punishment is full of grace, for His righteous anger teaches us to fear Him and repent as David did (12:13). There are still painful consequences, but God uses even these to draw us back to Himself.

ASK

1. How did Nathan get David to realize that he had sinned?
With a story that led David to pronounce his own just punishment.
2. What bad things happened because of David's sin?
David's newborn son would die and his family would be full of violence.
3. Was God still good to David?
Yes. God exposed David's sin, spared David's life (2 Sam 12:5), forgave David, and used the painful consequences to bring David back to Him.

DISCUSS

1. Are you thankful when your sin is exposed? Do you seek to be open, transparent, and vulnerable to your parents and other godly people so that you do not stay in sin?
2. In these verses (Exod 22:1; 2 Sam 12:6; 12:14, 13:33; 18:14; 1 Kings 2:24–25) see whether David's punishment was just. Is sin ever worth it? Have you experienced the painful consequences of sin?

DAY 3

David confessed his sin • Psalm 51

READ

Psalm 51

EXPLAIN

The truth of Psalm 51

Wasn't David's sin (adultery and murder) worse than anything Saul had done? Why didn't God reject David as He had rejected Saul? Because unlike Saul (1 Sam 15:24), David truly repented (2 Sam 12:13). David depended on God's mercy (Ps 51:1) and pled for cleansing (51:2), knowing that only God could wash His sin away (51:7, 9–10). He confessed that his sin was primarily against God (51:4), that his sin reflected

his sinful heart (51:5), and that he could do nothing to earn restoration (51:1–3). He longed to glorify God once again (51:12–15), and yearned to remain in God's presence (51:11a). He pled for the Holy Spirit to stay and keep empowering him to lead God's people (51:11b)? This is the heart God pardons—a broken and humble heart (51:17). But how could God forgive David when God's own law said he must die (Lev 20:10; 24:17)? Because one day the Son of David would bear the sin of David in his place. God made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us (2 Cor 5:21). Godly people are not perfect, but they are repentant.

DAY 3 CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

ASK 

1. Is sin primarily against God or man?
Against God.
2. How did David begin his confession?
By asking for mercy. David knew he had nothing to offer to earn forgiveness.
3. What kind of a heart does God pardon?
A broken and humble heart, a person who realizes the evil and hopelessness of his own sinfulness.
4. How could God forgive David?
Because one day Jesus would bear the sin of David in his place.

DISCUSS 

1. Can you get God's forgiveness by doing enough good after you sin? What sin are you still committing when you try to somehow earn God's approval? (Pride – Phil 3:4).
2. Do you confess your sin right away? How does it feel when you do (Ps 32:1–3)?

DAY 4*God's promises concerning temptation • 1 Corinthians 10:13***READ** 

1 Corinthians 10:12–13

EXPLAIN **The truth of 1 Corinthians 10:12–13**

Beware! If God's chosen king, a man after God's own heart, can fall so quickly, then anyone can. If you think you are strong enough to resist temptation, you are doomed to fail (1 Cor 10:12). But instead of making excuses that the temptation you face is too great, realize that many others have faced the same temptation and overcome it (10:13a). How? Because success depends not on your feeble efforts but upon God's faithfulness (10:13b). He will never allow you to face a temptation that is impossible to resist (10:13c). No matter your past failures or current weakness, you can say no to any temptation that comes your way. This is not because you have the strength in yourself, but because God always provides a way for you to escape from sin (10:13d). As a result, you can successfully endure any temptation you meet (10:13e). So be sober-minded and watchful (1 Pet 5:8), devoted to prayer (Col 4:2), and firm in faith (1 Pet 5:9). Let David's failure remind you to put your trust in the God of David, who is full of grace (2 Sam 7).

ASK 

1. Should you ever think you are past being tempted?
No. When we become self-confident, we fall.
2. Are you doomed to fail and sin like David?
No, because our success depends on God's faithfulness.
3. What kind of temptations do we face?
Temptations "common" to many others besides ourselves.
4. What does God provide in the midst of every temptation?
A way of escape.

DISCUSS 

1. What does it look like to depend on God's strength and not on your own? What sorts of things will a God-dependent person do to continue in His power?
2. Only Christians enjoy God's precious promises concerning temptation. Without God's provision of new spiritual life, it's impossible to stop sinning (Eph 2:1–5). Has God set you free from slavery to sin (Rom 6:5–6)?

DAY 5

The Pharisee and the tax collector • Luke 18:9–14

READ

Luke 18:9–14

EXPLAIN

The truth of Luke 18:9–14

David had everything—God’s favor, God’s presence, and a fruitful family. He also had the kingdom and the unbreakable promise of an everlasting dynasty. He had victory over his enemies and prosperity in Israel. What more could he want? For years David had stayed loyal to God, faithfully following God’s word, and enjoying the blessings that come through obedience (Deut 28:1–14; Ps 1). But one afternoon all that changed. Yet David’s sin, and God’s forgiveness of it, reveals the marvelous forgiveness God lavishes on those who repent. Jesus explained this with a story about two men going up to the temple to pray (Luke 18:9–14). One man, the self-righteous Pharisee, thought he was good enough (18:11–12). His heart was not humble. He was did not recognize his sin and deep need. So he was not ready to receive the Savior. But the other man, the tax collector, was so overwhelmed by his own sinfulness that he wouldn’t even look up to heaven while he prayed (18:13). This man found forgiveness, because he saw his need and humbly repented before God (18:14).

ASK

1. In Jesus’ parable, who went up to the temple to pray?
A Pharisee (a Jewish religious leader) and a tax collector (a job often held by sinful men).
2. What did the Pharisee trust in?
His own good behavior and good works.
3. What did the tax collector trust in?
God’s mercy.
4. Who was accepted by God?
The tax collector. God forgave him because he recognized his sin and humbly repented of it.

DISCUSS

1. Which of the two characters in Jesus’ parable do you most resemble?
2. Explain the proper order of these terms: (a) God’s grace; (b) Humble faith; (c) Faithful obedience; (d) God’s blessings. How did David’s life illustrate this? How did the Pharisee ignore part of this and get it out of order?

NEXT WEEK

God gives Solomon wisdom

1 Kings 2:1–4; 3:3–15

