



1ST & 2ND SAMUEL

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LESSON 1

READINGS

1 SAMUEL 1:1-2:11

FROM THE TEXT

1. Why were the priests of the Lord in Shiloh (1:3, 7, 9)?
2. Describe the faith of Elkanah and Hannah (from the readings).
3. What rivalry is spoken of in 1:6? Was this a departure from God's ways?
4. Of what benefit was prayer to Hannah (1:12-18)?
5. When Hannah brought Samuel to Eli, what else did she bring? Why?

HANNAH'S SONG

1 SAMUEL 2:1-11

1. Hannah's exultation and exaltation were derived from where (2:1)? How does this relate to you and I?
2. Define: actions are "weighed" (2:3). Then list four examples from verses 4-10 which demonstrate some of God's reversals.
 - A. Weighed:
 - B.
 - C.
 - D.
 - E.
3. Verse 10 seems to refer to God's king, but Israel did not yet have a king. How do you explain this inclusion in the text of Hannah's Song?
4. Compare Hannah's song with Mary's in Luke 1:46-55.

FOR DISCUSSION

1. Describe Hannah's a vow (1:11). Discuss God's views toward vows and relate this to our marriage vows.
2. Discuss Elkanah's attitude and demeanor toward Hannah when she determined to dedicate Samuel to the Lord (1:23). Compare this with 1 Peter 3:7.

An illustration of ancient scrolls and a book. One scroll is unrolled, showing its texture. Another scroll is partially unrolled. A thick, old book with a worn cover is also visible. The items are rendered in a grayscale, textured style.

LESSON 2

READINGS

1 SAMUEL 2:12-3:21

FROM THE TEXT

1. How did Eli's sons despise the offering of the Lord (2:12-17)?
2. How did God bless Hannah for dedicating Samuel?
3. What additional sins are we told Eli's sons were involved in?
4. Describe the actions Eli took to intervene regarding the sins of his sons (2:22-25).
5. Why was word from the Lord rare in the days when Samuel was a youth (3:1)?
6. Why was God's judgment going to be brought on Eli's house (3:13)? Discuss what a "rebuke" is.
7. What is the significance of the statement in 3:21 "and the Lord appeared again at Shiloh"?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Samuel was “growing in stature and in favor both with the Lord and with men” (2:26).
 - A. How do we grow in favor with the Lord?
 - B. How does this statement compare with Luke 2:25?
2. Who’s “house” was Eli a part of to whom God spoke in Egypt (2:27)?
3. Was Eli being held accountable for the sins of his sons (2:29)? Remember, Ezekiel 18 says the father shall not bear the sins of the son (18:20).
4. How was Eli’s lack of honor for God (2:29-30) similar to Moses’ lack of honor (Numbers 20:12)? Compare also the consequences for each.
5. Does 2:35-36 prophesy about Jesus or someone else?

FOR DISCUSSION

1. Eli’s sons “did not know the Lord” (2:12), yet they were serving as priests. Discuss the meaning of “knowing the Lord” and how some who are “Christians” can be guilty of this same problem.
2. Compare the disregard Eli’s sons had for their father (2:25) and God (2:17).
3. What attitudes and demeanor of heart is expressed by the phrase “speak for your servant is listening” (3:9-10)? Discuss other passages that indicate this should be the attitude of Christians.

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LESSON 3

READINGS

1 SAMUEL 4:1-7:17

FROM THE TEXT

1. Why did the people think the Lord defeated them (or allowed them to be defeated) (4:3)?
2. What reputation did Jehovah have with the Philistines?
3. How did Eli die?
4. What was the result of the Philistines setting the Ark of Jehovah next to their idol Dagon?
5. How did God afflict the Philistines? What became the reputation of having the Ark in your city?
6. How long did the Philistines keep the Ark in their country (6:1)?
7. Does 6:2 refer to the priests of Jehovah or of the idols?
8. What items were included in the return of the Ark as a guilt offering?
9. Before the Lord would deliver the people from the Philistines, what does Samuel tell them the Lord required?
10. On a map, trace the circuit Samuel followed as a judge (7:15-17).

DIGGING DEEPER

1. From 4:1-4 discuss the attitude of the people toward the Ark of the Covenant. Compare this attitude toward how some view coming to “the church building” or carrying their Bible.
2. Describe the curiosity of the people of Beth-shemite about what was contained within the Ark (6:19).
 - A. What was the consequence of this action? Why?
 - B. Discuss the peculiar fact that the Philistines are not said to have looked into the Ark, but the Israelites did.
3. Why was the Ark not returned to Shiloh (and the Tabernacle) but kept in Kiriath-jearim?
 - A. Who was appointed a keeper of the Ark?
 - B. When was the Ark moved from this place, and to where (2 Samuel 6:1ff)?
4. What role did Samuel play in restoring the nation to God (chapter 7)?

FOR DISCUSSION

1. Were the Philistines the instrument of God to carry out His will? If yes, then why did He afflict the Philistines?
2. From chapter seven, describe and discuss the symbolic reference in the hymn *Come Thou Fount Of Ev'ry Blessing*. Verse two says “Here I raise my Ebenezer; here by Thy great help I’ve come.”



LESSON 4

READINGS

1 SAMUEL 8:1-9:27

FROM THE TEXT

1. What was wrong with the people desiring a king like the other nations (8:4-9)?
2. Make a short list of the warnings Samuel gave the people of the procedure of the king who will reign over them (8:10-18).
3. Why might Saul appeal to the people as a good choice for King (9:1-2)?
4. What passages demonstrate the respect the people had for the prophet of God, Samuel in particular (9:6-14)?
5. Who chose the King (chapter 9)?
6. How did Samuel show honor to Saul (chapter 9)?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. The Lord twice told Samuel to listen to the voice of the people. Was it God's will that the people have a king or was He responding to the desires of the people? Compare this passage with Deuteronomy 17:14-20.
2. How does Saul compare to Gideon (9:21; Judges 6:15)? Based on what you know of Gideon, why might God have chosen Saul?
3. While respect for a prophet was proper for one performing miracles, how does this compare to the honor and respect God expects for those men who serve as Elders in a congregation?

FOR DISCUSSION

1. While Eli was not Samuel's father, he did raise him. Discuss what Samuel may have learned from Eli (8:1-3). What do our children learn from us?
2. Compare the Israelites failure to listen with our failure to listen to the warning of the Lord (8:19). Consider the consequences of this failure.

An illustration of ancient scrolls and a book. One scroll is unrolled, showing its texture. Another scroll is partially unrolled. A thick, old book with a worn cover is also visible. The items are rendered in a grayscale, textured style.

LESSON 5

READINGS

1 SAMUEL 10:1-11:15

FROM THE TEXT

1. Our readings for this lesson seem to indicate three different occasions when Saul is declared king. Where are they found and what circumstances surround these events?
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.
2. What became the proverb among the people about Saul (chapter 10)?
3. What process did Samuel go through to publicly select Saul (chapter 10)?
4. When the people saw Saul, what was their response (10:24)?
5. Where was Samuel's book placed?
6. Who went home with Saul?
7. How many men joined Saul in battle?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Describe what happened when the Spirit of the Lord came upon Saul.
 - A. 10:6, 10
 - B. 11:6
 - C. Is this something unique to Saul or is this language seen in other places?
2. What did Saul tell the people (10:25)? What did this entail? Was it the same as 8:10-18?
3. Why were some dissatisfied with the choice of Saul (10:27)? How did these change their minds?

FOR DISCUSSION

1. From these two chapters, discuss how Saul demonstrates his faith and reliance on God. Consider also his relationship with Samuel.
2. Contrast how Saul knew God was with him, with how we can know if God is with us.

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LESSON 6

READINGS

1 SAMUEL 12:1-13:23

FROM THE TEXT

1. Samuel appointed the king as the people desired. Why did he make the statements in 12:3-5?
2. Why did Samuel feel the need to “plead with you before the Lord” (12:7)?
3. What was the great wickedness the people committed (12:17)?
4. How did Samuel prove his point (12:17-18)?
5. Why did God not destroy the Israelites for their sin in asking for a King (12:19-22)?
6. How many times in chapters 12-13 does Samuel refer to following God completely (list the verses and specific phrases)? Why is this emphasized?
7. What was Saul’s first act as King? Discuss the wisdom of this act.
8. Why didn’t the Israelites have any swords?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. How do some today rebel against the Lord (12:14-15)? Think specifically of those who have been baptized into Christ and are the children of God. What similar behavior exists between the Israelites and Christians?
2. Why did Saul make the sacrificial offering in chapter 13 (consider the excuses and the reality)? What were the consequences?
3. How did Saul's self-justification on this occasion prove to be a habit in later years?

FOR DISCUSSION

1. From 12:24 make a list of things we should consider which would make us desire to serve God in truth with all our heart.
2. Samuel considered it a sin to not pray for the people (12:24). Is this true for us as well? What Scriptures impact our understanding of this principle?



LESSON 7

READINGS

1 SAMUEL 14:1-52

FROM THE TEXT

1. Describe the attitude and position of the Israelites against the Philistines. Discuss what may have been Jonathan's intentions in going against a garrison of Philistines (14:1).
2. How does Jonathan display faith in God (14:6-12)?
3. How many Philistines are killed by Jonathan and his servant?
4. What event caused Saul to number the people and order the Ark to be brought?
5. Who joined Saul and Jonathan in the battle (14:21-22)?
6. Why did Saul build his first altar to the Lord (14:35)?
7. Did Saul depend and rely on God (14:18-19, 37, also 13:12)?
8. What did the people recognize in Jonathan (14:45)?
9. How long did Saul battle the Philistines (14:47-52)?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. What order did Saul issue on the day of battle? Why did Jonathan disagree with the order? What else in the text may indicate this was not a smart order?
2. What motivated Saul to investigate why the sin occurred among the people (14:38)?
3. What did the people get in asking for a King (chapter 13) as revealed in chapter 14?
4. Though the Kingdom was going to be taken from Saul (13:13-14), God still acts on behalf of His people (14:15,19). Why?

FOR DISCUSSION

1. How well did Saul keep his word (14:39, 44-45)? What insight do we gain into Saul's heart and thinking? How does this compare with Jonathan (14:43)?
2. Discuss the importance of keeping our word in the following relationships:
 - A. Parent/child
 - B. Employment
 - C. Marriage
 - D. Neighbors
 - E. Christian/God

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LESSON 8

READINGS

1 SAMUEL 15:1-16:23

FROM THE TEXT

1. What instructions did God give Saul regarding the Amelekites?
2. Who were the “Kenites” who were spared by Saul (15:6)?
3. What did Saul and the Israelites destroy and what was kept alive (15:8-9)?
4. What was Saul’s attitude and understanding about his actions (15:13-21)?
5. What tactics did Saul employ to cover for his own sin (15:21-24)?
6. Why did God not delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices (15:22) when this is what He commanded? (see also Isaiah 1:11-15)
7. What truth was stated when Saul tore the edge of Samuel’s robe?
8. Do you see anything wrong with Saul worshipping God in verse 31?
9. Why is verse 35 significant?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. God “regretted” making Saul King (15:11, 35). The King James says “It repenteth Me.”
 - A. What is being expressed about God’s attitude?

 - B. What other occasions has led God to express a similar thought?
2. Examine 15:24-33 and tell why Samuel at first did not return with Saul but then finally did.
3. Compare Saul’s sin with the Amalekites to the sin of Achan at the destruction of Jericho (Joshua 7:16-26). Compare and contrast God’s judgment on each occasion.

FOR DISCUSSION

1. Discuss Samuel’s attitude about another’s sin and compare to what our attitude should be (15:11).
2. Give two applications from Saul’s statement in 15:22-23.
3. Discuss how Samuel confronted Saul about his sin and be prepared to talk about confronting others and being confronted about our own sin.

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LESSON 9

READINGS

1 SAMUEL 16:1-17:58

FROM THE TEXT

1. Why did Samuel continue to grieve over Saul (16:1)? What might have been Samuel's view of the state of the nation?
2. Why did the Lord reject Eliab as the next King (16:6-7)?
3. How many brothers did David have? Being the youngest, what problems might his anointing create in the family?
4. What important point is made in 16:13-14?
5. What avenue did God use to bring David into a more national visibility (16:16-23)?
6. What was the effect of Goliath's taunts:
 - A. On Saul and Israel (17:11, 24)
 - B. On David (17:26, 32)
 - C. How long had this been going on (17:16)?
7. Describe the typical interchange between two brothers (17:28-30). Why was there animosity toward David?
8. What evidence does David present to Saul to prove his ability to go out against Goliath (17:31-37)?
9. Why did David reject Saul's armor?
10. How did David say he would defeat Goliath (17:41-47)?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Describe Goliath converting to modern measurements and weights:
 - A. Height
 - B. Scale Armor
 - C. Head of spear
 - D. Where else do we read about giants from Gath?
2. We typically have an image of David as being a loving, kind, and gentle king. What is revealed in this reading that points to him being more of a bloody, warrior king?
3. Why didn't Saul or Abner know who David's father was (17:55) in light of 16:22?

FOR DISCUSSION

Make a list of the phrases and/or actions of David that indicate his trust in God. Relate how we should similarly trust in God when facing our giants.

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LESSON 10

READINGS

1 SAMUEL 18:1-20:42

FROM THE TEXT

1. What position was David given after defeating Goliath?
2. What saying displeased Saul (18:6-9)?
3. Was it God's will that Saul "spear" David to the wall (18:10-11; 19:9-10)?
4. What became Saul's attitude toward David (18:12-16)?
5. What was Jonathan's argument as to why Saul should not seek to kill David?
6. How did David escape Saul's attempt to kill him (19:11-17)?
7. What happened when Saul tried to capture David in Naioth (19:18-24)?
8. Why did David leave Jerusalem (20:35-42)?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. How does Saul's motives compare to David's against Uriah (1 Sam. 18:20-23 and 2 Sam. 11:14-21)?
2. Explain the covenant between Jonathan and David (20:1-17). What does this reveal of Jonathan's attitude about the throne?
3. David fled to Samuel. Why? What do we learn about where to turn in time of trouble?

FOR DISCUSSION

1. Discuss how Saul kept or violated his vow (19:6).
2. How does the end of chapter 20 indicate Saul's progression into sin? How might we progress into sin?

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LESSON 11

READINGS

1 SAMUEL 21:1-22:23

FROM THE TEXT

1. Why was Ahimelech trembling to meet David (21:1)?
2. What was the “consecrated bread” or “bread of the Presence” which was given to David (21:4, 6)?
3. If Jesus says it was unlawful for them to receive this bread (Matt. 12:4), why did the priest give it to him?
4. What evidence (if any) can be found in chapter 21-22 that might indicate Ahimelech was the High Priest? (see also 23:6)
5. Who was Doeg and why was he “detained before the Lord” (21:7)?
6. Why was it dangerous for David to flee into Gath (21:10-15)?
 - A. What did he hope to gain?
 - B. How did the servants of King Achish refer to David?
 - C. Why did he behave like a mad man?
7. What kind of men were joining themselves to David (21:2)?
8. What defense did Ahimelech give to king Saul (22:14-15)?
9. What was David’s reaction when he learned of these events from Abiathar (22:20-23)?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. To what Law was Ahimelech referring when he said “if only the young men have kept themselves from women” (21:4-5)? (See also Leviticus 15:18.)
2. How did Doeg use the situation in chapters 21-22 to his advantage with Saul?
3. Why did David seek to take his parents to the king of Moab (22:3-4)?
4. What was the state of Saul’s reign:
 - A. Was he sane (22:7-8)?
 - B. Did his men respect him (22:17)?
 - C. What did Doeg do for Saul?

FOR DISCUSSION

1. 21:2 and 21:8 indicate David lied to Ahimelech. How do we align this thought with Jesus’ approval of this event in Matthew 12:1-7?
2. What in these readings demonstrate David was a leader to be reckoned with?
3. Compare Saul’s pursuit of the Amalakites (chapter 15) with his pursuit of the priests of God (chapter 22).

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LESSON 12

READINGS

1 SAMUEL 23:1-24:22

FROM THE TEXT

1. What from these readings indicate God was with David?
2. What language indicates the passion with which Saul was seeking David?
3. While Saul could not find David, what did Jonathan do (23:15-18)?
4. Who finally approaches Saul offering to tell him where David was (23:19-23)?
5. How did David escape on this occasion (23:24-29)?
6. Why did David's conscience bother him (23:5)?
7. What does Saul finally admit (24:20)?
8. What was Saul's concern about David's taking the throne (24:21)?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. What spiritual guidance was Saul receiving while the Lord spoke to David and Abiathar lived with him (23:6)? Compare this with the guidance David was receiving.
2. While Saul's army seemed at times disloyal, what is revealed about the men following David (23:6)?
3. What was "the ephod" (24:6, 9)?
4. Why did Saul weep (24:16)?

FOR DISCUSSION

1. What lessons can we learn and apply to ourselves from David's statement, "may the Lord avenge me on you" (24:12)?
2. Both David and Saul are indicated to have a conscience that bothers them (24:5; 24:16-18). How are Christians to be guided by their conscience?

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LESSON 13

READINGS

1 SAMUEL 25:1-26:25

FROM THE TEXT

1. Describe the character of Nabal.
 - A. Include his treatment of David's men (25:9-11).
 - B. Include the attitude of Nabal's servants (25:17).
 - C. Include the attitude of his wife, Abigail (25:25).
2. What had David done for Nabal's shepherds and what did he seek from Nabal (25:7-8; 16, 21)?
3. Nabal claims to not know the origin of David or his men (25:11). What does Abigail know of David (25:26-31)?
4. How did Nabal die?
5. Why did David rejoice (25:39)?
6. Saul made David swear he would not harm his house (24:21). How does Saul again do wickedness toward David (chapter 26)?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Samuel died and “all Israel gathered together and mourned for him” (25:1). Of what importance was Samuel to the nation?
2. David’s multiple wives were not according to God’s law (Deut. 17:17). What is shown about Saul’s attitude toward God’s marriage covenant (25:44)?
3. How were David and Abishai able to go into Saul’s camp, have their discussion, and not wake anyone (26:6-12)?
4. What items did David take to prove he was near Saul and could have killed him?
5. The interchange in 26:23-25 is interesting as both David and Saul speak of the future. What attitude is revealed about each man?

FOR DISCUSSION

1. What (again) was David’s attitude toward Saul (26:9)? Are Christians “God’s anointed one” (2 Cor. 1:21)? How might this effect our treatment of one another?
2. Saul said “I have sinned...I have played the fool and have committed a serious error” (26:21). Discuss the proper attitude of repentance and how behavior will be changed.



LESSON 14

READINGS

1 SAMUEL 27:1-31:13

FROM THE TEXT

1. Where did David go to escape Saul's pursuit (27:1-7)? Why might this seem an odd choice?
2. What position did David hold with Achish (28:1-2)?
3. Describe the "medium" of En-dor and what she was known for (28:7-11).
4. Why did the medium "cry out" and become afraid when she saw Samuel (28:-13)?
5. What message did Samuel have for Saul (28:16-19)?
6. What parade did David participate in, and in what capacity (29:1-2)? What was the result (29:3-11)?
7. What was found in Ziklag upon David's return (30:1-6)?
8. What battle field decision did David make a statute and an ordinance for Israel (30:21-25)?
9. How did Saul die (31:1-6)?
10. What became of his body and the body of his three sons (31:7-13)?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. What kind of image is painted of David in 27:8-12?
2. Through what mediums was Saul accustomed to God speaking to him (28:6)? Be specific in describing what “Urim” is.
3. How was David accustomed to God speaking to him (30:7-8)? (see also 23:9-12)
4. Why did David send some of the spoil to various cities (30:26-31)?

FOR DISCUSSION

1. Relate how Saul did not hold himself to the same standard of others (28:3, 10). How do we have problems with this?
2. Were the Philistines right to mistrust David (chapter 29)? Was David living a lie amongst the Philistines or had he rebelled against the nation of Israel?

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LESSON 15

READINGS

2 SAMUEL 1:1-2:32

FROM THE TEXT

1. How did David learn about the death of Saul and Jonathan (1:1-4)?
2. How did this man come to know this information (1:5-11)?
3. What was David's reaction to this news (1:6-16)?
4. How did David mark the passing of Saul and Jonathan (1:17-27)?
5. Why did David go up to Hebron (2:1-3)?
6. Over what did David become king (2:4)?
7. Who was Abner, and what role did he play in the ensuing civil war (2:8-32)?
8. How did Asahel die (2:18-23)?
9. Why was Abner allowed to live (2:24-29)?
10. What was the number of men who died: (2:30-32)
 - A. From David's camp?
 - B. From Abner's camp?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. David was a musician/warrior who wrote "*the song of the bow*" (1:18; vv.19-27).
 - A. What is meant by "*how have the mighty fallen*" (1:19, 25, 27)?
 - B. Explain the imagery of verse 22 about the bow and sword.
 - C. What does verse 26 reveal about David's relationship with Jonathan?
2. Was there a divided kingdom after Saul's death? Why is David remembered as the second King of Israel (2:4-11, 25)?

FOR DISCUSSION

1. Was David brutal and cruel in killing the Amalekite, or righteous toward God (1:11-16)?
2. The will of the Lord was that Saul would die in the battle (1 Sam. 28:19), nevertheless David and his men mourned his death. Discuss how consequences for our sin impacts those around us. Include in your considerations: family, friends, and the congregation.

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LESSON 16

READINGS

2 SAMUEL 3:1-5:25

FROM THE TEXT

1. How many wives did David have while in Hebron (3:2-5)?
2. Why was Ish-boseth upset with Abner (3:6-11)? What was revealed about Ish-boseth's loyalties?
3. How did Abner work to resolve the civil war (3:12-16)?
4. What further steps did Abner take (3:17-21)?
5. Why was Joab suspicious of Abner (3:22-25)?
6. How did Abner die?
7. How did Mephibosheth become crippled (4:1-4)?
8. When did God say of David, "you shall shepherd My people Israel and you will be a ruler over Israel" (5:2)? Was this common knowledge?
9. How did David capture Jerusalem?
10. What did David rename the stronghold (5:9)? Is this location known today archaeologically?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. How did David show honor to Abner (3:31-39)? Why?
2. Why did David condemn Rechab and Baanah for murder (4:5-12) but not himself (4:12)?
3. Who were the Jebusites (5:6)? Why was Jerusalem not occupied by Israelites?

FOR DISCUSSION

1. From 3:1-16 discuss how the royalty of Israel treated women and how God's will was violated. Compare this to attitudes of some men today.
2. What is good and bad about David as seen in 5:12-25? What application do you see for you and me?

An illustration of ancient scrolls and a book. One scroll is unrolled, showing its texture. Another scroll is partially unrolled. A thick, old book with a worn cover is also visible. The items are rendered in a grayscale, textured style.

LESSON 17

READINGS

2 SAMUEL 6:1-7:29

FROM THE TEXT

1. What was the name of the ark of the covenant (6:1-2)?
2. What was wrong with the way the ark was transported (6:3-5)?
3. Why was Uzzah struck down by God (6:7)?
4. How was the ark transported the second time (6:12-13)?
5. What was David wearing as he danced before the procession (6:5, 14, 20)?
6. Describe Michal's and David's relationship (6:20-23).
7. What message did God send to David through Nathan (7:1-17)?
8. Why does David say God is great (7:22)?
9. What was David's prayer about (7:18-29)?
10. Where did David's courage to pray come from (7:27)? Why do we have courage to pray to God?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. David became angry with God (6:8) and afraid (6:9) when Uzzah was killed. Why did the procession stop, and why did it restart three months later?
2. Why did Michal despise David's rejoicing (6:16)?
3. How do the events of chapter six demonstrate David's heart to please God?

FOR DISCUSSION

1. Compare David's good intentions with the efforts of some today who also displease God in their methods.
2. Chapters 6 and 7 seem to point to David's sin and God blessing him. Discuss the contrasting views of David.

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LESSON 18

READINGS

2 SAMUEL 8:1-10:19

FROM THE TEXT

1. What is meant that David measured the Moabites “with the line” (8:2)?
2. What did David do with the spoil of battle (8:11)?
3. To whom did David show kindness in chapter 9?
4. What kindness did David show him?
5. Why was this kindness shown?
6. Who was king of the Ammonites that showed a kindness to David (10:2)?
7. How were David’s envoys perceived (10:3)?
8. Describe the battle plan against the Ammonites and Arameans in chapter 10.
9. How did the battle go?
10. How did the Arameans become the servants of David (10:15-19)?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Look at a map and learn how God defeated the enemies of David and expanded the kingdom (chapter 8).
2. Why did Hanun shave beards and cut off clothes (10:4)?

FOR DISCUSSION

1. How did Joab and Abishai demonstrate their confidence in God? How do we demonstrate our confidence in God?
2. David administered justice and righteousness for all the people (8:15). How do we do this in our families, employment and neighborhoods?

An illustration of ancient scrolls and a book. One scroll is unrolled, showing its texture. Another scroll is partially unrolled. A thick, old book with a worn cover lies next to them. The entire scene is set against a dark background with horizontal bars.

LESSON 19

READINGS

2 SAMUEL 11:1-12:31

FROM THE TEXT

1. How was it that Bathsheba found herself in David's bedroom (11:1-4)?
2. What was David's response upon learning of her pregnancy (11:5-13)?
3. How did Uriah die (11:14-17)?
4. Compare and contrast the attitudes of David and Uriah. (11:1-17)
5. How many deaths covered for David's sin (11:17)? How did they die (11:19-24)?
6. Joab knew of David's treachery against Uriah. What message did David send back to Joab (11:25)?
7. How did David ultimately take care of Bathsheba's pregnancy (11:26-27)?
8. What other stories are relayed in Scripture about Nathan and David? (This is not a first encounter.)
9. What was David's judgment upon himself (12:5-6)?
10. What was God's judgment upon David (12:7-14)?
11. Why did the Lord take away David's sin (12:13) and what does this mean?
12. What second child was born to David and Bathsheba (12:24-25)? What message did Nathan bring?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Make a list of points at which David should have stopped, but went forward, which lead to his sin with Bathsheba and murder of Urriah.
2. Why did David fast, and why did he break his fast (12:15-23)?
3. God said, “you did it in secret” (12:12). How secret was this sin? Who else knew?
4. What occasion to blaspheme did David give the enemies (12:14)?

FOR DISCUSSION

1. Discuss Nathan’s courageous sermon which brought David to a realization of his sin. Relate how “You are the man!” (12:7) applies to the story of the sermon. What points did Nathan make?
2. David is often pictured as a loving, benevolent King in our minds. What picture is given of David in 2 Samuel 12:26-31, and how does this relate to him being a man after God’s own heart?

An illustration of ancient scrolls and a book. One scroll is unrolled, showing its texture. Another scroll is partially unrolled. A thick, old book with a worn cover is also visible. The items are rendered in a grayscale, textured style.

LESSON 20

READINGS

2 SAMUEL 13:1-15:37

FROM THE TEXT

1. Explain the reversal of Amnon's feelings toward Tamar (13:15-19).
2. What was the attitude of David toward Absalom when he returned to Jerusalem (14:21-27)?
3. Why did Absalom burn Joab's field (14:28-33)?
4. How did David show his forgiveness to Absalom (14:28-33)?
5. How did Absalom steal away the hearts of the men of Israel (15:6)?
6. How did Absalom plan to declare himself King (15:7-12)?
7. Why did David flee Jerusalem (15:13-18)? Who went with him?
8. Why did David want Ittai to remain in Jerusalem, and what was Ittai's response (15:19-23)?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Why didn't David do something about Amnon's rape of Tamar (13:21)? Why is Absalom portrayed as such a bad person? Consider carefully 13:39-14:1.
2. What heart is Absalom revealed to have after he returned to Jerusalem?
3. Why was there so much weeping and mourning surrounding David (15:24-37)?

FOR DISCUSSION

1. Compare Joab's lesson (2 Sam. 14:4-17) with Nathan's (2 Sam. 12).
2. How does David continue to show his trust in God (15:30-37)?



LESSON 21

READINGS

2 SAMUEL 16:1-17:29

FROM THE TEXT

1. What was Ziba's role in Mephibosheth's house? (see 2 Sam.9:2-13)
2. What right did Ziba have to give these things to David (16:1-4)?
3. What does Ziba say is the attitude of Mephibosheth regarding David's leaving?
4. How did Hushai convince Absalom he could be trusted (16:15-19)?
5. What advice did Ahithophel give Absalom (16:20-22)?
6. What kind of reputation did Ahithophel have as a counselor (16:23)?
7. How did Ahithophel advise taking care of David (17:1-4)?
8. How was Hushai bringing about the Lord's plan (17:14)?
9. How were messages being conveyed from Hushai to David (17:15-17)?
10. Were all the people behind Absalom and against David (17:18-22)?
11. Who gave provisions for David and his men (17:27-29)?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. How does David's refusal to retaliate against Shimei indicate a reliance on God (16:5-14)?
2. Again, our image of David as a great benevolent king is probably inaccurate. How is he portrayed by Ahimeï (16:5-8) and Hushai (17:8-14)?

FOR DISCUSSION

1. Why did Ahithophel kill himself (17:23)?
2. Discuss how sin is learned from parents and how it grows in the next generation in light of 2 Samuel 16:21-22.

An illustration of ancient scrolls and a book. One scroll is unrolled, showing its texture. Another scroll is partially unrolled. A thick, old book with a worn cover is also visible. The items are rendered in a monochromatic, textured style.

LESSON 22

READINGS

2 SAMUEL 18:1-19:43

FROM THE TEXT

1. Where was David in the battle against Absalom (18:1-5)?
2. Where did the battle take place, and how many died?
3. How did Absalom die?
4. Who was Ahimaaz that he insisted on running with news to David (18:29-23)?
5. What good news did each of the runners bring to David (18:24-33)?
6. What was the state of the nation as David asserted himself as King (19:9-15)?
7. What was Mephibosheth's message to the king (19:24-30)?
8. Why was Ziba given half of Mephibosheth's land (19:29)?
9. Who was Barzillai the Gileadite to David, and what was his desire (19:31-37)?
10. Describe the political situation described in 2 Samuel 19:40-43. In your opinion, did David handle this well?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. What problem did David's love for Absalom create (18:5; 19:1-7)?
2. How does Miphibosheth demonstrate a humble attitude when wronged (19:24-30)?
3. Who was Chimham and what is known of him in the future (see 1 Kings 2:7; Jeremiah 41:17)?

FOR DISCUSSION

1. Relate the past relationship of David and Joab, and how it changes in chapter 19.
2. Review Shimei's earlier actions (16:5-8), and Ziba's (16:1-4). Why are they rushing to the king now? What is David's attitude? What do we learn about our own behavior toward those who wrong us?



LESSON 23

READINGS

2 SAMUEL 20:1-21:22

FROM THE TEXT

1. Who was Sheba, and why was he upset? Why did Israel withdraw from David to follow Sheba? (20:1-2)?
2. What short-coming did Amasa exhibit and how did this alarm David (20:4-6)?
3. How did Joab come to again control the army (20:7-12)?
4. Why was famine in the land (21:1-2)?
5. In an effort to restore the Lord's blessing, what choice was David required to make (21:3-9)?
6. How was David moved by Rizpah to honor Saul's family (21:10-14)?
7. The writer of the book has backtracked beginning in 21:15 to the days of battle against the Philistines (2 Sam. 5 and 8). A military role of honor is given of some whose valor in battle is outstanding.
 - A. Who killed Ishbi-benob, and why was this significant (21:15-17)?
 - B. Who killed Saph, and why was this significant (21:18)?
 - C. Who did Elhanan kill (21:19)?
 - D. Who killed the 6 fingered giant (21:20-22)?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. David's reaction to Joab's return to Jerusalem as commander is missing from the reading (20:22). What was Joab's history in David's eyes and what did David think of Joab (2 Sam. 3:27; 18:14; 20:10; 1 Kings 2:6)?
2. 2 Samuel 20:24 says "Adoram was over the forced labor," a new political office. What problems does this indicate for the present and create for the future of David's throne?
3. What can you find out about the giants that inhabited the land (the relatives of Goliath)?

FOR DISCUSSION

1. By viewing 2 Samuel 11-20 as a whole, what lessons are learned about the consequences of sin? Give attention to the extent and quality of David's reign before and after his sin.
2. The city of Abel had a reputation for wisdom (20:18).
 - A. How does the woman who speaks for the city demonstrate great wisdom?
 - B. Why was Joab so emphatic in his response (20:20)?

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LESSON 24

READINGS

2 SAMUEL 22:1-24:25

FROM THE TEXT

1. Why does David say the Lord is worthy to be praised (22:4)?
2. Why did David say the Lord rewarded him (22:21-25)?
3. How do we know David was a prophet (23:1-2)?
4. What confidence does David assert about his house? Where did he get this confidence? (23:5)
5. What act of bravery speaks strongly of the loyalty of David's men (23:8-23)?
6. Describe the "organization" or "pecking order" of David's mighty men (23:8-23).
7. What sin did David commit in the numbering of the people (24:1-10)?
8. What punishment did David select (24:12-14)?
9. What did David see regarding the angel (24:15-17)?
10. What should be our attitude about service and sacrifice to God? Try to list two or three ways which "cost" us something (24:24).

DIGGING DEEPER

1. What is the proper response of a person who recognizes God's deliverance (22:47-51)?
2. Why was David concerned about falling into the hands of man (24:14)?
3. What was right about both Araunah and David's attitudes (24:20-25)?

FOR DISCUSSION

1. In time of difficulty, discuss how God is our "rock," "fortress," "deliverer," "shield," "horn," "stronghold," "refuge," and "savior" (22:2-3, 31-36). What do these say about a person's attitude and disposition toward God?
2. How painful to select your own punishment (24:12-14). Discuss how we do select our punishment as the consequences for the sin we choose to commit.