



Sept 10..... Samuel Anoints David
Sept 17.....David Kills Goliath
Sept. 24.....David and Jonathan
Oct 1 David Spares Saul
Oct 8 God's Covenant with David
Oct 15 David and Bathsheba
Oct 22 Nathan Confronts David
Oct 29 Absalom's Revolt
Nov 5.....David Takes Census
Nov 12..... Weekend United
Nov 19.....David Succeeded by Solomon





Pastor's Introduction

From long nights in the Judean hillside to the king's table. He went from being the last kid picked to the line from whom the Messiah would come. From a mighty warrior to monumental mistakes. David is one of the heroes of our faith, but he is not a perfect man by any means. God records some of David's greatest triumphs and biggest failures in His Word. Through it all, God called David a "man after His own heart." As we embark on this nine-week series through the life of David, we will see the "Shepherd King" and how God used David in His redemption story.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "John T. Green". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "J" and "G".

Ed. TG



Participant Guide for September 10, 2023

Samuel Anoints David

1 Samuel 16

Highlight

Action Step:

Which verse(s) spoke to you this week?

Explain

Sermon and discussion notes:



Apply

1. Have you ever been responsible for picking someone to lead a team or a project, and that person failed miserably? What happened, and how did their leadership (or lack thereof) affect the outcome of the project? Did you feel responsible for the project's outcome?
2. Why did Samuel feel responsible for Saul and his reign over Israel? How do you think he felt as he watched Saul's reign decline faster and faster?
3. How did Israel fall into the trap of trusting in human leaders more than God throughout their history? In our modern society, how are we just as guilty as Israel for doing the same? How does this passage speak to how we should perceive the political candidates we elect?
4. As humans, we cannot see the heart; only God can. However, what characteristics can we look for in leaders (all leaders, not just political ones) that demonstrate their heart for God?
5. Read 1 Corinthians 1:27-29: How does this passage relate to God's choosing of David over Saul and all of David's older brothers? How do both passages point forward to a greater fulfillment in Jesus?

Respond

→ **Challenge - What are you going to do in response to the truth communicated?**

- ◆ This week, consider if the unsuspecting leader that God is anointing is you! Has God called you to something special?

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Participant Guide September 17, 2023

David Kills Goliath

1 Samuel 17

Highlight

Action Step:

Which verse(s) spoke to you this week?

Explain

Sermon and discussion notes:



Apply

1. The story of David versus Goliath is one of the most well-known stories in the Bible. What makes this story so popular and memorable? What is it about this story that resonates with us?
2. Read 1 Samuel 17:26: Why is David appalled at the response of the Israelite army? What is the difference between the Israelite army and David's view of the battle situation?
3. David was motivated to face Goliath when no one else was. What can we learn from his determination, courage, and faith? What does it look like for us to demonstrate these same principles in our lives?
4. Read 1 Samuel 17:52-57: How did the Israelite army respond to David's victory over Goliath? The only thing that changed about Israel's battle situation was the death of one soldier (albeit a powerful one). How did the destruction of a single roadblock lead the Israelites to victory?
5. Think of a situation in your life where you are facing a significant obstacle or difficulty. How can you apply David's example of trusting God and taking action to your situation?
6. How does this chapter show us who David is as a person and believer? How does this event shape David's journey to become the shepherd king? How does this passage speak to God's power and sovereignty?

Respond

→ **Challenge - What are you going to do in response to the truth communicated today?**

- ◆ This week, consider whether you are responding to your obstacles like the Israelite army or David. How can you trust God as David did?

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Participant Guide for September 24, 2023

David and Jonathan

1 Samuel 20; 23:15-18

Highlight

Action Step:

Which verse(s) spoke to you this week?

Explain

Sermon and discussion notes:



Apply

1. The friendship between David and Jonathan is a beautiful example of how God can use human relationships to accomplish his purposes. How has God used these types of relationships in your life?
2. Read 1 Samuel 20:13-17: In this passage, David and Jonathan make a covenant "before the Lord." What does this mean? Is Jonathan betraying his father by making a covenant with David? What do Jonathan's actions tell us about his loyalties?
3. Given the traditional dynastic succession of kings, who would likely have been king if Saul were to die? How does this passage speak to Jonathan's selflessness? How does Jonathan demonstrate his trust in God by supporting David?
4. Why were these two men willing to put their lives on the line for each other? How was their friendship a source of strength and encouragement? How does today's passage illustrate the theme of God's protection and guidance for David?
5. How did God use the relationships in Jesus' life to promote his ministry and share the gospel? What can this passage teach us about the importance of Christian relationships and accountability?

Respond

→ **Challenge - What are you going to do in response to the truth communicated today?**

- ◆ This week, consider the people God has placed in your life. Give special thanks to him and pray for them.



Participant Guide for October 1, 2023

David Spares Saul

1 Samuel 24; 26

Highlight

Action Step:

Which verse(s) spoke to you this week?

Explain

Sermon and discussion notes:



Apply

1. Have you ever been in a situation where someone wronged you, and you had the opportunity to get revenge but chose not to? Maybe it was a friend who betrayed your trust, a coworker who sabotaged your project, or a stranger who insulted you. How did you resist the temptation to retaliate? What motivated you to act with kindness or forgiveness instead of anger or bitterness? How did you feel afterward? Did your relationship with that person change as a result?
2. In both chapters we covered today, what was David's reason for not striking against Saul? What does David's attitude towards Saul reveal about his respect for God's authority and anointing?
3. Read 1 Samuel 24:16:22 & 26:21: What is Saul's response each time he learns that David could have killed him but did not? What can we learn from Saul's repentance and confession? Do you believe Saul ever sincerely repented of his sin against David? Why or why not? In our lives, what does it say about our repentance of sin if we keep running back to the same sin again and again?
4. How do these two chapters show David's character and commitment to God? How is the testing of David's character and devotion to God preparing him to be God's king over Israel?
5. In what ways did David demonstrate wisdom and courage by patiently waiting on God's timing? What examples come to mind where Jesus patiently waited for God's timing? How can we emulate these examples in our situations?

Respond

→ **Challenge - What are you going to do in response to the truth communicated today?**

- ◆ This week, spend extra time in prayer over a circumstance in your life where you are waiting for God to move. Are you waiting patiently? Are you trusting in God's timing?



Participant Guide for October 8, 2023

God's Covenant with David

2 Samuel 7

Highlight

Action Step:

Which verse(s) spoke to you this week?

Explain

Sermon and discussion notes:

Presumption is not usually a good thing, especially when it comes to the Will of God. In today's study, David presumes God wants him to build a house for Him. That is not what God had in store for David's reign as King. Let's explore God's promised agreement (covenant) with David to see why God's plan is always right and best!



Apply

1. Has there ever been a time when you presumed God's will in a particular matter concerning your life because it seemed a noble gesture? (Maybe you felt you were doing God a favor!) Discuss the situation and how it turned out. Our good and God's best are not usually the same.
2. Instead of presuming upon God's will, how should we approach trying to please God? David learned that God would not allow him to build the Temple for God. Read 1 Chron. 22:7-8. Why did God deny David his desire to build a house for God?
3. God speaks through the prophet Nathan to reveal the big-picture vision of what he desires to do through David's life. Read 2 Sam. 7:8-17. What is God's plan? Does it seem strange that God would not allow David to build His house yet desired to establish a Kingdom that would never end through him? Yeah, me too!
Read Isaiah 55:8-11. Remember, there is a God, and we are not Him!
4. Once we see God's plan, what should our response be? Read 2 Samuel 7:18-29. What was David's response?
5. Discuss the covenant God made with David. What is the ultimate desire of God? Why is this eternally significant to us and all those who come before and after us?
6. The ultimate fulfillment of this covenant was Christ being made King. Who built the house in Jerusalem was not the point. Who ruled the House was the point. It is King Jesus forever. This was the purpose of the Davidic Covenant. What does this history lesson teach us about God's faithfulness and promises?

Respond

→ **Challenge - What are you going to do in response to the truth communicated today?**

- ◆ How can we teach this truth to our family so that current and future generations walk in the promise of God's salvation?



Participant Guide for October 15, 2023

David and Bathsheba

2 Samuel 11

Highlight

Action Step:

Which verse(s) spoke to you this week?

Explain

Sermon and discussion notes:

While breaking one law makes us guilty of breaking them all, sexual sin often has greater consequences than other types of sin.

There is a dire progression of sin that James describes:

¹⁴ But each person is tempted when he is drawn away and enticed by his own evil desire. ¹⁵ Then after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin, and when sin is fully grown, it gives birth to death. ¹

In today's passage, David walks through this progression and experiences the darkest of the resulting consequences.

¹ [Christian Standard Bible](#) (Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers, 2020), Jas 1:14–15.



Apply

1. The Bible does not sugarcoat the lives of its heroes. Why is this important regarding our confidence in the Word of God?
2. David was anointed (chosen by God) to be the King of Israel. Yet, there is reason to question this choice in today's story. Read 2 Samuel 11 and follow the progression of David's sin. What could David have done to avoid this catastrophic failure of character?
3. How did David's power and role as king feed his pride in this circumstance?
4. What can we do in our leadership roles to avoid prideful attitudes that might lead us to disastrous outcomes?
5. Reread vs. 27. While God later considered a "man after God's own heart," he did not overlook his sin. Why is it important to know that God cannot overlook sin in anyone's life?

Respond

→ **Challenge - What are you going to do in response to the truth communicated today?**

- ◆ This week, think about situations in your life where you have had to learn the importance of avoiding situations that lead you to temptation. How does God provide a way of escape?



Participant Guide for October 22, 2023

Nathan Confronts David

2 Samuel 12

Highlight

Action Step:

Which verse(s) spoke to you this week?

Explain

Sermon and discussion notes:

God quickly revealed David's evil deeds so as not to let it become even more dire. He sent the prophet Nathan to draw him a picture.



Apply

1. Have you ever encountered someone who was so unaware of their own sin that they could not see what others clearly noticed? How did that affect their relationships and choices? Has that person ever been you!?
2. David went as far as orchestrating the murder of Bathsheba's husband to cover his adulterous actions. What does this say about the lengths we will go to conceal our sin?

²³ But if you don't do this, you will certainly sin against the LORD; be sure your sin will catch up with you. ²

3. How ridiculous is it to think we can hide our sins from an omniscient God? What should we do when God reveals our sin to us?
4. Read 2 Samuel 12:13-14. What realization does David come to regarding his sin? What response does this realization result in from God? What role does confession play in restoration?
5. Does forgiveness of sin remove the resulting consequence? Why is the consequence necessary?

Respond

→ **Challenge - What are you going to do in response to the truth communicated today?**

- ◆ This week, pray through Psalm 51. This Psalm is David's prayer of repentance that corresponds with this week's passage.

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² [*Christian Standard Bible*](#) (Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers, 2020), Nu 32:23.



Participant Guide for October 29, 2023

Absalom's Revolt

2 Samuel 15-18

Highlight

Action Step:

Which verse(s) spoke to you this week?

Explain

Sermon and discussion notes:

The story of Absalom's rebellion also teaches us the importance of humility and obedience. David was a great king, but he made some serious mistakes. He was too proud to admit his sin and did not always listen to God's leading. These mistakes led to the rebellion, and they caused David a great deal of pain.



Apply

1. Have you ever experienced a situation where you felt like someone was deliberately trying to sabotage your reputation or undermine your achievements? How did you cope with such a hostile and unfair environment? What did you learn from that experience, and how did you overcome the challenges?
2. How did Absalom's rebellion against his father affect not only Israel but also his own family and relationships? Why does rebellion in our lives often end up affecting other people?
3. David faced a difficult and painful situation when his son rebelled against him. How can we imitate David's example of trusting God and humbling ourselves in times of trouble?
4. The story of Absalom's rebellion is a warning against the perils of pride, ambition, and rebellion. How can we guard ourselves from being influenced by such sinful motives and attitudes? How can we submit to God's authority and will in our lives?
5. How does this story challenge us to examine our own hearts and motives? How does it encourage us to seek God's glory and not our own?

Respond

→ **Challenge - What are you going to do in response to the truth communicated today?**

- ◆ This week, pray for God to reveal areas of rebellion and pride in your life. Put your rebellion in God's hands and ask him to renew your spirit.



Participant Guide for November 5, 2023

David Takes a Census

2 Samuel 24

Highlight

Action Step:

Which verse(s) spoke to you this week?

Explain

Sermon and discussion notes:

Be sure to read the parallel account of this story in 1 Chronicles 21



Apply

1. David's last sin was a sin of the flesh as he lusted over Bathsheba. In today's story, what was the root of David's sin?
2. Comparing the cost of lives between the sin of the flesh and the sin of pride, which one did God judge more harshly? Why?
3. God allowed David to choose his own punishment. He chose to place himself in the Lord's hands rather than men's hands. What does this tell us about David's understanding of God?
4. What were the two factors involved in the halting of the judgment?
5. One of the key verses in this passage that shined a light back on the Godly character of David is v.24. How does this concept practically apply to our lives today?
6. Our sin will always affect others. How can we guard against hurting those around us?
- 7.

Respond

→ **Challenge - What are you going to do in response to the truth communicated today?**

- ◆ Discuss with your family the importance of humility before the Lord and why it is not weakness but strength in the Lord's hands.

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Participant Guide for November 12, 2023

Weekend United



Highlight

Action Step:

Which verse(s) spoke to you this week?

Explain

Sermon and discussion notes:



Apply

We will make a supplemental guide available for this week.

Respond

→ **Challenge - What are you going to do in response to the truth communicated today?**

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Participant Guide for November 19, 2023

David Succeeded by Solomon

1 Kings 1-2

Highlight

Action Step:

Which verse(s) spoke to you this week?

Explain

Sermon and discussion notes:

The previous eight weeks focused on David, King of Israel. We have followed him from a shepherd boy through many situations of his successes and failures and noted throughout how God has supported and disciplined him through his reign. In today's study, we see the events in his reign ending and how God continued to guide him even in nearing death.



Apply

1. What are some examples of situations where parents show happiness when their children or relatives achieve something? How do you think David felt about his sons, Adonijah and Solomon? How does verse 6 describe David's relationship with Adonijah??
2. How did David's failure to discipline possibly lead Adonijah to his actions to become king?
3. We can surmise that Adonijah exalted himself to be king. What does it mean to be exalted? Why is it wrong to exalt oneself? Read Psalm 75:6-7 and James 4:10 to see what these verses tell us about being exalted.
4. What does today's passage tell us about Nathan's and Bathsheba's roles in interceding for Solomon to be appointed king? What are some situations in which you feel Christians need to intercede on behalf of others? Think of at least one example. When have you interceded for someone?
5. How is God's grace displayed through this account considering David and Bathsheba's past of adultery, murder, and scandal that Solomon should become heir to the throne? What does this say about God's grace to us?
6. What evidence do you see that Solomon extended God's grace to Adonijah (See 1 Kings 1:52-53)? How does God expect us to show worthiness for his grace? Reference what Paul says to the Philippian church in Philippians 1:27.

Respond

→ **Challenge - What are you going to do in response to the truth communicated today?**

- ◆ This week, think of how God has been merciful and graceful to you even through your sin and rebellion. Identify a situation(s) in which you need to show mercy and grace to show God through your actions. Then, take action to demonstrate God's grace.

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