

DAVID

The Worshipper

Who was this person?

- When we think of David, we think of him as a shepherd boy. But we also realize that he was a poet, a giant killer, a king and an ancestor of Jesus. David was considered one of the greatest Old Testament men in Scripture.
- David was described in Scripture as being a handsome young man, with a healthy red complexion that would be evident of someone who spent a lot of time in the outdoors. He had dark eyes and was considered to be good looking. (1 Samuel 16:12)
- David was a musical individual. He played the harp and lyre. He wrote many psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. You can go through the book of Psalms and read the heart-felt writings of David.
- David was known to be humble, and was best friends with Jonathan, the son of King Saul. Jonathan was the closest friend that David ever had, and was very loyal. (1 Samuel 18-20)
- David was someone who had a heart for God.

What is this person known for?

- In the Old Testament (1 Samuel 16) we read of a young man, David, who will capture not only the heart of the nation of Israel, but also the heart of God.
- In the New Testament, God described David as “a man after my own heart.” (Acts 13:22)
- God sent the Prophet Samuel to Bethlehem and led him to David. David was a humble shepherd and also a talented musician. Samuel took David to King Saul’s court and had him play soothing music on his harp whenever Saul was troubled. (1 Samuel 9:16)
- David, the youngest of Jesse’s sons, was chosen by God to be the successor after King Saul. Samuel anointed David while Saul was still king, and David served Saul even during difficult and trying times. One of those times was when the Philistines challenged the Israelites on the battlefield with their champion, Goliath, defying the army of Israel and mocking God. David fought that Philistine giant with only 5 stones and a sling. At that time David was just a young shepherd boy, and the Philistine soldier was very tall, very large, and very mean. This story is told in 1 Samuel

Making The Bible Come Alive





chapter 17. Although the Philistine was over nine feet tall, wearing a bronze helmet, a coat and leg coverings made of heavy bronze armor, and had a bronze javelin strapped to his back, young David went forward on the battlefield to fight Goliath when everyone else ran away. He knew God was with him and that God would help him. David defeated Goliath and killed him with just a single stone. The giant fell forward to the ground and to his death. The army of Israel won a significant battle over their enemies that day, and in reward, David was given King Saul's daughter, Michal, to marry. He was proclaimed to be a hero by King Saul's army. This made King Saul very jealous.

- Because of the King's jealousy towards David, King Saul tried to kill David (1 Samuel 19). Saul told his son, Jonathan, and other attendants to kill David. But David and Jonathan were friends so Jonathan warned David of what his father wanted to do. (1 Samuel 19:1-7)
- War broke out and David went out and fought the Philistines and they fled. (1 Samuel 19:8) When Saul heard what had happened, he tried to pin David to the wall with his spear while David was playing his harp for him. But David was wise and eluded him (moved out of the way) and Saul drove his spear into the wall, missing David and David was able to escape! (1 Samuel 19:8-10).
- Saul was so mad that David escaped that he sent men to David's house with orders to kill him the next morning. David's wife, Michal, warned him and helped him escape out a window in the house. She then put an idol in David's bed, laid a garment over it, and put some goat hair on the head of the idol, to make it look like David was in bed sleeping. Again, David was forced to flee and live his life as an outlaw until King Saul's death.

WHY DO YOU THINK THIS PERSON HAS BEEN INCLUDED IN GOD'S STORY?

- **We must have a heart focused on God.** The life of David as a shepherd shows us how a young man can be focused on God, putting his trust in Him. It is important that we have a heart after God—a heart that desires to live for Him, do His will, follow His ways, and trust Him in everything.
- **God desires our worship.** David was a worshiper. Worship is more than singing a song to God, although that is important and God loves to hear us lift our voices to Him. Worship is about giving our whole life to God. In Acts 13:22,

Luke says this, “After removing Saul, he made David their king. He testified concerning him: ‘I have found David son of Jesse a man after my own heart; he will do everything I want him to do.’”

- **God goes before us in battle—we do not need to fear.** David going up against Goliath in battle shows us how God is with us and will be our Protector. He gives us wisdom to make the right decisions, and will show us His ways when we put our complete trust in Him. When things look bigger, tougher and harder, it is important that our trust is fully in God to fight the battle. It is Him who brings the victory. In our own strength, we are nothing. Jesus tells us in John 15:5, “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.” When we are connect to “The Vine” (Jesus), we do not need to fear. God is with us and will allow us to do great things for Him! This Scripture tells us, “We will bear much fruit!” when we are connected to Him.
- **God wants to use us to serve His purposes in this world.** The story of David shows us how God will anoint those whose hearts are turned to Him. He wants us to serve Him, and to serve other leaders. Sometimes we need to serve those whose hearts are not for God, but we can trust that God will go before us and will show us His favour. He will anoint us for His purpose. He can give us incredible places of leadership. He may even make us a leader of a nation. We must always be aware that we may be mocked or looked down on by others. Scripture tells us that others look at our outward appearance, but God looks at the heart (1 Samuel 16:7). It is our heart that matters most to God.
- **It is important that we choose good friends.** The relationship that David had with Jonathan, his closest and most loyal friend, is a good example for us of what a friendship needs to be like. Humility and loyalty are very important in any friendship. We must always be cautious of who we choose as our close friends. Friends influence one another. You want to be influenced by those who love God, not those who disregard Him and His ways.
- **Be humble.** The opposite of being humble is being proud. The Bible has lots to say about those who have a proud spirit. In 1 Samuel 18:18 David showed his humility when speaking to King Saul, “Who am I, and what is my family or my father’s clan in Israel, that I should become the king’s son-in-law?” The Psalms are filled with writings by David where he expresses his thoughts to God through a heart of humility. Psalm 131 is a wonderful example as David writes, “My heart is not proud, O Lord, my eyes are not haughty; I do not concern myself with great matters or things too wonderful for me. But I have stilled and quieted my soul;...”



LIFE APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

Pose the following two questions to your children, one at a time. Allow for interaction and discussion, letting them share their thoughts while you guide the conversation.

- What life lessons can I learn from this Bible character about how I should and should not live?
- Based on what I have learned from this Bible character, how can I live in a way that is pleasing to God.

MORE IN GOD'S WORD

Many are the songs and poems and prayers of David, expressed throughout the book of Psalms. Psalm 23 is a very well-known, loved and memorized psalm. Another is Psalm 34—take time to read this psalm out loud, several times over. Make it your prayer. Even memorize portions of it like verses 4, 8, 9, 13, and 14. Or, you may choose to memorize the entire Psalm! Memorizing God's Word is so profitable. When we are in difficult times those verses are hidden in our hearts and can be on our lips in seconds. Quoting and praying Scripture is a valuable thing to do as God's child. It is His Word, and His Word helps to strengthen our spirit.

Psalm 34

1. I will extol the Lord at all times; his praise will always be on my lips.
2. I will glory in the Lord; let the afflicted hear and rejoice.
3. Glorify the Lord with me; let us exalt his name together.
4. I sought the Lord, and he answered me; he delivered me from all my fears.
5. Those who look to him are radiant; their faces are never covered with shame.
6. This poor man called, and the Lord heard him; he saved him out of all his troubles.
7. The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him, and he delivers them.
8. Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him.
9. Fear the Lord, you his holy people, for those who fear him lack nothing.
10. The lions may grow weak and hungry, but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing.



11. Come, my children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the Lord.
12. Whoever of you loves life and desires to see many good days,
13. keep your tongue from evil and your lips from telling lies.
14. Turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it.
15. The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are attentive to their cry;
16. but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil, to blot out their name from the earth.
17. The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears them; he delivers them from all their troubles.
18. The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.
19. The righteous person may have many troubles, but the Lord delivers him from them all;
20. he protects all his bones, not one of them will be broken.
21. Evil will slay the wicked; the foes of the righteous will be condemned.
22. The Lord will rescue his servants; no one who takes refuge in him will be condemned.

