

DAVID

Making The Bible Come Alive

The Leader

Who was this person?

- When we think of David in this lesson we will focus on him as “King David”. But we also realize that he was a shepherd boy, a poet, a giant killer, and an ancestor of Jesus. David was considered one of the greatest Old Testament men in Scripture.
- David was the eighth son of Jesse. He was the youngest of all the boys in that family. The Bible describes him as having a ruddy complexion and being good looking. David was born about 1,000 years before Jesus.
- David went from being a shepherd, tending sheep in the fields, to becoming a king who would rule over people. (2 Samuel 7:8)
- David was appointed king over Israel after King Saul. David reigned for 40 years as king of Israel.
- David was a courageous individual. He inspired others and had a strong desire to serve God.
- David's first wife was a woman named Michal. She was King Saul's daughter. She was known for saving David's life, but her attitude was similar to that of her father, and over time she began to dislike David because of his great love for God. She didn't share in David's joyful worship. David and Michal never had children.

What is this person known for?

- Saul was removed as king over Israel (1 Samuel 15:16-30). But while Saul was still on the throne, the Lord told Samuel the prophet to go to Jesse of Bethlehem as He was choosing one of Jesse's sons to be the next king. God spoke clearly to Samuel and told him not to consider appearance or height when looking at Jesse's sons, because God does not look at the things that man looks at. Man often judges others by their outward appearance but God looks at the heart of a person. Even though David was the youngest of Jesse's sons, it was David that God had chosen to be the next king of Israel. 2 Samuel 2 tells of how David became king over Judah as the men of Judah anointed him in public. David had been anointed by Samuel years earlier (1 Samuel 16:13) in a private ceremony, but now it was time to make his role a public declaration. David was first anointed king in Hebron over the house of Judah for seven years and six months (2 Samuel 2:10-11) and then king of the united twelve tribes of Israel a few years later.





- Under David's leadership as king of Israel, the ark of God was brought to Jerusalem (also referenced as the City of David in 2 Samuel 6:16). The ark was a national treasure that was ordinarily kept in the tabernacle. 2 Samuel 6 tells of the ark's return from Philistine captivity back to the land of Israel.
- God made a promise to David, through a word God gave to Nathan the prophet. That word from God is revealed to David in 2 Samuel 7:4-16. After Nathan the prophet gave the revelation from God to David, David went to the Lord in prayer. That significant prayer is recorded in 2 Samuel 7:18-29. This passage of scripture is significant as it includes God making a covenant with David, promising him that his throne will last forever. Ultimately, Jesus came through the family line of David and established a kingdom that would never end.
- During David's time as King of Israel, he experienced some great times of struggle. His personal life became entangled in sin. One night he sent his army out to war and rather than going with them, he chose to stay home in Jerusalem. That night he became tempted. He got up from his bed and went to the roof of the palace where he saw a woman bathing. David thought the woman was very beautiful and wanted to find out more about who she was. Her name was Bathsheba. David then did something he never should have done—he sent for messengers to bring her to his house so he could be with her. The woman was married, and David should never have invited her to his palace to spend time alone with him! David committed adultery which goes against God's laws for how people should live. He tried to cover up his sinful actions by ordering for Bathsheba's husband to be killed. He later regretted what he had done and asked God to for-give him. And, God did forgive him. (2 Samuel 11)
- When David was delivered from the hands of his enemies and from Saul, he sang a song of praise to the Lord. That song is recorded in 2 Samuel 22 and is 51 verses long! He looks back over his life and his time as king, and expresses to God who He is, and his thanks for all He has done.
- One of King David's greatest accomplishments was establishing the walled city of Jerusalem as the capital of his kingdom. That was one of the first things he did as ruler over Israel. Even to this day, Jerusalem re-mains as Israel's most holy city and is very important in end time prophecy.

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

- **To show that Jesus, the Son of God, came from the line of David.** In Acts 13:16-23 the Apostle Paul tells of the timeline of rulers and events that included King David and led to Jesus:

Standing up, Paul motioned with his hand and said: "Fellow Israelites and you Gentiles who worship God, listen to me!"¹⁷ The God of the people of Israel chose our ancestors; he made the people prosper during their stay in Egypt; with mighty power he led them out of that country;¹⁸ for about forty years he endured their conduct in the wilderness;¹⁹ and he overthrew seven nations in Canaan, giving their land to his people as their inheritance.²⁰ All this took about 450 years.

"After this, God gave them judges until the time of Samuel the prophet.²¹ Then the people asked for a king, and he gave them Saul son of Kish, of the tribe of Benjamin, who ruled forty years.²² After removing Saul, he made David their king. God 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.'²³ "From this man's descendants God has brought to Israel the Saviour Jesus, as he promised.

- **We are sinners and we must ask God for His forgiveness when we do wrong.** David, despite his great love for God, made mistakes in his everyday life. He did things he should not have done. We can learn from David what not to do, and also that when we do sin, we must go to God immediately and repent for what we have done wrong. We must ask for His forgiveness (2 Samuel 12:13). And, we must learn from our own sins and the sins of others, what not to do. We should not live in a way that we think we can get away with doing wrong things because God will just forgive us again and again and again. God wants us to change our ways, and live a righteous life. That means to live right, according to His Word and His ways. Two examples of David admitting his sin to God can be found in 2 Samuel 24: 10, 17. His words were very clear. When we acknowledge what we have done wrong, to God, our parents, or others, we cannot do it lightly. We must be clear and show that we are sorry for our actions or attitude.

- **To remind us there are consequences to our sin.** God shows us through the life of David that He desires to forgive us of our sins. We are reminded, however, that there often will be consequences that we will have to face for our wrong actions and sinful ways:(2 Samuel 12:7-12). God will entrust us with responsibilities but when





we mess up we often have to experience the consequences of our sin.

•To show us how to be a worshiper. God wants us to put our full trust in Him, and to worship Him. David was a worshipper. He often expressed the thoughts of his heart to God through songs and writing. Worship, however, is more than music, singing or writing our thoughts. Worship is the posture of our entire life. Worship comes from our heart.

•To remind us God desires to use people who turn their hearts to Him to accomplish great things. The book of 2 Samuel tells us of David's reign as king. Under David's leadership, peace was brought to the nation of Israel. Since the time of Joshua, when the Israelites entered the Promised Land, they were challenged to see their nation united and the wicked people driven out. David, as king of Israel, was able to accomplish something that no other leader before him could do. Although he struggled and even sinned before God, David cared for the well-being of his people and tried to be a leader who led by the principle of acknowledging and being dedicated to God.

•To Show us that God used David, and God wants to use us. David wanted to build a house for God but God told David that his son, Solomon, would be the actual builder of the Temple. But David was the one who purchased the property where the Temple would stand. We must be tuned to the heart of God and follow His leading. When we do, He will call on us to do great things for Him.

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

Read more about David in God's Word. You can find his story in the following places in both the Old and New Testaments:

- 1 Samuel 16 to 1 Kings 2
- Amos 6:5
- Matthew 1:1, 6; 22:43-45

- Luke 1:32
- Acts 13:22
- Romans 1:3 s
- Hebrews 11:32

