

A STUDY ON SAUL, DAVID, & ABSALOM

1 & 2 SAMUEL



A T A L E O F T H R E E K I N G S

KING DAVID • SERMON BY PASTOR PATRICK • OCTOBER 2020

O P E N I N G N O T E S

NOTE FROM JF

LEARNING FROM THE GOOD

David is known as a man after God's own heart. What this phrase indicates is that David cared about the things of God and pursued them in his life. What this doesn't mean is that he was perfect, only Jesus is perfect. As you walk through this week's lesson, consider how David's example can encourage you to pursue Christ even more deeply.

PRAYER INITIATIVE

COUNTRIES FOR THIS QUARTER

In conjunction with Legacy Missions, our Life Groups will begin praying for the countries listed on the cards that leaders were given. Please pray for one country each week and ask God for a heart that is sensitive to the needs of Albania, Haiti, India, and Uganda.

LESSON AIMS

KNOW AND DO

As a result of today's lesson, **each person will UNDERSTAND who King David is by describing 5 characteristics of David AND will express the VALUE of David's own habits of pursuing the Lord by devoting 10 minutes a day over the next week to practice prayer, repentance, and singing.**

PRAYER

A PRAYER OF DAVID

Hear me, Lord, and answer me, for I am poor and needy.
Guard my life, for I am faithful to you;
save your servant who trusts in you.
You are my God; have mercy on me, Lord,
for I call to you all day long.
Bring joy to your servant, Lord, for I put my trust in you.



KING DAVID

SELECTED READINGS FROM 1 SAMUEL



1 SAMUEL 16 {ESV}

1 The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul, since I have rejected him from being king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil, and go. I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons."

2 And Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears it, he will kill me." And the Lord said, "Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.'"

3 And invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do. And you shall anoint for me him whom I declare to you."

4 Samuel did what the Lord commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, "Do you come peaceably?"

5 And he said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord. Consecrate yourselves, and come with me to the sacrifice." And he consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

6 When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed is before him."

7 But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart."

8 Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one."

9 Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one."

10 And Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. And Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen these."

11 Then Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but behold, he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and get him, for we will not sit down till he comes here."

12 And he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. And the Lord said, "Arise, anoint him, for this is he."

13 Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers. And the Spirit of the Lord rushed upon David from that day forward. And Samuel rose up and went to Ramah.

14 Now the Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul, and a harmful spirit from the Lord tormented him.

15 And Saul's servants said to him, "Behold now, a harmful spirit from God is tormenting you."

16 Let our lord now command your servants who are before you to seek out a man who is skillful in playing the lyre, and when the harmful spirit from God is upon you, he will play it, and you will be well."

17 So Saul said to his servants, "Provide for me a man who can play well and bring him to me."

18 One of the young men answered, "Behold, I have seen a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite, who is skillful in playing, a man of valor, a man of war, prudent in speech, and a man of good presence, and the Lord is with him."

19 Therefore Saul sent messengers to Jesse and said, "Send me David your son, who is with the sheep."

20 And Jesse took a donkey laden with bread and a skin of wine and a young goat and sent them by David his son to Saul.

21 And David came to Saul and entered his service. And Saul loved him greatly, and he became his armor-bearer.

22 And Saul sent to Jesse, saying, "Let David remain in my service, for he has found favor in my sight."

23 And whenever the harmful spirit from God was upon Saul, David took the lyre and played it with his hand. So Saul was refreshed and was well, and the harmful spirit departed from him.

KING DAVID

SELECTED READINGS FROM 1 SAMUEL

1 SAMUEL 17 {ESV}

1 Now the Philistines gathered their armies for battle. And they were gathered at Socoh, which belongs to Judah, and encamped between Socoh and Azekah, in Ephes-dammim.

2 And Saul and the men of Israel were gathered, and encamped in the Valley of Elah, and drew up in line of battle against the Philistines.

3 And the Philistines stood on the mountain on the one side, and Israel stood on the mountain on the other side, with a valley between them.

4 And there came out from the camp of the Philistines a champion named Goliath of Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span.

5 He had a helmet of bronze on his head, and he was armed with a coat of mail, and the weight of the coat was five thousand shekels of bronze.

6 And he had bronze armor on his legs, and a javelin of bronze slung between his shoulders.

7 The shaft of his spear was like a weaver's beam, and his spear's head weighed six hundred shekels of iron. And his shield-bearer went before him.

8 He stood and shouted to the ranks of Israel, "Why have you come out to draw up for battle? Am I not a Philistine, and are you not servants of Saul?"

Choose a man for yourselves, and let him come down to me.

9 If he is able to fight with me and kill me, then we will be your servants. But if I prevail against him and kill him, then you shall be our servants and serve us."

10 And the Philistine said, "I defy the ranks of Israel this day. Give me a man, that we may fight together."

11 When Saul and all Israel heard these words of the Philistine, they were dismayed and greatly afraid.

12 Now David was the son of an Ephrathite of Bethlehem in Judah, named Jesse, who had eight sons. In the days of Saul the man was already old and advanced in years.

13 The three oldest sons of Jesse had followed Saul to the battle. And the names of his three sons who went to the battle were Eliab the firstborn, and next to him Abinadab, and the third Shammah.

14 David was the youngest. The three eldest followed Saul,

15 but David went back and forth from Saul to feed his father's sheep at Bethlehem.

16 For forty days the Philistine came forward and took his stand, morning and evening.

17 And Jesse said to David his son, "Take for your brothers an ephah of this parched grain, and these ten loaves, and carry them quickly to the camp to your brothers.

18 Also take these ten cheeses to the commander of their thousand. See if your brothers are well, and bring some token from them."

19 Now Saul and they and all the men of Israel were in the Valley of Elah, fighting with the Philistines.

20 And David rose early in the morning and left the sheep with a keeper and took the provisions and went, as Jesse had commanded him. And he came to the encampment as the host was going out to the battle line, shouting the war cry.

21 And Israel and the Philistines drew up for battle, army against army.

22 And David left the things in charge of the keeper of the baggage and ran to the ranks and went and greeted his brothers.

23 As he talked with them, behold, the champion, the Philistine of Gath, Goliath by name, came up out of the ranks of the Philistines and spoke the same words as before. And David heard him.

24 All the men of Israel, when they saw the man, fled from him and were much afraid.

25 And the men of Israel said, "Have you seen this man who has come up? Surely he has come up to defy Israel. And the king will enrich the man who kills him with great riches and will give him his daughter and make his father's house free in Israel."

26 And David said to the men who stood by him, "What shall be done for the man who kills this Philistine and takes away the reproach from Israel? For who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?"

27 And the people answered him in the same way, "So shall it be done to the man who kills him."

28 Now Eliab his eldest brother heard when he spoke to the men. And Eliab's anger was kindled against David, and he said, "Why have you come down? And with whom have you left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know your presumption and the evil of your heart, for you have come down to see the battle."

29 And David said, "What have I done now? Was it not but a word?"

30 And he turned away from him toward another, and spoke in the same way, and the people answered him again as before.

31 When the words that David spoke were heard, they repeated them before Saul, and he sent for him.

32 And David said to Saul, "Let no man's heart fail because of him. Your servant will go and fight with this Philistine."

33 And Saul said to David, "You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him, for you are but a youth, and he has been a man of war from his youth."

34 But David said to Saul, "Your servant used to keep sheep for his father. And when there came a lion, or a bear, and took a lamb from the flock,

35 I went after him and struck him and delivered it out of his mouth. And if he arose against me, I caught him by his beard and struck him and killed him.

36 Your servant has struck down both lions and bears, and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be like one of them, for he has defied the armies of the living God."

37 And David said, "The Lord who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine." And Saul said to David, "Go, and the Lord be with you!"

38 Then Saul clothed David with his armor. He put a helmet of bronze on his head and clothed him with a coat of mail.

39 and David strapped his sword over his armor. And he tried in vain to go, for he had not tested them. Then David said to Saul, "I cannot go with these, for I have not tested them." So David put them off.

40 Then he took his staff in his hand and chose five smooth stones from the brook and put them in his shepherd's pouch. His sling was in his hand, and he approached the Philistine.

41 And the Philistine moved forward and came near to David, with his shield-bearer in front of him.

42 And when the Philistine looked and saw David, he disdained him, for he was but a youth, ruddy and handsome in appearance.

43 And the Philistine said to David, "Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?" And the Philistine cursed David by his gods.

44 The Philistine said to David, "Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and to the beasts of the field."

45 Then David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with a sword and with a spear and with a javelin, but I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied.

46 This day the Lord will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you down and cut off your head. And I will give the dead bodies of the host of the Philistines this day to the birds of the air and to the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel.

47 and that all this assembly may know that the Lord saves not with sword and spear. For the battle is the Lord's, and he will give you into our hand."

48 When the Philistine arose and came and drew near to meet David, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet the Philistine.

49 And David put his hand in his bag and took out a stone and slung it and struck the Philistine on his forehead. The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell on his face to the ground.

50 So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and with a stone, and struck the Philistine and killed him. There was no sword in the hand of David.

51 Then David ran and stood over the Philistine and took his sword and drew it out of its sheath and killed him and cut off his head with it. When the Philistines saw that their champion was dead, they fled.

52 And the men of Israel and Judah rose with a shout and pursued the Philistines as far as Gath and the gates of Ekron, so that the wounded Philistines fell on the way from Shaaraim as far as Gath and Ekron.

53 And the people of Israel came back from chasing the Philistines, and they plundered their camp.

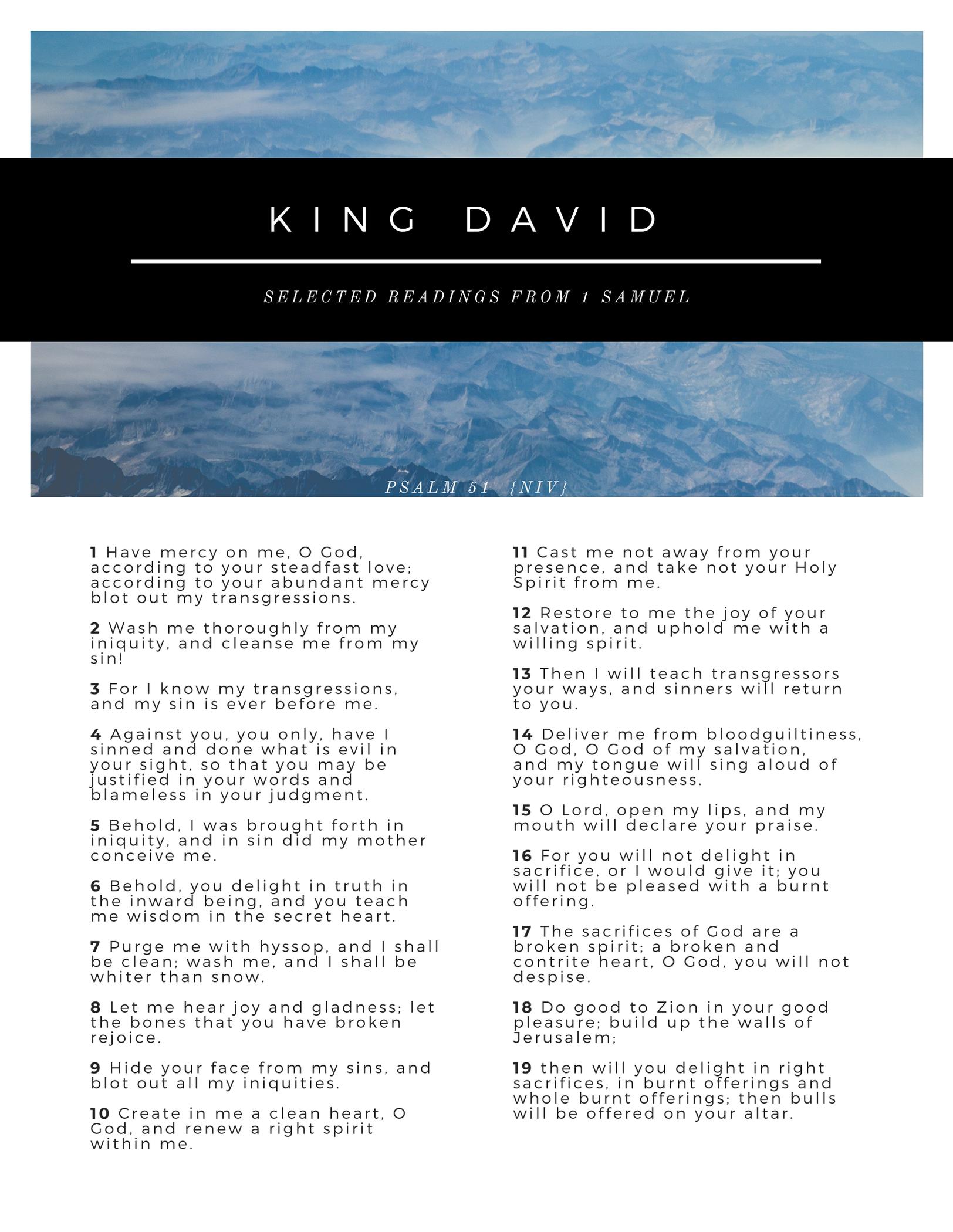
54 And David took the head of the Philistine and brought it to Jerusalem, but he put his armor in his tent.

55 As soon as Saul saw David go out against the Philistine, he said to Abner, the commander of the army, "Abner, whose son is this youth?" And Abner said, "As your soul lives, O king, I do not know."

56 And the king said, "Inquire whose son the boy is."

57 And as soon as David returned from the striking down of the Philistine, Abner took him, and brought him before Saul with the head of the Philistine in his hand.

58 And Saul said to him, "Whose son are you, young man?" And David answered, "I am the son of your servant Jesse the Bethlehemite."



KING DAVID

SELECTED READINGS FROM 1 SAMUEL

PSALM 51 {NIV}

1 Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy
blot out my transgressions.

2 Wash me thoroughly from my
iniquity, and cleanse me from my
sin!

3 For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.

4 Against you, you only, have I
sinned and done what is evil in
your sight, so that you may be
justified in your words and
blameless in your judgment.

5 Behold, I was brought forth in
iniquity, and in sin did my mother
conceive me.

6 Behold, you delight in truth in
the inward being, and you teach
me wisdom in the secret heart.

7 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall
be clean; wash me, and I shall be
whiter than snow.

8 Let me hear joy and gladness; let
the bones that you have broken
rejoice.

9 Hide your face from my sins, and
blot out all my iniquities.

10 Create in me a clean heart, O
God, and renew a right spirit
within me.

11 Cast me not away from your
presence, and take not your Holy
Spirit from me.

12 Restore to me the joy of your
salvation, and uphold me with a
willing spirit.

13 Then I will teach transgressors
your ways, and sinners will return
to you.

14 Deliver me from bloodguiltiness,
O God, O God of my salvation,
and my tongue will sing aloud of
your righteousness.

15 O Lord, open my lips, and my
mouth will declare your praise.

16 For you will not delight in
sacrifice, or I would give it; you
will not be pleased with a burnt
offering.

17 The sacrifices of God are a
broken spirit; a broken and
contrite heart, O God, you will not
despise.

18 Do good to Zion in your good
pleasure; build up the walls of
Jerusalem;

19 then will you delight in right
sacrifices, in burnt offerings and
whole burnt offerings; then bulls
will be offered on your altar.



DISCUSS

UTILIZING THE CHAPTERS FROM THE PREVIOUS PAGES, PASTOR PATRICKS'S SERMON, AND YOUR OWN BIBLE STUDY SKILLS, DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.

1) Last week we learned that King Saul was a man with many character flaws. From the passages that we read, we observed that Saul was *impatient, fearful, self-reliant, disobedient, shifted blame*, and cared about *image-management*. The combination of these things caused God to grieve that He had Saul king over Israel.

David was a man with character flaws as well. However, we have learned that what set him apart was his pursuit of God through confession and repentance, among other actions. Take a few moments as a group and highlight the character of David through 1 Samuel 16-17 (or any other passages that highlight the life of David). Then, see what Christian living principles you can derive from those observations. For example, in 1 Samuel 17:31-40 one might make the observation that *David sought to find a resolution with the problem the Israelites were having with Goliath*.

Therefore, the principle might be *A growing Christian will do what he/she can to find a solution in important situations. He or she will even take the role himself/herself if that is what the situation demands.*

See if you and your group can come up with at least five observations and principles. However, don't just stop there if you can come up with more. Make this an activity that allows you to not only increase your knowledge of David but also encourage you towards applying what you have learned from David's life.

2) David is the author of roughly half of the psalms. So while he isn't the only author in the Book of Psalms, he is well versed in the art of poetry, music, and prayer. Psalm 51 is recorded so that we can see David's prayer and action upon being confronted with his sin with Bathsheba (2 Samuel 11-12).

After reading Psalm 51, we can observe that there are several actions that are beneficial for a man or woman after God's own heart. First, confession is essential for the Christian (vv 1-4). Second, repentance is the proper fruit of confession (vv 10-12, 17). And thirdly, that joy in fellowship with God and walking with others comes as a result of confession and repentance (vv 13-15).

As an act of transparency, vulnerability, and accountability, share with the group a time where you were confronted with sin (you don't have to share the intimate details of that sin if it is hard to do so). Then, share your reaction to being shown that you had sinned. Did you confess and repent like David? Or did you try to manage your image like Saul?

Why is it important that confession and repentance mark the Christian life? What happens when a person covers or hides their sin?

Additionally, when was the last time you confessed and repented? Is there something that you would like to confess to the group (or to an individual) so that you can begin being restored to right fellowship with God and others?

3) Spiritual disciplines are avenues in which God typically works on the spiritual formation of a person. For example, when we engage God through prayer, we do not pray so that we can change God's mind but instead we do so in order to talk with Him and to have our heart align with His will. The posture of our heart speaks volumes to why we are engaging in spiritual disciplines. And David was no different. He engaged God through the activities of prayer, singing, poetry, confession, and worship.

Spend a few moments and discuss what spiritual disciplines you engage in (or would like to engage in). Share with the group how the study of David this week has encouraged you to pursue God in a way that others can describe you as a woman or man after God's own heart. Then, encourage one another to check in with one another as you try to pursue God in these practices for at least 10 minutes a day over the next week.

CONCLUSION

*MAKING THE MOST OF OUR TIME
TOGETHER WHEN WE CLOSE
OUR TIME OUT.*

Lesson Aims:

As a result of today's lesson, each person will UNDERSTAND who King David is by describing 5 characteristics of David AND will express the VALUE of David's own habits of pursuing the Lord by devoting 10 minutes a day over the next week to practice prayer, repentance, and singing.

In Question 1, we will begin to make the observations of David and his life that allows us to understand who he is and the impact his life makes in our faith. Making observations of Scripture is the first step of Bible study.

We must be able to observe the words of the Bible before we can apply the words of the Bible. Some observations are very profound, while others are very basic. Regardless of the depth of the observation, we can encourage one another in our observations of David's life and in the way we can learn from him so that we can pursue God well.

Then in Question 3, we briefly encounter the topic of spiritual disciplines. By using David's life as a way to observe basic spiritual disciplines, we can be encouraged that returning to old, time-tested disciplines are all we need (in addition to the help of the Holy Spirit) to pursue God well. Spiritual disciplines are meant to be a joy and not a burden. When we all actively participate in these disciplines, we find accountability and encouragement.

Between these two questions, and even the observations and engagement from Psalm 51, we as a people can fulfill the lesson aim of this week - understanding David and valuing our pursuit of God through spiritual disciplines. I hope that this week's lesson aims are an encouraging and edifying part of your week.

Prayer:

O LORD,

We confess that we are weak and that we sin against You. We ask for Your mercy and grace to be given freely to us as You convict us of our sin. When we confess our sins, may we be sustained by Your joy and comfort through Your Holy Spirit. Create in us a clean heart, one that has been washed in the blood of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Furthermore, we ask for joy to be given to us as we are upheld by Your loving and gracious hand. We praise You and trust You with our lives and salvation.

We ask these things in the name of Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit to the glory of the Father.
Amen.

Benediction:

May the God who blots out your transgressions, sustain you in His mercy and comfort as you seek to delight in His goodness and presence this week.