

*2 Samuel/
1 Chronicles*
Leader Guide
(NASB AND ESV)

THE LIFE OF DAVID—
A MAN AFTER GOD'S
OWN HEART

2 Samuel/ 1 Chronicles Leader Guide (NASB and ESV)

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USING LEADER GUIDES

Leader Guides are intended for you, the leader, to guide your Precept Upon Precept® and In & Out® discussions. They are designed to help you reason through the content of the lessons and to ensure you have understood what your group should have learned from their study. The guides offer effective plans for leading discussions.

The Holy Spirit is your guide as you prepare. He is the one who knows what your group needs to apply to their lives. Pray for them as they study and for yourself as you prepare to lead the discussion.

These guides can be used for either the NASB or the ESV edition of the courses. ESV words follow the NASB after a slash / or are set off with parentheses.

Leader Guides include the following:

- Lesson emphasis
- A logical order for the discussion
- Discussion questions
- Suggested visual aid(s)

Practical tips for using the Leader Guide:

- **Don't simply "do" the lesson.**
Stay with the lesson until you have a good understanding of it. This will give you a better grasp of how the Leader Guide takes you through the lesson.
- **You don't have to ask every question in the guide.**
Often one question will be covered while discussing another question so there is no reason to ask it. Your goal is not to ask every question, but to ask enough questions to make sure your group understood the lesson and to help them apply the truths to their lives.

Using the Leader Guide with In & Out

When your entire group uses In & Out

Compare an In & Out lesson with the Leader Guide. Use what relates to the In & Out lesson as a guide for the discussion. Don't teach what's not in In & Out lessons. Remember your goal in the discussion is for your group to discuss what they've learned, not for you to lecture on what you learned.

For groups studying both Precept Upon Precept and In & Out

Use the Leader Guides as designed for PUP, knowing that the In & Out assignments will be covered in the discussion. Make a note in the Leader Guide of what is not in the In & Out.

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2 SAMUEL/ 1 CHRONICLES
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 1

Lesson emphasis:

- 2 Samuel 1–5
- David’s ascent to the throne of Israel

2 SAMUEL 1

To begin this discussion, tell your group to look at the At a Glance chart and ask what they noted as the theme of this chapter.

They might have something similar to:

David heard of Saul’s and Jonathan’s deaths, lamented them

Verses 1-10

How does 2 Samuel begin? Also, discuss the cross-references.

Tell them to look at the map “Israel in the Days of Samuel, Saul, and David” as a visual aid.

David returned to Ziklag after slaughtering Amalekites who had raided his home. On the third day after Saul’s death, an Amalekite came and told David that Saul and Jonathan were dead.

After being asked how he knew of the deaths, the Amalekite lied to David about how Saul died.

Exodus 17:8-16; Deuteronomy 25:17-19 and 1 Samuel 15:2-3, 7-9, 32-33

The Amalekites were enemies of the Lord’s people Israel.

God told Saul to destroy them, but he did not.

Evidently, the Amalekite thought David would reward him for killing Saul, since many were aware David would be the next king of Israel.

David’s mourning shows it was the first report he received of the deaths.

How was Saul’s death described in 1 Samuel 31 and 1 Chronicles 10:1-7?

Saul fell on his own sword.

The Amalekite didn’t kill Saul, but must have come upon him shortly after his death or even saw him die. Then he took Saul’s crown and bracelet.

Verses 11-16

Who and what are these verses about?

David mourned, wept, and fasted, as did all of those with him.

Because the Amalekite testified to killing the Lord's anointed, David had him killed.

Verses 17-27

What is in these verses?

This was David's lament over Saul and Jonathan. It shows his deep sorrow over the defeat of Israel's king, and especially of his great friend Jonathan. It was taught to all the people of Judah.

David referred to Saul and Jonathan as the mighty who had fallen.

David didn't want the Philistines to rejoice, but they had. And he wanted Israel to weep.

David called for a curse on Mount Gilboa where Saul and Jonathan died. They were remembered as mighty warriors in battle.

The love between David and Jonathan was more precious to David than the love of women. They had a covenant friendship, and Jonathan had been willing to risk his life to protect David. This does not refer to a homosexual relationship between the two men.

2 SAMUEL 2

What is a possible theme for this chapter?

David anointed king of Judah in Hebron; battle between Judah and Israel

Verses 1-7

What happened, and who was involved?

David inquired of the Lord to know if he should go to one of the cities in Judah.

After being directed by the Lord to go to Hebron, David and all with him moved there and to surrounding cities.

At Hebron David was anointed king over the tribe of Judah only.

Ask what your group learned about Hebron from the cross-references.

Genesis 13:18; 23:2, 17-20; 35:27 and Joshua 14:13; 21:8-13

Abram built an altar at Hebron, and that is where Sarah died. He bought the field and cave there to bury her. Isaac also lived at Hebron.

Joshua gave Hebron as inheritance to Caleb who was from the tribe of Judah. It was also given for the sons of Aaron, the priests, to live in.

Hebron was one of only six cities of refuge in Israel.

Lead your discussion back to 2 Samuel 2:4-7. Who and what are these verses about?

David blessed the men of Jabesh-gilead who buried Saul and his sons.

The message from David also contained the information that he had been anointed king over Judah. It seemed like an invitation to them to join him.

Verses 8-11

Who else was a king in Israel?

Tell your group to look at Saul's Family Tree, along with the map as visual aids.

Abner made Saul's son Ish-bosheth king over Gilead, along with the territory of Asher, Jezreel, Ephraim, and Benjamin. Your group might remember that Saul was of Benjamin's tribe.

For two years Ish-bosheth was king over all Israel except Judah. He reigned from Mahanaim.

David reigned over Judah alone for 7 ½ years from Hebron.

Verses 12-17

Who and what are these verses about? Tell your group to look at David's Family Tree, too.

Abner and the men of Ish-bosheth went to Gibeon.

Abner was Saul's cousin and the commander of his army.

Joab and David's men went to meet them.

Joab was Zeruah's—David's sister—son.

Abner suggested a contest to Joab and he agreed—twelve men from each group. David's men killed the men of Benjamin.

Verses 18-32

What was the result of the contest?

David's sister, Zeruah, had three sons: Joab, Asahel, and Abishai, 1 Chronicles 2:12-16. They were together in the battle that day.

Abner killed Asahel after warning him to turn back from pursuing him. Because of that, his brothers Joab and Abishai went after Abner until he reasoned with them that they were all brothers of Israel.

When the battle was over, David had lost 19 men and Ish-bosheth had lost 360.

David's men returned to Hebron, and Ish-bosheth's men returned to Mahanaim.

2 SAMUEL 3

Ask your group what they noted as the theme for this chapter on their At a Glance chart.

Possibly—David's sons born at Hebron; Abner turned to David; Joab killed Abner

How does this chapter relate to chapter 2?

Verse 1 tells of the long war between Saul's house and David's. David was king in Hebron for 7 ½ years before taking all the kingdom of Israel. Ish-bosheth was king over Israel for 2 of those years in Mahanaim.

David grew steadily stronger.

Verses 2-5

Tell your group to look at David's Family Tree, and ask about these verses.

Compare this with 1 Chronicles 3:1-9.

Six sons were born to David in those 7 ½ years at Hebron. He took four more wives during that time also. Amnon was his firstborn and therefore should have been his heir to the throne.

His second son, Chileab in 2 Samuel, was called Daniel in 1 Chronicles. 1 Chronicles also names David's sons and his daughter born in Jerusalem.

NOTE: Some in your group might have objections to the number of wives David had. The text does not make a moral comment on that fact. Be careful not to lose discussion time here.

David was building his house, while Saul's house was decreasing.

Verses 6-11

What was Abner doing? Why was Ish-bosheth angry?

During the long war, Abner was becoming stronger in Saul's house.

He had sexual relations with Saul's concubine Rizpah.

2 Samuel 16:20-22 and 1 Kings 1:1-3; 2:13-25

Taking a king's wife or concubine indicated the desire to take his kingdom.

Ish-bosheth asked why Abner had gone in to Saul's concubine and it caused a division between the two of them.

Abner decided to transfer Ish-bosheth's kingdom to David. Since Abner was the stronger of the two, Ish-bosheth did nothing about it because of fear.

Abner knew what the Lord had sworn to David regarding the kingdom.

Verses 12-21

How did Abner go about transferring the kingdom?

Abner then sent messengers to David, offering to make a covenant with him and bring all of Israel to him. David agreed if his first wife Michal, Saul's daughter, was returned to him.

Abner kept his part of the deal to bring all Israel to David. He met with the elders of Israel and reminded them that there had been a time when they wanted David to rule them. He spoke more of what the Lord had said to David about saving Israel from enemies by David's hand.

Abner then spoke to the men of Benjamin, Saul's tribe, to make David king.

He went to David at Hebron and offered to gather Israel to make a covenant with David to be king over them all. David sent him away to do that.

Verses 22-30

What happened to Abner?

When Joab returned to Hebron and discovered Abner had been there and left in peace, he accused him of deceiving David. Without David knowing, Joab sent after Abner and had him return to Hebron.

Joab murdered Abner in Hebron, the city of refuge, for killing his brother Asahel even though it had been in battle. Verse 30 states that Abishai had a part in the murder as well as Joab.

David said somewhat of a curse over Joab's house when he found out about the murder of Abner. It was not only a cruel murder, but it also put David's kingdom in jeopardy.

David's ascent to the throne of Israel was a bloody battle for a long time.

Verses 31-39

What was David's response?

David commanded Joab and all his men to lament and show mourning for Abner. David wept at the grave in Hebron when they buried Abner. His chant was of how Abner had died, not in battle as Jonathan and Saul had, but as falling before the wicked like a fool. Because of his actions and words, Israel knew David had nothing to do with Abner's death.

The last verse tells of David's thoughts about his remaining nephews. Yet he did not remove them from serving him.

At any point in this discussion, give your group time to discuss application from these chapters.

2 SAMUEL 4

Ask what they noted on their At a Glance chart as a possible theme for this chapter.

David killed the men who murdered Ish-bosheth; Jonathan's son Mephibosheth

Verses 1-3

How does this chapter begin?

Ish-bosheth lost courage when he heard of Abner's death in Hebron. All Israel was disturbed. It was a time of unrest in Israel.

The two commanders of Ish-bosheth are introduced in these verses, Baanah and Rechab of the tribe of Benjamin, but the family of Beeroth who lived in Gittaim.

Verse 4

Who is this verse about?

At first, it might seem odd that this verse is in the middle of the account of the two commanders murdering Ish-bosheth. But the author of 2 Samuel wanted the reader to know that King Ish-bosheth was not the last of Saul's house.

Jonathan's son Mephibosheth was alive at the time. He would have been about 12½ at the time David became king over all Israel.

Verses 5-12

How do the events continue?

Rechab and Baanah murdered Ish-bosheth in his own house. They took his head and traveled by the Arabah all night, probably so as not to be seen. When they came to Hebron, they presented the head to David.

Again, the reaction to murder was not what they expected from David. Just as he had the so-called murderer of Saul killed, he also had the murderers of his son Ish-bosheth killed.

David was not out to destroy the house of Saul. He trusted the Lord to do what He had said, to make him king. This chapter and 2 Samuel 1 show how David valued life and didn't kill the innocent to bring about his kingdom.

David did the right thing in putting to death the murderers.

Ask what your group learned from the cross-references about this. What happened to those convicted of murder?

Genesis 9:4-6; Exodus 20:13; Leviticus 24:17, 21; Numbers 35:29-34; Deuteronomy 21:1-9
The murderer's blood is required by the Lord. A murderer paid for murder with his life.

Is there any application for that kind of law now?

2 SAMUEL 5

What is a possible theme for this chapter?

David anointed king over all Israel, reigned in Jerusalem, defeated Philistines

Verses 1-5

What happened after Ish-bosheth's and Abner's deaths?

All the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron and made him king of Israel.

David had been their leader when he led Israel in and out of battle under Saul's reign. They knew the Lord had said David was to be their shepherd and ruler.

David was 30 when he became king of Judah at Hebron. He reigned there for 7 ½ years, and then he was anointed king of all Israel. Another covenant is mentioned at that time—David with Israel. His reign over all Israel lasted for 33 years.

Verses 6-12

How did Jerusalem become Israel's main city?

Ask about 1 Chronicles 11:1-9 and the cross-references, too.

Jerusalem was called Jebus, the city of the Jebusites.
David captured the stronghold of Zion—another name for this city.
It's also called the City of David.

Exodus 23:19-25; Joshua 15:63; Judges 1:21
God told Israel to completely destroy the Jebusites.

Israel should have taken control of Jerusalem when Joshua gave parts of it to the tribes of Judah and Benjamin as an inheritance. But they didn't take it, so the Jebusites were still living there in the time of David.

This city was a stronghold on a mount which was very secure—so secure that it was said that even the lame and blind of the stronghold could ward off those who tried to conquer.

David replied that the lame and blind of the stronghold could be reached through the water tunnel, and he did so. A saying resulted that David hated the lame and blind.

According to 1 Chronicles 11, Joab, David's sister's son, was the first one to kill a Jebusite and therefore was made chief and commander of David's men.

The Lord God of hosts was with David. He was king of all Israel. He had taken the city of Jerusalem.

Even the Hiram king of Tyre, to the far north, sent trees and workers to build a house for King David in the city of David.

David knew the Lord had established him as king. He also knew the Lord exalted his kingdom for the sake of His people Israel; David was their shepherd.

You could ask your group if they can look back and see God's accomplishments in their lives.

Verses 13-16

Compare these verses with 1 Chronicles 3:1-9 and 2 Samuel 3:2-5.

This is a list of David's sons born to him in Jerusalem.
Four of those sons were by Bath-shua, Bathsheba.
He had concubines besides his wives.

Verses 17-25

How does this chapter end?

The Philistines made a raid in the valley of Rephaim.

David inquired of the Lord if and how to go against them two times. The second time the Lord gave different direction as to the battle. The sound of marching in the trees was the hand of the Lord. He fought for David and Israel. He still does.

2 Samuel 23:13-17 and 1 Chronicles 11:5-19 tell of an event during this battle which shows David's care and respect of the men he fought with.

You might end by asking your group what they observed about David's ascent to the throne.

It was not easy or quick; there was conflict, affliction, and battle for David as God carried out His plan for David's life.

Ask how this relates to 2 Timothy 3:10-17 and give time for discussion.

**2 SAMUEL/ 1 CHRONICLES
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 2**

Lesson emphasis:

- 2 Samuel 6–9
- 1 Chronicles 13–16

REVIEW

Tell your group to look at their At a Glance chart, and ask what they remember about 2 Samuel 1–5.

David lamented Saul’s and Jonathan’s deaths

David was anointed king of Judah in Hebron; he reigned there 7 ½ years.

He had six sons there.

There was a long war between Judah, David’s house and Israel, Saul’s house.

Abner made a covenant with David to give him all of Israel. Joab killed Abner.

Ish-bosheth was murdered and David killed the murderers.

David was a man of justice and valued life.

In chapter 5, David took Jerusalem from the Jebusites to be his city, the city of David.

He defeated the Philistines.

Tell your group to look at the map “Israel in the Days of Samuel, Saul, and David” as another visual aid for this discussion.

2 SAMUEL 6

Ask your group what they noted as a theme for this chapter on their At a Glance chart.

David brought the ark to Jerusalem

Verses 1-11

How does this chapter begin? Compare with 1 Chronicles 13.

David gathered 30,000 chosen men of Israel and went to get the ark of the Lord to bring it to Jerusalem.

The ark was called by the name of the Lord of hosts who is enthroned above the cherubim.

Chronicles says David, all the leaders of Israel, the priests, the Levites and all Israel wanted to bring the ark to Jerusalem.

1 Chronicles 13:2-4 indicates that it was from the Lord to do this.

They put the ark on a new cart to bring it from the house of Abinadab.
The Lord struck Uzzah dead because of his irreverence / error; he touched the ark.

David left the ark at Obed-edom's house for three months. Then he went again to get it.
The second time it was according to how God said to move it.

Ask your group what they learned about this.

Numbers 4:1-15

This tells how the ark and the other holy objects in the tabernacle were to be moved.
The priests were to cover the holy objects, and then the Kohathites—Levites—were to carry them on their shoulders by the poles. They couldn't touch the holy objects or they would die.

Lead your discussion back to 2 Samuel 6:12-19 and 1 Chronicles 15.
How was the ark brought to Jerusalem?

2 Samuel tells of sacrifices, dancing, shouting, blessing.

1 Chronicles 15 gives more detail.

David prepared a place for the ark in Jerusalem. He gathered the priests and Levites to carry it according to the ordinance / rule in the Law. He appointed Levites as singers and music leaders.

As a result of doing this properly, the Lord helped the Levites who carried the ark.
They brought it to Jerusalem with much celebration.

Who was not celebrating, according to 2 Samuel 6:20-23 and 1 Chronicles 15:29?

Michal, Saul's daughter and David's first wife

When she saw David dancing before the Lord, she despised him in her heart.
She said he "uncovered" himself in the eyes of his servants' maids.

despised—*bazah*—"to hold in contempt . . . to hold in disdain, to disrespect"¹

uncover—*galah*—"to reveal . . . to uncover, to remove,"²

David was dressed in a linen robe like the Levites and wearing a linen ephod, like a long apron.

¹ Warren Baker and Eugene E. Carpenter, *The Complete Word Study Dictionary: Old Testament* (Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 2003), 125, H959.

² Warren Baker and Eugene E. Carpenter, *The Complete Word Study Dictionary: Old Testament* (Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 2003), 202, H1540.

Michal despised him for it. Maybe because she did not consider that act distinguished enough for the king.

She was David's first wife, but she had no children.

1 Chronicles 16

Ask your group what they learned from this chapter.

David appointed some Levites as ministers before the ark to celebrate / invoke, thank, and praise. Asaph was the chief. There were also priests to blow trumpets regularly.

Asaph and his brothers sang before the Lord a psalm of praise.

Certain ones were left with Asaph to minister before the ark of the Lord. Zadok and the other priests were at Gibeon where the tabernacle was. The ark had not been in the tabernacle for many years.

The people left the celebration to go to their own homes.

You might ask your group how and when they celebrate before the Lord and give thanks and praise for His presence in their lives.

2 SAMUEL 7

Ask your group about a possible theme for this chapter. What did they note on their At a Glance chart?

God promised David a house, kingdom forever

Verses 1-17

What did David want to do? How did the Lord respond?

Compare 1 Chronicles 17 with this chapter.

The Lord had given David rest from all his enemies.
His desire was to build a house for the ark of the Lord, a house for the Lord Himself.

Nathan agreed with David that it was a good idea and the Lord was with him.
But when the Lord told Nathan otherwise, he went to David with the word from the Lord.

In the message was a promise to David that the Lord would build a house for him.
The Lord promised to make a great name for David, but also to give His people Israel a place where they would not be afflicted as in the days of the judges.

He promised David

- a son to build the house for God’s Name
- his throne and his son’s kingdom established forever
- to be a father to the son and correct him when needed, but He would not take from him His lovingkindness / steadfast love as had happened to Saul

Ask what your group learned from the cross-references about this promise.

2 Chronicles 13:5; 21:4-7

God gave the rule over Israel forever to David by a covenant. He would not break that covenant even when Jehoram (of David’s line) was so evil that he deserved for the kingdom to be taken from him. The Lord did not destroy him and his descendants.

Psalm 89 and Isaiah 55

God made a covenant with David, one to sit on his throne forever.
An everlasting covenant, based on God’s faithful mercies (ESV—steadfast, sure love)

Jeremiah 33

In the future, for Israel and Judah, a righteous Branch of David will execute justice and righteousness on the earth. Compare this with 2 Samuel 8:15.

At that time, Jerusalem will dwell in safety. There was a covenant not only with David to have one on the throne of Israel, but also with the Levitical priests to minister to the Lord. God will have mercy on Israel and restore their fortunes at that time.

The Branch of David is a reference to the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ to rule on the earth from Jerusalem.

NOTE: Beware of debate among your group regarding this. Keep your discussion focused on what the text clearly states.

Romans 1 and Matthew 1

Jesus’ first coming as the Messiah—He is of the line of David according to the flesh.

Isaiah 11:1-10

Jesus’ second coming to judge and to slay the wicked—He is of the root of Jesse who was the father of David. This is a parallel to the future time described in Jeremiah 33.

Acts 13:22-23

Paul spoke of Jesus as the fulfillment of God’s promise to bring a Savior to Israel, a descendant of David the son of Jesse.

Lead your discussion back to 2 Samuel 7:18-29 and 1 Chronicles 17:16-27.

What was David’s response to God’s promise?

He went in and sat before the Lord. Then he talked to Him about the promise.

Most of what David said was about how great the Lord is.

Verses 21-28 are praise to the Lord for who He is, what He has done, and what He promised.

David's reason for wanting God to confirm His promise was that God's name be magnified forever, verse 26.

Throughout this chapter David is referred to as the Lord's servant, and his life demonstrated that title.

Ask your group if that is what they seek more than recognition, and if their lives demonstrate that.

2 SAMUEL 8

What is a possible theme for this chapter?

David defeated his enemies; the Lord helped / gave victory to David wherever he went

Verses 1-8

What are these verses about? Compare this with 1 Chronicles 18:1-8.

Tell your group to look at the maps "The Borders of David's Empire" and "Israel in the Time of Samuel, Saul, and David" as visual aids.

David defeated Israel's enemies:

- Philistines
- Moab
- Zobah, Hadadezer the king
- Arameans
- Ammon
- Edom
- Amalek

The Lord helped David wherever he went.

Verses 9-12

What happened in these verses? Compare this with 1 Chronicles 18:9-11.

Toi—Tou in Chronicles—king of Hamath, sent blessing to David for defeating Hadadezer.

David dedicated to the Lord the spoils of war.

Verses 13-18

Compare these verses with 1 Chronicles 18:12-17. What is this about and how does it relate to Psalm 60?

David made a name for himself when he returned from killing 18,000 Arameans / Edomites in the Valley of Salt. Relate this to 2 Samuel 7:9.

1 Chronicles 18:12 says Abishai defeated the Edomites. David got credit because he was the king.

Psalm 60 was written at this time. It says Joab killed 12,000 Edomites in the Valley of Salt. Joab was over David's whole army.

NOTE: The 12,000 might have been a part of the total 18,000.

David reigned over his people with justice and righteousness.
His kingdom was established with an army commander, recorder, priests, secretary, etc.
His sons were chiefs at his side.

2 SAMUEL 9

Tell your group to look at their At a Glance chart, and ask what they noted as a theme for this chapter.

Maybe something like: David brought Jonathan's son Mephibosheth to his table

Verses 1-8

Who did David ask about and why? What did David do?

David wanted to know if there was anyone left of Saul's house to whom he could show kindness for Jonathan's sake.

Jonathan's son Mephibosheth was brought to Jerusalem. He always ate at David's table.

According to 1 Samuel 20:1-17, why did David show kindness to Mephibosheth?

In 1 Samuel 20 Jonathan and David saw each other for the last time and made a covenant between them which extended to their descendants.

The only son of Jonathan left alive at the time of 2 Samuel 9 was Mephibosheth who lived in Lo-debar. He was lame from the time of Saul's and Jonathan's deaths because he fell when his nurse ran with him. At that time, he was five years old, but at the time of 2 Samuel 9 he was old enough that he had a young son himself.

David took his covenant responsibility seriously so that he brought Jonathan's son to eat at his table as one of his own sons.

1 Samuel 20:15 speaks of the time when David’s enemies are cut off by the Lord. Jonathan asked for his descendants to receive lovingkindness / steadfast love from David.

“lovingkindness / steadfast love”—*chesed* (*hesed*) or *hesedh*, can also be translated as “mercy” in the OT.

“The basic idea is that of an act of kindness, love or mercy shown to someone. The quality of the kindness shown is usually that reserved for close friends and family members, but the act of *chasadh* can be shown to anyone. Thus, while *chasadh* describes kindnesses shown to friends and relatives, it can also pass between guest and host, master and servant, or even ruler and subject. An act of *chasadh* presupposes the existence of a relationship between the parties involved. Where no formal relationship has previously been recognized, the person exercising *chasadh* has chosen to treat the recipient as if such a relationship did exist.”³

To end your discussion, ask your group what they learned from David’s example.

³ Spiros Zodhiates, *The Complete Word Study Old Testament* (Chattanooga, TN; AMG International, 1994), p. 2317, H2617.

2 SAMUEL/ 1 CHRONICLES
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 3

Lesson emphasis:

- 2 Samuel 10–12

REVIEW

To begin this discussion, tell your group to look at their At A Glance charts and then ask what they remember 2 Samuel 1–9 is about.

2 Samuel is about David as the King of Israel.

- 1–5 David’s ascent to the throne
- 5–9 David’s kingdom was established

While they are looking at the At a Glance chart, you can ask what they noted as possible themes for chapters 10–12.

- 10 David defeated the Ammonites
- 11 David’s sins, Bathsheba and Uriah
- 12 God to David; sword and child die; Solomon born

NOTE: As your group discusses the chapters in this lesson, you can ask what they learned from each chapter or what each one is about. If there is sufficient discussion to cover all the main points of the chapter, then you don’t need to ask further questions. But if needed, this guide gives more questions for each chapter.

Tell your group to look at the map “Israel in the Days of Samuel, Saul, and David” as a visual aid for this discussion.

2 SAMUEL 10

Ask your group what this chapter and 1 Chronicles 19 are about.

This is the account of David defeating the Ammonites and the Arameans.

Verses 1-5

David’s kindness toward the king of Ammon was either twisted or misinterpreted to turn Hanun against David. David’s men who were sent with the message of kindness were humiliated. On their way back they stayed at Jericho instead of returning to Jerusalem until their beards grew back—a cultural distinction at that time.

Verses 6-8

Ammon then gathered against David an army of mercenaries from Mesopotamia, Aramaacah, and Zobah. The army camped at Medeba, 1 Chronicles 19:7.

David sent Joab, his army commander, to the battle.

Verses 9-14

Joab used a good strategy dividing his forces between his brother Abishai and himself. Joab and the mighty men faced the Arameans in the field while Abishai and the rest of the army went against the Ammonites at the city entrance. Either was to call the other for help if needed.

Joab encouraged Abishai to be strong and show courage and trust the Lord, do what is good in His sight.

You can ask if this statement can relate to situations now for believers. Encourage your group to apply this the next time they are in a hard situation.

Both the Arameans and Ammonites fled from Joab and Abishai.

Verses 15-19

After Joab's return to Jerusalem, the Arameans gathered to Helam others from beyond the Euphrates River to go against Israel again. That time David himself led Israel into the battle. After their defeat, the Arameans made peace with Israel and served them, afraid to help Ammon anymore.

NOTE: 2 Samuel 10:18 says 700 charioteers and 1 Chronicles 19:18 says 7,000. The difference could be a scribal error.

David's kingdom was established by the Lord who was with him in battle.

2 SAMUEL 11

How does this chapter continue? What is the connection with 1 Chronicles 20?

David again sent Joab and the army to battle against Ammon to besiege the city of Rabbah. It was where modern Amman, Jordan is located.

Chronicles says Joab ravaged Ammon's land and then besieged Rabbah, eventually overthrowing it.

Chronicles only accounts the battle against Ammon, skipping the events of 2 Samuel 11:2–12:25.

NOTE: You might remind your group that Chronicles was written much later than Samuel, after the Babylonian captivity and Israel's return to their land.

At this point, you can ask for the main events of 2 Samuel 11.

Verses 2-5

These verses contain David's descent to adultery.

He was not at war leading his men.

He saw a beautiful woman bathing.

He inquired about her.

He took her even though he knew she was married.

Bathsheba's husband and father were two of David's mighty men who were at that time laying siege to Ammon under Joab's command.

The result of that sin was her pregnancy.

Verses 6-13

David tried to cover his sin. He brought Uriah, Bathsheba's husband, from the battle to Jerusalem so he would be with his wife.

Uriah was a noble man who refused to visit his wife while others were on the battlefield. David was so desperate that he even got Uriah drunk, but Uriah's integrity won over his drunkenness.

David could not hide his sin by using Uriah, one of his mighty men.

Give your group time to discuss how people try to hide sin.

Verses 14-25

This section is about David's descent to the sin of murder.

He sent a letter with Uriah to Joab with instructions to arrange for him to be killed in battle. In adhering to David's plot, Joab sacrificed more than Uriah in the battle.

When Joab sent war details to David, he warned the messenger that when David's wrath rose because of bad battle strategy, then he was to mention that Uriah was dead.

After hearing about the war and the last battle, David sent encouragement to Joab about the loss of men. He also encouraged him to overthrow the city.

David and Joab were experienced men of battle, and they were both mighty and valiant in battle and in battle strategy.

David committed murder because he wanted to cover his sin of adultery. Joab knowingly helped David murder an innocent man, one of his own mighty men, as well as the men who were with Uriah, although it can be reasoned that he was only following the king's orders.

Verses 26-27

Bathsheba mourned for her husband and then became David's wife and had his son.

The Lord said what David did was evil. He was a man after God's own heart, but he did evil in the sins of adultery and murder.

How do the cross-references in Genesis 3 and Joshua 7 relate here?

You can make a short list of the downward steps of temptation and sin to use as a visual aid. See the last page of this guide for a sample list.

Genesis 3:6-7

Eve saw the forbidden tree and it looked good to her.
She desired the fruit.
Then she took and ate it.
She gave it to her husband.
They tried to cover their sin by the fig leaves.
Their sin resulted in consequences for all mankind.

Joshua 7:19-25

Achan saw beautiful things among the forbidden spoils of Jericho.
Then he coveted them.
Then he took them.
He hid them in his tent.
It cost the lives of all his family and others whose lives were lost in battle.

Compare this with David's sins:

He saw Bathsheba, and she was beautiful.
He inquired about her.

David could have stopped the process at this point.

He learned that she was married.

Had he stopped at this point, he would not have sinned.

He took her—that was sin.

Then he tried to hide his sin.

His sin cost innocent lives and made him a murderer.

There are consequences to sin, and they affect others.

Give your group time to discuss application, how any or all of this applies to their lives.

2 SAMUEL 12

Ask what they learned from this chapter, related cross-references, and word studies.

Verses 1-6

The Lord sent Nathan to confront David about his sin.

Nathan told a story of injustice to David—a king known for justice.
David pronounced a just verdict—death and restitution.

How does what Nathan did relate to the New Testament references about confronting a brother in sin?

Galatians 6

Restore a brother, as Nathan did with David, with gentleness.
Believers need to examine themselves so they are not tempted too.

Matthew 7 and 18; 1 Corinthians 5

A Christian should first remove any obstacle or sin in his or her life before confronting a brother or sister in sin. Then he or she can see clearly to help the other believer.

The initial confrontation should be done in private, one on one. If restoration is made, then no one else knows about it. But if not, then others should become involved for the restoration of a brother and so God's enemies have no occasion to blaspheme. If the one refuses to listen, then he is to be put out, removed from the midst of believers.

Sin in the church is to be judged by believers.

Lead your discussion back to 2 Samuel 12:7-13. What happened next?

Nathan told David he was the man deserving of death because of his sins.

Nathan reminded David of how the Lord had given him so much and would have given him more.

David's sin was called what it was, despising the Word of the Lord.
Murder and adultery

Results, consequences, of the sin were pronounced to David because he had despised the Lord in his sins.

The sword would never depart from David's house. Relate this to chapter 7.
Evil from his own household
His wives taken in public by his companion / neighbor

David recognized the awfulness of his sin and confessed it immediately.
The Lord took away his sin and his just punishment of death.

How do Psalms 51 and 32 compare with this point in David's life?

Psalm 51

This is the psalm David wrote when Nathan confronted him.
It's David's prayer for mercy and cleanness as he confessed his sins to God.

sin—“to miss a mark or a way . . . to fall short of the standard”⁴
iniquity—“to deviate from the standard’ or ‘to twist the standard’”⁵
transgression—“a revolt against the standard”⁶

Verses 1-9 are David’s cry for God’s grace / mercy. He knew those things about God. He asked the Lord to cleanse him and stated God’s judgments are blameless. Relate this to 1 John 1:9.

In verses 10-13 David asked for a steadfast spirit and for the Lord not to remove His Holy Spirit from him. He had seen that happen to Saul. He begged the Lord not to do the same with him and not to cast him away from His presence as with Saul.

As was stated in the lesson, New Testament believers, the church, are part of the New Covenant and are sealed with the Holy Spirit as a pledge of our inheritance in Christ, Ephesians 1:13-14. The Spirit will never leave believers.

Verses 14-19 ask for a restoration of joy and praise. He knew God wanted obedience instead of sacrifices. The reference to “bloodguiltiness” reflects his confession of murder. His heart and spirit were broken because of his sin. God’s grace and compassion are a great cause for rejoicing and praise.

Psalm 32

This is a psalm written by David, expressing how blessed it is when one’s sin is forgiven, covered. How blessed one is when the Lord does not account his sin against him.

Verses 3-4 describe when David, or anyone, is silent about sin by not confessing it to the Lord. Verse 5 describes the confession and forgiveness, which comes as a result of it.

In this psalm as in others, David spoke of the Lord as his hiding place. He hid in the Lord when his enemies were pursuing him, when he was alone, when he sinned.

This psalm ends with joy at trusting in the Lord and being righteous.

Lead your discussion back to 2 Samuel 12:14-25. How does this chapter continue?

Though David’s sin was taken away, he was forgiven by God, and his punishment was not to be death, there were still consequences to his sin.

The death of his son by Bathsheba was part of that.

⁴ G. Herbert Livingston, “638 אָפְּרָה,” in *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament*, R. Laird Harris, Gleason L. Archer Jr., and Bruce K. Waltke, eds. (Chicago: Moody Press, 1999), 277–278.

⁵ G. Herbert Livingston, “638 אָפְּרָה,” in *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament*, R. Laird Harris, Gleason L. Archer Jr., and Bruce K. Waltke, eds. (Chicago: Moody Press, 1999), 277–278.

⁶ G. Herbert Livingston, “638 אָפְּרָה,” in *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament*, R. Laird Harris, Gleason L. Archer Jr., and Bruce K. Waltke, eds. (Chicago: Moody Press, 1999), 277–278.

Time passed, enough time for Bathsheba's child to be born and die. David didn't die for his sin, but his child did.

David fasted and prayed on behalf of his child who was to die because of his sin. He was still hopeful God would heal his son because God is merciful and gracious. But the Lord did not relent from what He said.

When the child died, David's servants were perplexed by his behavior. David completely accepted what happened, knowing the Lord is just and blameless in all His ways.

After being cleansed, forgiven, and spending time with the Lord, then David comforted Bathsheba in the death of her son. Later Solomon was born; "Jedidiah" means beloved of the LORD.

Verses 26-31 and 1 Chronicles 20:1-3

How do these passages relate to one another?

Because 1 Chronicles 20:1-3 tells the events concerning Rabbah with no interruption, some think the campaign against Rabbah began and ended in the same season.

Others think these verses fit chronologically after verse 24 or even after Solomon was born. If that is the case, then at least a year passed while Joab and Israel's army besieged Rabbah, the royal city of the Ammonites.

2 Samuel 12:27 says Joab captured the city of waters, possibly the section of Rabbah that included the water supply. Instead of taking Rabbah for himself, Joab sent word to David that he should come to do it. He did and took all the cities of Ammon.

Chronicles does not contain the account of David's sin, but it gives detail of how David dealt with the Ammonites. They were the Lord's enemies, and David's spirit was renewed to steadfastness for Him. Those enemies suffered the consequences of their sins.

To end this discussion, ask your group what they learned for their lives. What they learned from Nathan's or David's example. What they learned about the Lord. What they learned about sin.

Progression into sin

Saw

Desired the forbidden

Took

Hid sin

Consequences affect others

2 SAMUEL/ 1 CHRONICLES
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 4

Lesson emphasis:

- 2 Samuel 13–15

REVIEW

To begin this discussion, you can ask your group what they remember about 2 Samuel 1–12. Tell them to look at their At a Glance chart as a reminder.

1–5 are about David becoming king of Israel.

5–10 tell how his kingdom was established.

Chapter 11 records David's sins of adultery and murder.

2 Samuel 12:10-12, 14 contain the consequences as stated by Nathan from the Lord.

The sword would never depart from David's house.

From his own household evil would be raised up against him.

His wives would be taken by his companion publicly before all Israel.

His child would die, which was fulfilled in chapter 12.

There are two lists on the last page of this guide you can use as a visual aid for this discussion.

Ask how these consequences were lived out in chapters 13–15. What are possible themes for these chapters?

2 Samuel 13 Amnon, Tamar, and Absalom

2 Samuel 14 Joab helped Absalom return to Jerusalem, there 2 years

2 Samuel 15 David fled from Absalom, left Jerusalem

2 SAMUEL 13

What is this chapter about? Ask your group what they learned from their study.

NOTE: As your group discusses the chapters in this lesson, you can ask what they learned from each chapter or what each one is about. If there is sufficient discussion to cover all the main points of the chapter, then you don't need to ask further questions.

Amnon, David's firstborn son and heir to his throne, loved his half-sister Tamar, who was the full sister of Absalom, David's third-born son.

Amnon's friend and cousin Jonadab told Amnon what to do, and he did it.

After deceiving his father and raping his sister, Amnon sent her away because he then hated her.

Tamar tried to reason with Amnon, but she ended up being violated and desolate in her brother Absalom's house.

David was very angry when he heard what Amnon had done to Tamar, but he did nothing about it.

Absalom, then, became the one ruled by his emotions—hate, deception and then murder. After killing Amnon, Absalom fled to Talmai, king of Geshur, his grandfather. He was there for three years, and David mourned for him every day and longed to go to him.

The sword would not pass from David's house. His firstborn son was dead, his daughter was desolate, and his third-born son was estranged.

How did David's and Amnon's sins affect others? Give your group time to discuss how their sin also affects others.

2 SAMUEL 14

Who are the main characters and events of this chapter?

Joab was a perceptive man who had known and served David for a long time; he was also his nephew. Joab had participated in David's sin of murdering Uriah. At times Joab used wisdom, as in this chapter, but at other times his killings were more than David could bear.

He persuaded a woman to present a situation to David for his judgment. It might remind your group of how Nathan began his confrontation with David in chapter 12.

After making a judgment on the situation presented by the woman, David was confronted with his own situation regarding Absalom.

The avenger of blood was mentioned by the woman.

Ask your group what they learned about this from Numbers 35.

When one person killed another, the "blood avenger," who was a blood relative of the one killed, was to avenge the death by killing the murderer. But if the death was accidental, then there were cities of refuge the "manslayer" could flee to for safety from the blood avenger.

Lead your discussion back to 2 Samuel 14:11.

What did the woman ask David?

The woman's plea in 2 Samuel 14:11 seems to be that the killing, even if justified, would end. She was asking David to extend mercy, as from the Lord.

What was David's decision after discerning Joab commanded the woman to speak to him?

Joab went to Geshur and brought back Absalom, who remained in Jerusalem for two years and did not see David.

Five years had gone by since he killed Amnon and fled Jerusalem.

Absalom got Joab's attention on his third try and finally saw his father.

You can give a time for your group to share relevant application from this chapter.

2 SAMUEL 15

Again, ask what they learned from this chapter. Who and what is this about?

Absalom stole the hearts of Israel's people away from David.

No one in Israel was as handsome as Absalom, and he was cunning. He wanted to be king. Evidently, David's second-born son, Chileab or Daniel, named in 2 Samuel 3:3 and 1 Chronicles 3:1, had died earlier as there is no more mention of him. Therefore, Absalom was David's oldest living son and the apparent heir to his throne.

In Hebron, from where David began his reign, Absalom formed a conspiracy against David. Even Ahithophel the counselor went with him.

David had not fled from an enemy since Saul. He was a great warrior and king.

The whole country was weeping—the scope of the upheaval was far-reaching. Their king who had ruled them with justice and righteousness was leaving Jerusalem. Their mighty conqueror was fleeing.

He still had a following, his 600 men who had been with him since Gath, the priests, and others wanted to go wherever their king went. But David left some behind in Jerusalem who could help him by staying there. He also prayed that the Lord would make Ahithophel's counsel as foolishness.

How does Psalm 3 fit with 2 Samuel 15? Also, discuss application.

David wrote this Psalm when he fled from his son Absalom.

David’s adversaries were Israelites, his own people, and led by his oldest living son. Verse 2 indicates that they doubted David’s nearness to God. David, however, called God his shield, the one who lifted his head, his sustainer, and he called to God for salvation.

The Lord still sustains His people; they need not be afraid for He will answer when they call.

David’s trust was in the Lord his God, even when others he loved rejected him.

To end your discussion, ask your group what they learned about friends from this lesson.

Jonadab, Amnon’s cousin, was not the only friend mentioned in these chapters.

Some of David’s friends were:

- Ahithophel who turned to conspiracy against him
- Ittai, a foreign exile who remained loyal to him
- Zadok and Abiathar, priests, who returned to Jerusalem at risk to help
- Hushai who also returned to Jerusalem at risk to thwart Ahithophel’s advice

Proverbs 7:4; 16:28; 17:9, 17; 18:24; 19:4, 6-7; 22:11; 27:6, 9-10, 14

- 16:28—Was Absalom the slanderer who separated Ahithophel from David?
- 17:17; 18:24; 22:11 describe David’s true friends.
- 19:4, 6—Were some aligned with David for the wrong reasons?
- 27:6, 9, 10, 14 also give wisdom regarding friends.

What should be the basis for choosing friends? End with this application discussion.

CONSEQUENCES OF DAVID’S SIN	
2 Samuel 12:10-12	2 Samuel 13–15
Sword never depart from your house	13 Amnon, Tamar, Absalom hate and murder 14 Absalom returned saw David after 5 years
Evil rise up against you from own household	15 Absalom stole Israel’s hearts David fled Jerusalem

2 SAMUEL/ 1 CHRONICLES
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 5

Lesson emphasis:

- 2 Samuel 16–20

REVIEW

Ask about David’s sins and the stated consequences in 2 Samuel 12:10-12.
Then ask for a short review of chapters 13–15 as the background for this discussion.

David’s child with Bathsheba died, as the Lord said he would.
But David himself was spared from death, as the Lord displayed His mercy.

“The sword” had begun its work in David’s house as Absalom killed Amnon.

“Evil against him” had risen in his own house in the form of Absalom. David had been forced to leave Jerusalem because of Absalom trying to take the throne.

There is a chart at the end of this guide, which you might use as a visual aid.
Also, tell your group to look at their At a Glance chart for the themes of chapters 16–20.

They might have noted something similar to the following:

- 2 Samuel 16 Shimei cursed David; Absalom to Jerusalem, David’s concubines
- 2 Samuel 17 Ahithopel’s counsel thwarted / defeated; David warned
- 2 Samuel 18 Joab and his men killed Absalom in battle
- 2 Samuel 19 David returned to Judah
- 2 Samuel 20 Sheba led Israel, was killed

Ask how these chapters relate to chapter 15.

David left and returned to Jerusalem.

Tell your group to look at the map “Israel in the Days of Samuel, Saul, and David” as a visual aid for this discussion.

2 SAMUEL 16

What is this chapter about? Ask what your group learned from their study.

NOTE: As your group discusses the chapters in this lesson, you can ask what they learned from each chapter or what each one is about. If there is sufficient discussion to cover all the main points of the chapter, then you don’t need to ask further questions. This guide provides more questions if you need them.

Verses 1-4

Who are these verses about?

David gave all of Mephibosheth's possessions to Ziba because of what Ziba told him.

Verses 5-14

What happened to David?

When David got to Bahurim, Shimei cursed him, and he allowed it to continue in case it was from the Lord. He knew why these things were happening to him; he was experiencing the consequences of his sin.

Verses 15-23

What are the main events and people?

Absalom entered Jerusalem.

Hushai, David's friend, stayed with Absalom in Jerusalem so he could warn David.

Absalom asked Ahithophel for advice, which was for Absalom to take David's concubines for all Israel to see—more fulfillment of 2 Samuel 12:10-12.

2 SAMUEL 17

How does this chapter continue from the previous one?

These events were happening in Jerusalem while David fled.

Verses 1-14

Ahithophel gave good advice to Absalom, but the Lord thwarted / defeated it when Absalom asked advice of Hushai. The Lord's plan was calamity / harm for Absalom, not David.

Verses 15-22

David was warned in Bahurim. The warning originated with Hushai, who told Zadok and Abiathar, who then sent the warning by Jonahtan and Ahimaaz to David.

David and all the people crossed the Jordan by dawn.

Verses 23

Ahithophel was so devastated by his counsel not being taken that he strangled / hanged himself. That was a sad end to a wise man's life.

Verses 24-26

Absalom put Amasa in Joab's place as leader of Israel's army because Joab was with David.

Amasa is on “David’s Family Tree.” He was David’s nephew, the son of David’s sister Abigail (2 Samuel 17:25; 1 Chronicles 2:13-17).

Verses 27-29

Israel camped in Gilead while David had gone to Mahanaim, the place where Ish-bosheth had lived.

David and his people were cared for by:

Shobi, an Ammonite

Machir from Lo-debar, where Mephibosheth had lived

Barzillai, a Gileadite

These men were from places where people had experienced David’s justice and righteousness.

At any relevant point in your discussion, give time for your group to talk about application.

2 SAMUEL 18

NOTE: You might spend a little more time discussing this chapter than the others.

How does this chapter continue? What are the main events and people?

Verses 1-5

David divided his forces into thirds with Joab over 1/3, Abishai over 1/3, and Ittai over 1/3. The people wanted David to stay at the city gate instead of going into battle with them. So, he gave orders to the three leaders to deal gently with Absalom.

Twenty thousand men who followed Absalom were killed by David’s servants.

Verses 6-15

The battle was fought in the forest of Ephraim and spread over the whole countryside.

When Absalom was caught in the tree and the opportunity to kill him had been missed by one of David’s men, Joab seized the opportunity and killed him.

How do the cross-references from Exodus and Deuteronomy relate to Absalom’s death?

Exodus 20:12 and Deuteronomy 21:18-23; 27:16, 20, 26

Absalom did not honor his father and mother, which could have prolonged his days if he had.

He was a rebellious son and by law could have been stoned. He would have been considered cursed, because he did not honor his father and mother, because he lay with his father’s wife, and did not keep all the law.

2 Samuel 17:14 says the Lord planned calamity / harm for Absalom.

God's sovereignty is emphasized in the record of the forest of Ephraim devouring men that day as the Lord again fought for David. Relate this to how He also works all things for the good of those who love Him today.

Joab, usually a wise man, was wise in his actions for the nation, but directly went against David's order. He was also wise in instructions about reporting to David.

Lead your discussion back to 2 Samuel 18:16-33.

What happened after Absalom was killed?

Joab stopped the battle; he restrained David's men.
Absalom was buried in a pit.

From verse 18, it appears that Absalom had no sons to carry on his name.
2 Samuel 14:27 says he had three sons, so evidently all three had died.

Joab sent word to David about the outcome of the battle and his son's death.

When David learned of Absalom's death, he was deeply hurt. He would rather have died that day instead of his son. But Absalom died because of his own sins.

You might ask your group about relevant application from this chapter.

2 SAMUEL 19

What are the main events in this chapter, and who are the main characters?

Verses 1-10

As David mourned for Absalom, Joab wisely confronted him about not caring for his followers and nation. Joab's relationship with David is an interesting one. He gave some good advice to David, confronted him regarding a few things, but then didn't give good advice or confront in the situation with Uriah. But his loyalty to David was commendable.

The nation had fled because of fear, and they were quarreling throughout the tribes. David was preoccupied with his grief until Joab rebuked him.

Verses 11-15

David took control and sent word to Judah to bring him back. He also promised that Amasa would be commander of the army in Joab's place if Amasa turned Judah back to David.

David returned to cross the Jordan, and Judah was at Gilgal.

Verses 16-23

Shimei confessed his sin of cursing David.

Abishai, Joab's brother, suggested Shimei be killed for cursing the Lord's anointed. David granted grace so that Shimei didn't die that day.

Verses 24-30

Mephibosheth came to David and told of Ziba's lie when he had left Jerusalem. Even when the land was divided between Ziba and Mephibosheth, the latter was content that David had returned.

Verses 31-39

David wanted to bring with him Barzillai who had helped him in Mahanaim. He was just and gracious to those who were loyal to him.

Verses 40-43

David proceeded to Gilgal with all Judah and half the people of Israel.

At the end of this chapter and into the next there was division in Israel.

2 SAMUEL 20

What happened in this chapter?

Verses 1-2

At Gilgal a worthless fellow named Sheba called all of the men of Israel to follow him instead of David. Only the men of Judah were with David from Gilgal to Jerusalem.

Verses 3-13

When David returned to Jerusalem, he put away the concubines Absalom had defiled, and he called for Amasa to gather the army of Judah. David was ready to fight, defend, his place as king of Israel.

Because Amasa delayed, David sent Abishai after Sheba, and Joab's men went after him. Joab killed Amasa in Gibeon like he had killed Abner.

Verses 14-26

Joab found Sheba at Abel Beth-maacah and besieged the city. A wise woman appealed to him for the safety of the city, offering him the head of Sheba, and Joab used wisdom in listening to her.

So Joab continued to be over the whole army of Israel after all of the rebellion ceased.

How do the cross-references about other women in Israel's history add to this?

Judges 4:9, 17-21 and 5:6-7

Deborah, a judge of Israel, went with Barak to lead the army of Israel against Sisera, commander of the king of Canaan's army. After this battle, Sisera fled and sought refuge in the tent of Jael. She deceived him and drove a tent peg in his temple, which killed him.

Judges 9:52-54

Also during the period of the judges, Abimelech, king of the city of Shechem, attacked the city of Thebez. A woman threw a millstone from the tower and crushed his skull.

1 Samuel 25:14-35

Another wise woman was Nabal’s wife Abigail. After her foolish husband refused to give provisions to David and his men, Abigail rode out to David, asked forgiveness, and delivered food and drink to him, which kept David from bloodshed and avenging himself.

To end this discussion, you might ask what your group learned from reading Psalms 3 and 31.

CONSEQUENCES OF DAVID’S SIN	
2 Samuel 12:10-12	2 Samuel 13–20
Sword never depart from your house	13 Amnon, Tamar, Absalom hate and murder 14 Absalom returned saw David after 5 years
Evil rise up against you from own household	15 Absalom stole Israel’s hearts David fled Jerusalem
companion lie with your wives in broad daylight before all Israel	16 Absalom, David’s concubines 17 Absalom pursued David 18 Joab killed Absalom David wept for him 19 David returned to Judah 20 Israel followed Sheba David returned to Jerusalem

2 SAMUEL/ 1 CHRONICLES
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 6

Lesson emphasis:

- 2 Samuel 21–24

REVIEW

Tell your group to look at their At a Glance chart and ask what 2 Samuel is about and its main segments.

David, the King of Israel

- 1–5 His ascent to the throne
- 5–10 His kingdom established
- 11–12 His sin
- 13–20 Consequences of his sin
- 21–24 David’s battles and last words

NOTE: Many Bible scholars view these last chapters of 2 Samuel as an appendix or addendum to the chronological account of chapters 1–20. But from the text, there is evidence that some of the six events in 21–24 took place after 2 Samuel 1–20.

2 SAMUEL 21

What is a possible theme for this chapter? How is it divided?

Gibeonites hanged Saul’s sons; David fought Philistines

- Verses 1-14 David and the covenant with Gibeonites
- Verses 15-22 David and wars with the Philistine giants

Verses 1-14

Ask what your group learned from these verses and the related cross-references. Tell them to look at the chart with “Books of the Bible” and “Rulers of Israel” in the lesson as a visual aid.

For three years, a famine from the Lord was on the land of Israel.

As David sought the Lord for the reason, He answered that it was because Saul broke the covenant with the Gibeonites by killing many of them.

Joshua 9–10

When the Lord led Israel into their land under Joshua’s leadership, they were to destroy all the nations living in Canaan. The Lord used Israel as His instrument of judgment on the evil of those nations.

Joshua was a warrior leader who loved and followed the Lord with his whole heart like David. But he did not ask the Lord for guidance regarding the Gibeonites.

Israel was deceived by Gibeon into making a covenant with them. Joshua and Israel had destroyed Jericho and Ai; therefore, Gibeon sought peace from them. But the Lord had told Israel not to make covenants with the people of the land of Canaan. The Gibeonites made it look like they were from outside Canaan, so Israel made the covenant.

When Saul was king, about 350 years after the covenant was made, he had killed some of the Gibeonites in his misguided zeal for Israel.

In David's time, the famine in the land was because that covenant was broken. The text does not say why the famine was during David's reign and not Saul's, nor does it say when the famine was during David's reign except that it lasted for three years.

According to the chart, the famine was about 400 years after the covenant had been made with the Gibeonites.

Give your group time to discuss what they learned about the Lord from this. How serious is a covenant to Him?

David also recognized the importance of covenant in that he did not let the Gibeonites kill Mephibosheth, Jonathan's son, because of the covenant between Jonathan and himself.

Seven of Saul's sons, or grandsons, were killed by the Gibeonites. That was justice based on Numbers 35:33-34.

Rizpah, Saul's concubine, cared for the bodies of the slain men until David heard what she had done. He then had the bodies buried along with Saul's and Jonathan's bones in the grave of Kish, Saul's father.

God was moved by prayer for the land. After atonement was made for breaking the covenant, the Lord evidently lifted the famine on the land because David and others made petition to Him in prayer.

Verses 15-22

What are these verses about? Compare this with 1 Chronicles 20:4-8.

There were four different wars with the Philistines when there was a giant killed by David or his men. These giants were from Gath, apparently the same family as Goliath.

In verses 15-17 the fact that David became weary in battle and needed help from his nephew Abishai, one of his mighty men, could be an indication that David was an older man at this point. It might have been David's last battle.

David's men did not want the lamp of Israel extinguished so they swore to him that he should not go with them to battle anymore.

2 SAMUEL 22

Ask what your group noted on their At a Glance chart as a possible theme for this chapter.

David's song to the Lord

David wrote this psalm after the Lord had delivered him from all his enemies. This chapter is the entire Psalm 18 with little variation. It's a psalm of praise and thanksgiving.

What are some divisions in this chapter? What do they teach about the Lord?

Verses 1-4 God is rock, deliverer
Verses 5-7 David cried to the Lord
Verses 8-20 God rescued
Verses 21-28 Rewarded according to righteousness
Verses 29-49 My lamp, the Lord
Verses 50-51 Give thanks

David said the Lord was his

Rock
Fortress
Deliverer
Savior
Support

He is the one to whom we can run when we are terrified, depressed, confused, in conflict, or feeling alone.

David called on God, who is worthy to be praised, and the Lord rescued him because He delighted in him. Even though David had sinned greatly against the Lord, he was forgiven and he knew it. Verses 21-25 tell of the wonder of forgiveness.

David knew God's way is blameless, and His Word is tested. He is a shield to all who take refuge in Him. There is the shield of salvation, which makes great and gives power for standing in battle.

Verses 44-51 praise the Lord for how He delivered David with regard to ruling His nation Israel and over the nations he conquered. It seems from the last verse that this was written after the promise God made to David about his kingdom lasting forever, 2 Samuel 7.

Ask your group how they can use this psalm in their worship of the Lord for His great salvation, deliverance, rescuing, strengthening. God Most High lives.

2 SAMUEL 23

What is a possible theme for this chapter, and how is it divided?

David's last words; his mighty men

Verses 1-7 are David's last words.

Verses 8-39 list his mighty men.

Verses 1-7

What do these verses teach about the Lord, David, and covenant?

David called himself the sweet psalmist of Israel who spoke by the Spirit of the Lord as he wrote the psalms. God's Word was on his tongue.

David's rule was righteous and in the fear of God.

He referred to the everlasting covenant made by the Lord with him and his house. He knew that if the Lord said it, it was secure.

Ask your group if they know the Lord like David did. Do they want to? How does that happen?

Verses 8-39

What are the divisions of the mighty men listed here and in 1 Chronicles 11:10-47?

Three were the most elite group. Josheb-basshebeth was the first, then Eleazar and Shammah. Their brave deeds in verses 8-17 were against the Philistines.

Abishai, David's nephew, and Benaiah were two mentioned along with the three and the thirty, verses 18-23.

Then in verses 24-39 is listed the group known as the thirty. Uriah the Hittite was one.

Ask your group how they think this compares with Revelation 22:12. How does it relate to them?

2 SAMUEL 24

Ask what they noted as a possible theme for this chapter.

David numbered Israel, bought threshing floor for altar

What happened and why? Compare this with 1 Chronicles 21.

The Lord was angry with Israel, and David numbered the people.

The Lord's anger burned against Israel causing David to number the people. Chronicles says Satan moved David to number them. This shows the Lord God is sovereign even over Satan.

David was responsible and accountable for his sin of numbering the people of Israel. Joab tried to talk him out of it, but could not.

The text does not say why the Lord was angry with Israel.

It took almost 10 months for Joab to oversee the task of numbering Israel. Two tribes, Levi and Benjamin, were not numbered because David's order was abhorrent to Joab.

NOTE: As in some texts in 1 Samuel and 1 Chronicles, the numbers are not the same when comparing 2 Samuel 24:9 and 1 Chronicles 21:5.

After David's heart troubled him, he confessed his sin and sought the Lord. He realized he had acted foolishly. Previously when David had sinned, he had no choice regarding the consequences, but this time the Lord gave him a choice. He wisely chose to fall into the Lord's hand and not man's.

Verse 17 shows David's great concern for his people as the shepherd of Israel.

David bought the threshing floor of Araunah, Ornan in Chronicles, as the place to build his altar to the Lord. The three days of pestilence had killed 70,000 in Israel and the plague needed to be stopped. David was terrified by the sword of the angel and could not leave to go to the tabernacle at Gibeon to hear from the Lord. He offered his sacrifice there on the altar at the threshing floor.

Then again, when things were taken care of according to the Lord's instructions, He was moved by prayer for the land . . . His land and His people.

As you close your discussion, you might let your group share what they learned from this study that meant the most to them.

GOD

Rock
Fortress
Deliverer
Most High
Lives
Executes vengeance
Lovingkindness
Anger
Moved by prayer

DAVID

Heart for God
Not perfect
Confessed sin
Sought God
Descendants forever
Spoke by Spirit
Psalms

Keep Covenant

**2 SAMUEL/ 1 CHRONICLES
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 7**

Lesson emphasis:

- 1 Chronicles 22–27

REVIEW

Ask your group what they remember as the main points of 2 Samuel. Tell them to look at their At a Glance chart as a visual aid.

David, the King of Israel

- 1–5 His ascent to the throne
- 5–10 His kingdom established
- 11–12 His sin
- 13–20 Consequences of his sin
- 21–24 David’s battles and last words

What are 2 Samuel 24 and 1 Chronicles 21 about?

David sinned in numbering the people of Israel.
70,000 were killed as the consequence of that sin.
The Lord stopped the “plague” at the threshing floor of Araunah or Ornan, which David bought and where he made an altar and offering.

1 CHRONICLES 22

Tell your group to look at 1 Chronicles at a Glance to see what they noted as a possible theme for this chapter.

David charged Solomon to build God’s house

Verses 1-5

How does verse 1 relate to 1 Chronicles 21:28-30?

God’s house was to be built at the threshing floor of Ornan.

What are verses 2-5 about?

David prepared materials and workers for building God’s house.

The foreigners / resident aliens living in Israel were stonecutters.
David made preparations.

Iron, bronze, timbers of cedar logs

Since the house was to be exceedingly magnificent, famous, and glorious throughout all lands, there had to be sufficient materials and planning for it.

Solomon was young and inexperienced, so his father made the preparations for him.

At appropriate points during this discussion, you might ask about application to a Christian's life now, such as preparing for a great task, helping someone young and inexperienced, etc.

There are two short lists at the end of this lesson's guide, which you might use as visual aids for this discussion.

Verses 6-16

Who was addressed in these verses, and who spoke? Or you could ask how David's intentions showed his heart in these verses.

David charged Solomon to build God's house, as told to him by the Lord's word. Father told son about his great desire to build the house for the One he loved more than anything.

David couldn't build the Lord's house because he was a man of war and blood—the king who had conquered Israel's enemies, the one God used to bring peace and rest to Israel. But the Lord had another chosen one to build the house for His name.

The Lord has different areas of serving Him for different people. David had a responsibility, a job, from the Lord to defeat the enemies. And Solomon had a peacetime responsibility—equally important.

David also restated in verse 10 some of the promise the Lord had made regarding Solomon. He was the chosen son of David through whom the "Davidic covenant" would pass.

How do verses 11-13 compare with Joshua 1:6-9? Discuss word studies.

The emphasis of verses 12-13 are on the charge David made to Solomon to keep God's Word as the basis for prospering in the task before him.

David told Solomon he would prosper if he kept the Lord's commands.
The Lord told Joshua that's how he would have success.

"Prosperous" is "a verb meaning to prosper, to succeed, to be victorious. It is used of causing something to turn out successfully . . . of prospering a person."¹

¹ Warren Baker and Eugene E. Carpenter, *The Complete Word Study Dictionary: Old Testament* (Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 2003), 951, H6743.

“Success” is “a verb meaning to act with insight, to be prudent . . . denoted God’s actions to Solomon if he observed what the Lord required and walked in His ways. If this pattern were followed, the Lord would prosper Solomon.”²

David told Solomon to be strong and courageous. Don’t fear or be dismayed. It’s what the Lord told Joshua when he was about to lead Israel into the promised land.

“Strong” means “to strengthen . . . to overpower.”³

“Courageous” means “to be strong, determined, bold . . . conquer.”⁴

Ask how this applies to the lives of the people in your group. Give time for them to discuss application.

Relate verses 14-16 to verses 2-4.

More materials for building the exceedingly magnificent house

100,000 talents of gold could be approximately 750 tons of gold, a vast amount.

The silver was approximately 37,500 tons.

Restated is that the bronze and iron were beyond weight.

Verse 16 says there was no limit to all of those.

David had also prepared for Solomon’s task skilled workmen of all kinds.

Verses 17-19

Who are these verses about?

David commanded the leaders of Israel to help Solomon build the house.

They had rest on all sides from wars.

They could focus their entire energy on one task together.

David charged them to set their hearts / minds and souls / hearts to seek the Lord, to complete the task, to bring the Lord’s ark into the house.

How do the New Testament cross-references compare with David’s life?

1 John 1:9; 5:13-15

David’s sin was forgiven, and his prayers were answered.

² Warren Baker and Eugene E. Carpenter, *The Complete Word Study Dictionary: Old Testament* (Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 2003), 1138, H7919.

³ Warren Baker and Eugene E. Carpenter, *The Complete Word Study Dictionary: Old Testament* (Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 2003), 326, H2388.

⁴ Warren Baker and Eugene E. Carpenter, *The Complete Word Study Dictionary: Old Testament* (Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 2003), 71, H553.

Romans 8:31-34

God was with him, as He was to be with Solomon.
No one can condemn those who Jesus intercedes for.

1 CHRONICLES 23

What is a possible theme for this chapter?

Number and responsibilities of Levites

Verses 1-6

How does this chapter begin?

It was when David was old, and he had made Solomon the king of Israel.

David gathered all the leaders, priests, and Levites of Israel.

These verses are an overview of the numbering and responsibilities of the Levites.

At this point, if no one mentions it, ask about the last recorded sin David committed and confessed, and for which he faced consequences.

1 Chronicles and 2 Samuel 24 tell of David's sin of numbering the people. It was sin because evidently he did it from a proud heart, but definitely not at God's leading. Whereas, in this chapter the numbering of the Levites is from the Lord.

There were 38,000 from thirty years old and upward.

Their responsibilities were:

- 24,000 to oversee the work of the Lord's house
- 6,000 officers and judges
- 4,000 gatekeepers
- 4,000 for praising the Lord with instruments

Chapters 23–26 give more details of these divisions of the Levites.

Tell your group to look at Levi's and Aaron's family trees at the end of the lesson as visual aids.

Verses 7-23

Who and what are these verses about?

These verses detail the Levites' divisions according to their forefathers, Levi's 3 sons:
Gershon, Kohath, and Merari.

- Verses 7-11, Gershon
- Verses 12-20, Kohath
- Verses 21-23, Merari

According to Numbers 4, what had been the duties of the Levites? And why did those duties change?

Carrying the portable tabernacle and the holy things inside it

The house was to be God’s permanent dwelling; therefore, there would be no need to transport any of it from one place to another. When Jerusalem became the permanent place for God to dwell, the Levites were no longer needed to carry anything portable.

But they were needed for the areas of service mentioned in this chapter.

Verses 13-14, Moses and Aaron were descendants of Levi’s son Kohath.

Although Moses’ sons are part of the Levites, Aaron and his sons were set apart by the Lord to be the priests to Him, to minister to Him and bless His name forever.

So Aaron’s descendants are different from the rest of the Levities; they were set apart specifically to serve the Lord in the tabernacle and in the house.

Verses 24-32

What information do these verses give?

This is about those 24,000 Levites who were to be doing the work of serving the priests in the Lord’s house.

Ask about the relationship of the Levites to Aaron’s sons, the priests.

Verses 28 and 32 say the Levites were to assist Aaron’s sons, the priests, in their work of serving in God’s house.

The Levites had charge of the “tent,” the interior of the house, the holy place and Aaron’s sons.

They had different responsibilities from the Lord in ministering before Him in His magnificent house.

Relate this to all believers not having the same ministry today.

1 CHRONICLES 24

Ask what your group noted on their At a Glance chart as a possible theme for this chapter.

Divisions of Aaron’s sons, priests

NOTE: If you are short on time when your group discusses this chapter, then limit how much detail they talk about. Also, don’t let them get so detailed in their discussion that they miss the beauty and magnificence of what David had done in preparation.

Primarily they need to continue their discussion of God's pattern for organization given to David. God had a specific plan for worship and service in His house.

Verses 1-19

Who is this about? Discuss relevant cross-references.

These verses are about Aaron's sons, the priests, being divided for ministry or duty. David, Zadok (a descendant of Aaron's son Eleazar), and Ahimelech (a descendant of Aaron's son Ithamar) set them apart.

Leviticus 10:1-7

Aaron's two sons, Eleazar's and Ithamar's brothers, were killed by the Lord for offering strange fire before Him. They didn't approach God the way they were supposed to.

Verse 4 gives the number of chief men or family heads as 24.

16 of Eleazar

8 from Ithamar

They were divided for duties by casting lots, and served in rotations of either two weeks a year or for a month every two years.

Joshua 7:13-14; and 18:6-10; and 1 Samuel 10:19-21

Lots were used to determine God's will for things such as selection of a person or family. God showed by lot the land for Israel's tribes as their specific inheritance.

Verses 20-31

Who are these verses about?

These verses go back to the Levites who also cast lots, evidently for division to assist Aaron's sons, the priests.

1 CHRONICLES 25

What is a possible theme for this chapter?

Sons of Asaph, Heman and Jeduthun—music for God's house

What are the main points of this chapter?

4,000 of the Levites were set apart specifically for praising the Lord, 23:5.

The sons of Asaph, Heman, and Jeduthun prophesied with musical instruments, which David had made—more of his preparation. According to verse 7, there were 288 also trained in singing.

As those three men each directed his sons, they were all under David's direction.
Again, lots were cast for the divisions' rotation.

Who wrote many of the Psalms?

Asaph, as well as David

What place should and does music have in worship?
Give your group some time to discuss application.

1 CHRONICLES 26

Ask what they noted on their At a Glance chart as a theme for this chapter.

Gatekeepers and treasuries of God's house

How is the chapter divided? What are the main points?

Verses 1-19 4,000 gatekeepers
20-28 those in charge of the treasuries, dedicated gifts for the Lord's house
29-32 6,000 officers and judges

How are the gatekeepers described?

Mighty men of valor / great ability, valiant men to guard the temple gates against enemies
and/ or those unclean who might try to enter.

Where did the treasures come from? Who dedicated them?

Spoils of war and gifts from Samuel, Saul, Abner, Joab, and David

Compare this with the gold, silver, bronze, and iron in chapter 22.

What were the outside / external duties of verses 29-32?

Those in the service of the king, but not in direct connection with the temple

The Levites were to be spread out in Israel so they could teach the Law.
It seems that those described in these verses were like district managers for both the east
and west sides of the Jordan.

1 CHRONICLES 27

Ask what your group noted on their At a Glance chart as the theme for this chapter.

Divisions of those who served king of Israel

What are the divisions in this chapter? How are they different from the previous chapters?

Chapters 24–26 are the divisions and duties of Levites and priests.

Chapter 27 gives the divisions of civil government leaders:

Verses 1-15 heads, commanders, officers of divisions who served the king
12 divisions of 24,000 each
Served in 12-month rotations

16-24 chief officers over the twelve tribes of Israel

25-31 those in charge of storehouses / treasuries, agricultural workers,
vineyards, olive and sycamore trees, livestock

32-34 the king's counselors, scribe, friend, army commander

This chapter gives a glimpse into the life of a king.

To end this discussion, ask your group what they learned about David, the Lord, worship, etc. from this lesson. Ask if they are serving the Lord with all their gifts.

THE HOUSE

Exceedingly magnificent

Famous and glorious throughout all lands

To the name of the Lord

Those involved

David and Solomon

Leaders and people of Israel

Levites

Priests

**2 SAMUEL/ 1 CHRONICLES
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 8**

Lesson emphasis:

- 1 Chronicles 28–29
- 1 Kings 1:1–2:12

REVIEW

To begin your discussion, you might ask what your group remembers as the main events of David's life up to this point. Also, ask what 2 Samuel is about.

Tell them to look at the 1 Chronicles at a Glance chart and ask about chapters 22–27. Then ask what they noted as possible themes for chapters 28 and 29.

1 Chronicles 28—David before Israel gave God's plan to Solomon

1 Chronicles 29—Contributions for the house, blessing, prayer; David died, Solomon reigned

How do the books of 2 Samuel and 1 Chronicles differ?

As a visual aid for this discussion, you can list the main things your group says about David and the Lord.

1 CHRONICLES 28

Ask your group what this chapter is about.

Verses 1-8

Who was assembled? What was said?

In Jerusalem, David assembled all the leaders / officials and others of Israel and reminded them of his heart's desire to build a house for the Lord.

He reminded them that the Lord had chosen Judah as the leader, and from Judah He had chosen from his father's house David as the king, and from David's sons God had chosen Solomon to build the house for Him.

Verses 9-10

Who did David speak to and what did he say?

David spoke to Solomon before the assembly and challenged him to know the Lord and serve Him with a whole heart and a willing mind.

How does Joshua 1:6-9 relate to 1 Chronicles 28?

Again David called his son to be courageous in leading the people of God just as Joshua had been instructed by God. Solomon faced a huge task and he was inexperienced and young. Just as Joshua, Solomon could face his task with confidence because of who had given him the instruction, God the Lord. He could be strong and act because God would not fail or forsake him.

NOTE: Chronicles was written for the benefit of those returning from exile in Babylon. That remnant of Israel had to rebuild the temple, because the one Solomon built was destroyed in 586 B.C. The temple was the center of their life and worship. Haggai was a prophet when the second temple was being built.

How do the cross-references in Haggai parallel David's instruction to Solomon?

Haggai 1:1-4, 7-8; 2:1-4

The people were building their own houses, and God said to them through the prophet Haggai to consider their ways, get busy, act, rebuild the temple. Take courage, work (act), I am with you.

God had said some of the same things to Solomon—build, act, take courage, I will never fail you or forsake you.

Verses 11-21

What are these verses about?

David gave Solomon the Lord's plan for building His house. Those plans had come from the Lord as He instructed David to write them. God gave David the plan or pattern for everything in the temple from the courts even to the utensils.

NOTE: In the description of the rooms and things for the house or temple, some might notice that verses 15-16 say there are plural lampstands and tables of showbread, not one like in the tabernacle.

God Himself would be with Solomon to accomplish the great task.

The priests, Levites, skilled workers, officials, and the people would be at his command to do their part in the building.

You might ask your group if they learned anything from this chapter about leadership or parenting.

David instructed his son to know and do what God commanded. He wanted Solomon to know God and serve Him with a whole heart and mind. He instructed Solomon not to fear or be dismayed.

David knew God wouldn't fail Solomon because He hadn't failed David.

Ask your group what they learned about God in this chapter. Let them share anything from this whole course about Him and/ or His relationship with David.

1 CHRONICLES 29

What is this chapter about? Discuss relevant application.

Tell your group to look at the chart in Day Three of the lesson as a visual aid.

Verses 1-9

How does this chapter begin? When was it?

King David reminded the entire assembly that Solomon was young and inexperienced and the work was great. David had made great provision for the house. He himself provided gold, silver, etc., for the temple.

Others of the leaders and people also gave willingly with a whole heart, rejoicing.

Ask what your group learned about a heart for worship.

You might ask if giving causes them to rejoice.

Verses 10-19

Who are these verses about? What is this?

David blessed the Lord God of Israel.
His is the greatness, power, glory, victory, and majesty.

Both riches and honor come from Him. He makes great and strengthens people.

David recognized God as the provider of all the people had, the source who enabled them to offer with such abundance.

God who tries / tests the hearts knew the integrity of David's heart in his giving. David prayed for the people, for the Lord to direct their hearts to Him.

He asked God to give Solomon a perfect / whole heart to keep all His commands and to build the temple / palace. The heart of worship!

What do the cross-references teach about the heart?

Psalm 24:3-4; 37:30-31; Matthew 5:8

One with a pure heart can go before the Lord, can see God.

God's people are kept from slipping in sin if they have His law on their hearts.

Ecclesiastes 10:2

The heart directs a man. Therefore, if God's law is foremost in one's heart, then it directs his life—the way he thinks, what he does, how he does it.

Hebrews 4:12

The heart has thoughts and intentions, and the Word judges those.

Proverbs 4:23

Protect, guard, watch over / keep your heart. What is in the heart comes out in one's life.

Verses 20-25

How does 1 Chronicles end?

The whole assembly bowed in worship.

The next day Solomon was made king a second time.

1 Chronicles 23:1 seems to be the first time David made Solomon king.

1 KINGS 1:1–2:12

What are these two chapters about?

Tell your group to look at “David’s Family Tree” and the chart for Day Five as visual aids.

This gives an overview of events in David’s family just prior to his death.

Verses 1-4

Abishag the Shunammite was brought to King David to serve as his nurse and keep him warm.

Verses 5-48

David’s son Adonijah exalted himself to be king when he knew his father was nearing death. Haggith was one of David’s wives, and Adonijah was his oldest surviving son.

NOTE: Some in your group might remember that in 2 Samuel 13–18 Absalom, who was David’s oldest son at that time, had tried to usurp his father’s throne.

Evidently, Adonijah thought that since he was the oldest, he should be the new king of Israel. Some of the major characters of David’s kingdom followed Adonijah—Joab and Abiathar.

Joab, David’s commander of the army

Abiathar the priest came to the cave of Adullam running from Saul. His father had been killed by Saul for helping David. Abiathar escaped and David took him in and protected him.

1 Chronicles 22:6-13; 23:1-2; 28:4-8

David had gathered the leaders of Israel along with the priests and Levites and had said in their hearing that Solomon was to be king and was to build the Lord's house. They knew what God said and who was to be king after David.

Adonijah means “my Lord is Yahweh.”¹ However, he exalted himself and did not do as God the Lord said. His ambition was to be king, not serve the Lord. He was a proud, disobedient, disrespectful man.

Nathan the prophet along with Bathsheba, Solomon's mother, told David of the coup. David immediately made Solomon king in his place.

David had his three loyal men get Solomon onto his mule, ride him through the city, anoint him, blow the trumpet, and declare him King Solomon. Afterward he sat on David's throne in his place. This seems to parallel 1 Chronicles 29, but gives more detail.

David blessed the Lord because with his own eyes he was able to see that God granted one to sit on his throne. The Lord always keeps His promises.

Verses 49-53

Solomon exhibited discretion and wisdom in how he dealt with Adonijah. If he were found to be worthy, then he would suffer no punishment from his brother as king. If he were found to be wicked, then he would die.

1 Kings 2:1-12

David gave a last charge to Solomon, but it was not about building the temple. It had to do with people. Adonijah was not the only one “on trial.”

Joab and Shimei were also to be held accountable by Solomon for what they had done.

Solomon was to continue the kindness of David toward the family of Barzillai who had helped David when he fled from Absalom.

In verses 3-4, he gave another charge to his son the new king—keep the Lord's commands. He and his sons should walk before the Lord in truth with all their hearts. He wanted them to follow in his footsteps—seeking the Lord in all.

David, the man after God's own heart, died after a 40-year reign at old age, full of days, riches, and honor.

¹ R. L. Thomas, *New American Standard Hebrew-Aramaic and Greek Dictionaries*: Updated Edition, H138 (Anaheim: Foundation Publications, Inc., 1998, 1981).

How is David remembered?

Many know about David's sins, but God said he was a man after His own heart who did all His will. He was the king to whom all after him would be compared—he was the example for all to follow.

You might end this course by asking what lessons your group learned from David about finishing well.