



DAVID: A MAN AFTER
GOD'S OWN HEART

TIMELINE OF ISRAEL

(BCE: BEFORE COMMON ERA)



17TH CENTURY BC
 ABRAHAM, ISAAC, JACOB - PATRIARCHS OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE AND BEARERS OF A BELIEF IN ONE GOD - SETTLE IN THE LAND OF ISRAEL

17TH CENTURY BC
 FAMINE FORCES ISRAELITES TO MIGRATE TO EGYPT + ISRAELITES ARE ENSLAVED

12TH + 13TH CENTURIES BC
 EXODUS FROM EGYPT: MOSES LEADS ISRAELITES FROM EGYPT, FOLLOWED BY 40 YEARS OF WANDERING IN THE DESERT. ISRAELITES SETTLE IN THE LAND OF ISRAEL

1150-1025 BC
 PERIOD OF JUDGES BEGINS + SAMUEL IS THE FINAL JUDGE

1020 BC
 JEWISH MONARCHY BEGINS WITH SAUL

1000-962 BC
 KING DAVID REIGNS

930 BC
 DIVIDED KINGDOM (JUDAH & ISRAEL)

722-720 BC
 ISRAEL DEFEATED AND TEN TRIBES ARE EXILED

586 BC
 JUDAH CONQUERED BY BABYLON AND REMAINING TWO TRIBES EXILED



A JOURNEY TO ISRAEL'S KINGSHIP

Israel went through various organizational and ruling structures after Moses delivered them from slavery. Upon Moses' death, Joshua acted as a military leader as they conquered Canaan. After that, Israel was ruled by "judges". The judges were a form of military and spiritual leaders who were to help restore the people to God and have victory over their enemies. They overlapped in their time frames of judging and leading over specific regions.

The book of 1 Samuel, starts with Samuel's story: growing up in the temple and becoming the final judge of Israel. By the time Samuel began to age, the people had rejected his rule and asked for a king.

"They said to him, 'You are old, and your sons do not follow your ways; now appoint a king to lead us, such as all the other nations have.'" 1 Samuel 8:5

God warned the people that a king was not the solution, but the people would not hear it and demanded a king, so God permitted it. Samuel anointed a young man named Saul to be the king of Israel and the people accepted him. While Saul was following God at the beginning of his reign, he started disobeying the commands God had given. During that time, Saul is told:

"But now your kingdom will not endure; the Lord has sought out a man after his own heart and appointed him ruler of his people, because you have not kept the Lord's command." 1 Samuel 13:14

This man is David and that is where his story begins.





WHO IS DAVID?

David succeeds Saul as the second king of Israel; however his journey to kingship is not an easy one. David does not start out as royalty, instead he begins as the youngest son of Jesse who is the grandson of Ruth and Boaz (read the book of Ruth for more information). David tends to sheep and is a gifted musician, not exactly who you expect to be the next king, but God chooses him.

1 & 2 Samuel tells the story of David as he goes from shepherd, to aide at the court of Saul, to warrior, and finally king.





WEEK ONE

"David's Anointing: A Man who is Anointed"

1 Samuel 16

WEEK TWO

"David + Goliath: A Man with Faith"

1 Samuel 17 | Psalm 9

WEEK THREE

"David + Jonathan: A Man with Friendship"

1 Samuel 20

WEEK FOUR

"David Spares Saul: A Man with Mercy"

1 Samuel 26 | Psalm 57

WEEK FIVE

*"David Hears of Saul's Death:
A Man Who Laments"*

2 Samuel 1

WEEK SIX

*"God's Promise + David's Prayer:
A Man Following God"*

2 Samuel 7

WEEK SEVEN

"David + Bathsheba: A Man who Sins"

2 Samuel 11

WEEK EIGHT

*"Nathan Rebukes David:
A Man who Repents"*

2 Samuel 12





A Man who is Anointed



1 Samuel 16

CONTEXT

Earlier in 1 Samuel, Saul disobeys a command by God and Samuel rebukes him. Later, Saul continues to disobey God. God speaks to Samuel concerning his disobedience. Samuel is deeply distressed and goes to Saul. Saul denies his disobedience until Samuel points it out. Saul tries to make amends, but at this point God has rejected Saul as king of Israel. Years before Saul was king, Israel rejected the LORD as their king because they wanted a human king instead. God gave them a human king after their own desire (Saul) but God was still on the throne, crowning who He pleases. This chapter begins with God sending Samuel to anoint the next king, David.

1 SAMUEL 16

Verse 1–
Jesse was the grandson of Ruth and Boaz.

Verse 2–
A heifer is a young female cow that has now borne a calf.

The Lord said to Samuel, “How long will you mourn for Saul, since I have rejected him as king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and be on your way; I am sending you to

Jesse of Bethlehem. I have chosen one of his sons to be king.”

2 But Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears about it, he will kill me.”

The Lord said, “Take a heifer with you and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.’”

3 Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what to do. You are to anoint for me the one I indicate.”

4 Samuel did what the Lord said. When he arrived at Bethlehem, the elders of the town trembled when they met him. They asked, “Do you come in peace?”

5 Samuel replied, “Yes, in peace; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord. Consecrate yourselves and come to the sacrifice with me.” Then he consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

Verse 7—

This was the same mistake Israel made about their first king. Saul looked the part, but he didn't have the heart a king of God's people should have.

Verse 11—

This shows the low regard David had among his own family. His father didn't even mention him by name and he wasn't invited to the sacrificial feast.

Verse 11—

David keeping the sheep shows that the family of Jesse was not wealthy. If they were wealthy, a servant would be keeping the sheep.

Verse 12—

Anointing did not mean David was now king. Rather, this was an indication that God had set him apart for kingship. David is thought to be between 10-15 years of age.

Verse 14—

Actively, God never initiates or performs evil. Passively, God may withdraw the hand of His protection and therefore allow evil to come, without being the source of the evil itself.

6 When they arrived, Samuel saw Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed stands here before the Lord."

7 But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."

8 Then Jesse called Abinadab and had him pass in front of Samuel. But Samuel said, "The Lord has not chosen this one either." 9 Jesse then had Shammah pass by, but Samuel said, "Nor has the Lord chosen this one." 10 Jesse had seven of his sons pass before Samuel, but Samuel said to him, "The Lord has not chosen these." 11 So he asked Jesse, "Are these all the sons you have?"

"There is still the youngest," Jesse answered. "He is tending the sheep."

Samuel said, "Send for him; we will not sit down until he arrives."

12 So he sent for him and had him brought in. He was glowing with health and had a fine appearance and handsome features.

Then the Lord said, "Rise and anoint him; this is the one."

13 So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon David. Samuel then went to Ramah.

David in Saul's Service

14 Now the Spirit of the Lord had departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the Lord tormented him. 15 Saul's attendants said to him, "See, an evil spirit from God is tormenting you."

16 Let our lord command his servants here to search for someone who can play the lyre. He will play when the evil spirit from God comes on you, and you will feel better."

17 So Saul said to his attendants, "Find someone who plays well and bring him to me."

18 One of the servants answered, "I have seen a son of Jesse of Bethlehem who knows how to play the lyre. He is a brave man and a warrior. He speaks well and is a fine-looking man. And the Lord is with him."

Verse 19—

David did not have to manipulate his way into the palace or into Saul's favor. He allowed the LORD to open the doors for him.

Verse 21—

A soldier's life often depended on the courage and faithfulness of his armor bearer as he was one of the chief assistants of the king in battle.

19 Then Saul sent messengers to Jesse and said, "Send me your son David, who is with the sheep." 20 So Jesse took a donkey loaded with bread, a skin of wine and a young goat and sent them with his son David to Saul.

21 David came to Saul and entered his service. Saul liked him very much, and David became one of his armor-bearers. 22 Then Saul sent word to Jesse, saying, "Allow David to remain in my service, for I am pleased with him."

23 Whenever the spirit from God came on Saul, David would take up his lyre and play. Then relief would come to Saul; he would feel better, and the evil spirit would leave him.

OBSERVATION & INTERPRETATION

Where was David when Samuel arrived? Why do you think this is important?

Think about all we know about David, his job, his family, and his character: How would his society perceive him at this point in time?

Why do you think God tells Samuel to ignore physical appearance?

APPLICATION

God anointed someone who did not seem "qualified" in the classical sense of what it seemed to be a king. Do you ever feel as though you are not qualified to be used by God? Why?

Thinking about what we know about David, how can this encourage you to be a person after God's own heart?

LIVING ROOTED

This week take inventory of how you think of yourself. Take some time to reflect on whether you care more about how the world views you versus how God views you. Share this with a friend.



David + Goliath: A Man with Faith



CONTEXT

As 1 Samuel 17 starts, we see the Philistines gathering to go to war with Israel. They camped on opposite sides of a valley ready to fight. Several years have passed since David was first anointed and it seems like he has been tending the sheep and playing music for Saul in the meantime. David is now probably a teenager and not old enough to serve in the Israelite army yet. He is sent on a simple errand from his father to help provide his brother's supplies, but he steps out in faith and does more than that.

As you read through this passage, look for themes of faith. David had a lot of faith to be able to trust God and stand against Goliath.

1 SAMUEL 17

Verse 4—

Most estimates would put Goliath between 6'9" and 9'9", which would be much taller than the average man at that time (5', 5'5").

Verse 7—

Goliath's armor and weapons together probably weighed somewhere between 150 and 200 pounds.

Now the Philistines gathered their forces for war and assembled at Sokoh in Judah. [...] 4 A champion named Goliath, who was from Gath, came out of the Philistine camp. His height was six cubits and a span. 5 He had a bronze helmet on his head and wore a coat of scale armor of bronze weighing five thousand shekels; 6 on his legs he wore bronze greaves, and a bronze javelin was slung on his back. 7 His spear shaft was like a weaver's rod, and its iron point weighed six hundred shekels. His shield bearer went ahead of him. 8 Goliath stood and shouted to the ranks of Israel, "Why do you come out and line up for battle? Am I not a Philistine, and are you not the servants of Saul? Choose a man and have him come down to me. 9 If he is able to fight and kill me, we will become your subjects; but if I overcome him and kill him, you will become our subjects and serve us." 10 Then the Philistine said, "This day I defy the armies of Israel! Give me a man and let us fight each other." 11 On hearing the Philistine's words, Saul and all the Israelites were dismayed and terrified.

12 Now David was the son of an Ephrathite named Jesse, who was from Bethlehem in Judah. Jesse had eight sons, and in Saul's time he was very old. 13 Jesse's three oldest sons had followed Saul to the war: The firstborn was Eliab; the second, Abinadab; and the third, Shammah.

14 David was the youngest. The three oldest followed Saul, 15 but David went back and forth from Saul to tend his father's sheep at Bethlehem.

16 For forty days the Philistine came forward every morning and evening and took his stand. 17 Now Jesse said to his son David, "Take this ephah of roasted grain and these ten loaves of bread for your brothers and hurry to their camp. 18 Take along these ten cheeses to the commander of their unit. See how your brothers are and bring back some assurance from them. 19 They are with Saul and all the men of Israel in the Valley of Elah, fighting against the Philistines."

Verse 20—
This small detail shows the care David had for his sheep

20 Early in the morning David left the flock in the care of a shepherd, loaded up and set out, as Jesse had directed. He reached the camp as the army was going out to its battle positions, shouting the war cry. [...] 25 Now the Israelites had been saying, "Do you see how this man keeps coming out? He comes out to defy Israel. The king will give great wealth to the man who kills him. He will also give him his daughter in marriage and will exempt his family from taxes in Israel." [...]

Verse 28—
David was treated as an insignificant, worthless person who had no right to speak up, especially with such bold words.

28 When Eliab, David's oldest brother, heard him speaking with the men, he burned with anger at him and asked, "Why have you come down here? And with whom did you leave those few sheep in the wilderness? I know how conceited you are and how wicked your heart is; you came down only to watch the battle."

Verse 29—
David was just publicly rebuked by his brother, but he was concerned with the honor of God above all else.

29 "Now what have I done?" said David. "Can't I even speak?" [...]

31 What David said was overheard and reported to Saul, and Saul sent for him.

32 David said to Saul, "Let no one lose heart on account of this Philistine; your servant will go and fight him."

Verse 33—
Again, we see this theme of others looking only on the outward appearance rather than what is inside.

33 Saul replied, "You are not able to go out against this Philistine and fight him; you are only a young man, and he has been a warrior from his youth."

34 But David said to Saul, “Your servant has been keeping his father’s sheep. When a lion or a bear came and carried off a sheep from the flock, 35 I went after it, struck it and rescued the sheep from its mouth. When it turned on me, I seized it by its hair, struck it and killed it. 36 Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, because he has defied the armies of the living God. 37 The Lord who rescued me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will rescue me from the hand of this Philistine.”

Saul said to David, “Go, and the Lord be with you.”

38 Then Saul dressed David in his own tunic. He put a coat of armor on him and a bronze helmet on his head. 39 David fastened on his sword over the tunic and tried walking around, because he was not used to them.

“I cannot go in these,” he said to Saul, “because I am not used to them.” So he took them off. 40 Then he took his staff in his hand, chose five smooth stones from the stream, put them in the pouch of his shepherd’s bag and, with his sling in his hand, approached the Philistine.

41 Meanwhile, the Philistine, with his shield bearer in front of him, kept coming closer to David. 42 He looked David over and saw that he was little more than a boy, glowing with health and handsome, and he despised him. 43 He said to David, “Am I a dog, that you come at me with sticks?” And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. 44 “Come here,” he said, “and I’ll give your flesh to the birds and the wild animals!”

45 David said to the Philistine, “You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. 46 This day the Lord will deliver you into my hands, and I’ll strike you down and cut off your head. This very day I will give the carcasses of the Philistine army to the birds and the wild animals, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel. 47 All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the Lord saves; for the battle is the Lord’s, and he will give all of you into our hands.”

Verse 38–

We see Saul relying on the physical to win the battle rather than God.

Verse 40–

David used the same tools he used as a shepherd. What God used before, He would use again.

Verse 45–

David was bold, but bold in God, not in himself. He knew the battle belonged to the LORD.

Verse 49—

Using a sling requires a lot of practice, but once dexterity is acquired, the sling is nearly as fatal as a musket or bow.

48 As the Philistine moved closer to attack him, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet him. 49 Reaching into his bag and taking out a stone, he slung it and struck the Philistine on the forehead. The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell facedown on the ground.

50 So David triumphed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone; without a sword in his hand he struck down the Philistine and killed him.

51 David ran and stood over him. He took hold of the Philistine's sword and drew it from the sheath. After he killed him, he cut off his head with the sword.

When the Philistines saw that their hero was dead, they turned and ran.

SAMUEL IN THE PSALMS

CONTEXT

The title of this psalm indicates that David wrote the psalm to a popularly known tune in his day. In this psalm, David celebrates the help and goodness of God with a big vision for the nations. Some associate the title with the phrase "The Death of the Son", and apply that title as the ancient Chaldee version does: "Concerning the death of the Champion who went out between the camps," referring to Goliath. Perhaps David wrote this psalm remembering the victory over Goliath from the vantage point of many years since that triumph.

PSALM 9

1 I will give thanks to you, Lord, with all my heart;
I will tell of all your wonderful deeds.

2 I will be glad and rejoice in you;
I will sing the praises of your name, O Most High.

3 My enemies turn back;
they stumble and perish before you.

4 For you have upheld my right and my cause,
sitting enthroned as the righteous judge.

5 You have rebuked the nations and destroyed the wicked;
you have blotted out their name for ever and ever.

6 Endless ruin has overtaken my enemies,
you have uprooted their cities;
even the memory of them has perished.

7 The Lord reigns forever;
he has established his throne for judgment.

8 He rules the world in righteousness
and judges the peoples with equity.

9 The Lord is a refuge for the oppressed,
a stronghold in times of trouble.

10 Those who know your name trust in you,
for you, Lord, have never forsaken those who seek you.

11 Sing the praises of the Lord, enthroned in Zion;
proclaim among the nations what he has done.

12 For he who avenges blood remembers;
he does not ignore the cries of the afflicted.

13 Lord, see how my enemies persecute me!
Have mercy and lift me up from the gates of death,

14 that I may declare your praises
in the gates of Daughter Zion,
and there rejoice in your salvation.

15 The nations have fallen into the pit they have dug;
their feet are caught in the net they have hidden.

16 The Lord is known by his acts of justice;
the wicked are ensnared by the work of their hands.

17 The wicked go down to the realm of the dead,
all the nations that forget God.

18 But God will never forget the needy;
the hope of the afflicted will never perish.

19 Arise, Lord, do not let mortals triumph;
let the nations be judged in your presence.

20 Strike them with terror, Lord;
let the nations know they are only mortal.

OBSERVATION & INTERPRETATION

What was David's attitude when approaching this battle? Why do you think he approached the situation in this way?

How did being a shepherd prepare David for this moment?

Why did David not use Saul's armor? What does this show us about David?

APPLICATION

David was not who the Israelites expected to win the battle. In the same way, Jesus was not who the Jews expected as Messiah. Do you feel like you ever disqualify people because they are not what you expect? Do you ever disqualify yourself? Why or why not?

David had a lot of faith to be able to go against Goliath. Do you feel like you have the type of faith to do what seems "impossible" for you, but is only possible through God? Why or why not?

God allowed David to use the same tools he used as a shepherd to kill Goliath. What does this tell you about how God can use experiences and things you've learned in your own life?

LIVING ROOTED

James mentions that "faith without works is dead" (James 2:17). So, we cannot just have faith and choose not to act, but we do need faith to act. Think about tasks that seem impossible to you. Maybe it's telling a friend about God or having faith in God when it seems difficult. Take those things to God and pray for faith in the situation. Take some time to reflect on God's faithfulness in the past and use it to build your trust in God's provision in your life right now.



David + Jonathan: A Man with Friendship



CONTEXT

We pick up on David's story several years after he killed Goliath. Since then, David has grown to be best friends with Saul's son, Jonathan. David also has proved to be a strong warrior and as a result, he was given a high position in the army. Eventually, the people started to grow more fond of David than Saul.

The story escalates as Saul becomes jealous of David to the point of throwing spears at him. Even then, God was with David and he kept having success in everything that he did. Even Saul's daughter fell in love with David and they got married. Seeing all of David's success and realizing God's favor on his life, Saul became afraid of him.

Saul then plots to kill David, but tells Jonathan about his plan. Jonathan warns David, but Saul again throws a spear at him. Therefore, David realizes he has to flee for his life. 1 Samuel 20 picks up right after David has fled.

- 1 SAMUEL 20** Then David fled from Naioth at Ramah and went to Jonathan and asked, "What have I done? What is my crime? How have I wronged your father, that he is trying to kill me?"
- 2 "Never!" Jonathan replied. "You are not going to die! Look, my father doesn't do anything, great or small, without letting me know. Why would he hide this from me? It isn't so!"
- 3 But David took an oath and said, "Your father knows very well that I have found favor in your eyes, and he has said to himself, 'Jonathan must not know this or he will be grieved.' Yet as surely as the Lord lives and as you live, there is only a step between me and death."
- 4 Jonathan said to David, "Whatever you want me to do, I'll do for you."
- 5 So David said, "Look, tomorrow is the New Moon feast, and I am supposed to dine with the king; but let me go and hide in the field until the evening of the day after tomorrow."

Verse 6—

This was an important feast held monthly for the high officials of state.

6 If your father misses me at all, tell him, ‘David earnestly asked my permission to hurry to Bethlehem, his hometown, because an annual sacrifice is being made there for his whole clan.’ 7 If he says, ‘Very well,’ then your servant is safe. But if he loses his temper, you can be sure that he is determined to harm me. 8 As for you, show kindness to your servant, for you have brought him into a covenant with you before the Lord. If I am guilty, then kill me yourself! Why hand me over to your father?”

9 “Never!” Jonathan said. “If I had the least inkling that my father was determined to harm you, wouldn’t I tell you?”

10 David asked, “Who will tell me if your father answers you harshly?”

11 “Come,” Jonathan said, “let’s go out into the field.” So they went there together.

12 Then Jonathan said to David, “I swear by the Lord, the God of Israel, that I will surely sound out my father by this time the day after tomorrow! If he is favorably disposed toward you, will I not send you word and let you know?

13 But if my father intends to harm you, may the Lord deal with Jonathan, be it ever so severely, if I do not let you know and send you away in peace. May the Lord be with you as he has been with my father. 14 But show me unfailing kindness like the Lord’s kindness as long as I live, so that I may not be killed, 15 and do not ever cut off your kindness from my family—not even when the Lord has cut off every one of David’s enemies from the face of the earth.”

16 So Jonathan made a covenant with the house of David, saying, “May the Lord call David’s enemies to account.” 17 And Jonathan had David reaffirm his oath out of love for him, because he loved him as he loved himself.

18 Then Jonathan said to David, “Tomorrow is the New Moon feast. You will be missed, because your seat will be empty. 19 The day after tomorrow, toward evening, go to the place where you hid when this trouble began, and wait by the stone Ezel. 20 I will shoot three arrows to the side of it, as though I were shooting at a target. 21 Then I will send a boy and say, ‘Go, find the arrows.’ If I say to him, ‘Look, the arrows are on this side of you; bring them here,’ then come, because, as surely as the Lord lives, you are safe; there is no danger.

Verse 14—

Jonathan would have been next in line to receive the throne after Saul. However, he knew that David would rule as king so is asking for kindness to him and his descendants. The willingness to yield his throne to David shows a deep love to God’s plan and for David.

Verse 14—

In those days when one royal house replaced another it was common for the new royal house to kill all the potential rulers from the old royal house.

Verse 26—
*Ceremonial
uncleanliness might
cause a person to
miss a feast such as
this but the
ceremonial
uncleanliness only
lasted a day.*

22 But if I say to the boy, ‘Look, the arrows are beyond you,’ then you must go, because the Lord has sent you away. 23 And about the matter you and I discussed—remember, the Lord is witness between you and me forever.”

24 So David hid in the field, and when the New Moon feast came, the king sat down to eat. 25 He sat in his customary place by the wall, opposite Jonathan, and Abner sat next to Saul, but David’s place was empty. 26 Saul said nothing that day, for he thought, “Something must have happened to David to make him ceremonially unclean—surely he is unclean.” 27 But the next day, the second day of the month, David’s place was empty again. Then Saul said to his son Jonathan, “Why hasn’t the son of Jesse come to the meal, either yesterday or today?”

28 Jonathan answered, “David earnestly asked me for permission to go to Bethlehem.

29 He said, ‘Let me go, because our family is observing a sacrifice in the town and my brother has ordered me to be there. If I have found favor in your eyes, let me get away to see my brothers.’ That is why he has not come to the king’s table.”

30 Saul’s anger flared up at Jonathan and he said to him, “You son of a perverse and rebellious woman! Don’t I know that you have sided with the son of Jesse to your own shame and to the shame of the mother who bore you? 31 As long as the son of Jesse lives on this earth, neither you nor your kingdom will be established. Now send someone to bring him to me, for he must die!”

32 “Why should he be put to death? What has he done?” Jonathan asked his father.

33 But Saul hurled his spear at him to kill him. Then Jonathan knew that his father intended to kill David. 34 Jonathan got up from the table in fierce anger; on that second day of the feast he did not eat, because he was grieved at his father’s shameful treatment of David.

35 In the morning Jonathan went out to the field for his meeting with David. He had a small boy with him, 36 and he said to the boy, “Run and find the arrows I shoot.” As the boy ran, he shot an arrow beyond him. 37 When the boy came to the place where Jonathan’s arrow had fallen, Jonathan called out after him, “Isn’t the arrow beyond you?”

38 Then he shouted, “Hurry! Go quickly! Don’t stop!” The boy picked up the arrow and returned to his master. 39 (The boy knew nothing about all this; only Jonathan and David knew.) 40 Then Jonathan gave his weapons to the boy and said, “Go, carry them back to town.”

Verse 41—
Note that bowing was a sign of expressing honor for another and kissing was a common form of affection shown between friends.

41 After the boy had gone, David got up from the south side of the stone and bowed down before Jonathan three times, with his face to the ground. Then they kissed each other and wept together—but David wept the most.

42 Jonathan said to David, “Go in peace, for we have sworn friendship with each other in the name of the Lord, saying, ‘The Lord is witness between you and me, and between your descendants and my descendants forever.’” Then David left, and Jonathan went back to the town.

OBSERVATION & INTERPRETATION

What was Jonathan risking by helping David? Why do you think he did it?

Thinking about past weeks’ studies, why was Saul so angry at David and why did he want to kill him?

Look back at verse 41-42 and the cultural context note: how is this a picture of genuine friendship?

APPLICATION

1 Samuel 20 shows a friendship so strong that Jonathan was willing to risk his life and give up the throne for David. Do you have friends like this? Are you a friend to others like this?

What are some practical ways you can show selfless love to people this week?

LIVING ROOTED

This week get lunch with someone in your core group. Get to know each other better and share your testimonies.



David Spares Saul: A Man with Mercy



CONTEXT

David is now officially on the run from Saul. He has gone to other kings to seek safety and is living in the wilderness. Every time Saul would hear of a location David had been, he would chase after him. People who were siding with David are also getting killed. Saul had 85 priests killed for not revealing David's location.

Even though David was running, he was not alone. David had a group commonly referred to as his "Mighty Men" who were loyal to David and accompanied him. They protected him and fought alongside him when the Philistines came to fight them.

In 1 Samuel 24, the cave David is hiding in is the one Saul chooses to use the bathroom. David sees Saul in his most vulnerable state and still refuses to kill him. Saul then admits regret in his actions and recognizes his sin, yet after a while goes back to pursuing David. 1 Samuel 26 picks up while David is still fleeing after the first time he encountered Saul. As you read this, look for themes of mercy.

1 SAMUEL 26 The Ziphites went to Saul at Gibeah and said, "Is not David hiding on the hill of Hakilah, which faces Jeshimon?"

Verse 1—
These people have already told Saul about David's whereabouts once before in 1 Samuel 23.

Verse 2—
This means Saul went back on his previous repentance shown in 1 Samuel 24, when David had the opportunity to kill Saul but did not take it.

Verse 5—
The perimeter of Israeli army camp was marked by the tracks of their wagons, and it was within the perimeter of the camp that Saul slept.

2 So Saul went down to the Desert of Ziph, with his three thousand select Israelite troops, to search there for David. 3 Saul made his camp beside the road on the hill of Hakilah facing Jeshimon, but David stayed in the wilderness. When he saw that Saul had followed him there, 4 he sent out scouts and learned that Saul had definitely arrived.

5 Then David set out and went to the place where Saul had camped. He saw where Saul and Abner son of Ner, the commander of the army, had lain down. Saul was lying inside the camp, with the army encamped around him.

6 David then asked Ahimelek the Hittite and Abishai son of Zeruiah, Joab's brother, "Who will go down into the camp with me to Saul?"
"I'll go with you," said Abishai.

7 So David and Abishai went to the army by night, and there was Saul, lying asleep inside the camp with his spear stuck in the ground near his head. Abner and the soldiers were lying around him.

8 Abishai said to David, "Today God has delivered your enemy into your hands. Now let me pin him to the ground with one thrust of the spear; I won't strike him twice."

9 But David said to Abishai, "Don't destroy him! Who can lay a hand on the Lord's anointed and be guiltless? 10 As surely as the Lord lives," he said, "the Lord himself will strike him, or his time will come and he will die, or he will go into battle and perish. 11 But the Lord forbid that I should lay a hand on the Lord's anointed. Now get the spear and water jug that are near his head, and let's go."

Verse 12—

David took the spear and the jug of water as evidence that he had the opportunity to kill Saul.

12 So David took the spear and water jug near Saul's head, and they left. No one saw or knew about it, nor did anyone wake up. They were all sleeping, because the Lord had put them into a deep sleep.

13 Then David crossed over to the other side and stood on top of the hill some distance away; there was a wide space between them. 14 He called out to the army and to Abner son of Ner, "Aren't you going to answer me, Abner?"

Abner replied, "Who are you who calls to the king?"

Verse 15—

David implied that he cared more for Saul's life than Abner did.

15 David said, "You're a man, aren't you? And who is like you in Israel? Why didn't you guard your lord the king? Someone came to destroy your lord the king.

16 What you have done is not good. As surely as the Lord lives, you and your men must die, because you did not guard your master, the Lord's anointed. Look around you. Where are the king's spear and water jug that were near his head?"

Verse 17—

David was still showing humility to Saul even after all the wrong Saul has done to him.

17 Saul recognized David's voice and said, "Is that your voice, David my son?"

David replied, "Yes it is, my lord the king." 18 And he added, "Why is my lord pursuing his servant? What have I done, and what wrong am I guilty of? 19 Now let my lord the king listen to his servant's words. If the Lord has incited you against me, then may he accept an offering. If, however, people have done it, may they be cursed before the Lord! They have driven me today from my share in the Lord's inheritance and have said, 'Go, serve other gods.' 20 Now do not let my blood fall to the ground far from the presence of the Lord. The king of Israel has come out to look for a flea—as one hunts a partridge in the mountains."

Verse 20—

This is referring to a practice used to hunt partridges. The people would chase the partridges until they were too tired and then knock them down with a club.

21 Then Saul said, "I have sinned. Come back, David my son. Because you considered my life precious today, I will not try to harm you again. Surely I have acted like a fool and have been terribly wrong."

Verse 23—

David refused to take the throne through murder. He would wait until it came to him God's way. David trusted that God would protect him when he did eventually come to reign over Israel.

22 "Here is the king's spear," David answered. "Let one of your young men come over and get it. 23 The Lord rewards everyone for their righteousness and faithfulness. The Lord delivered you into my hands today, but I would not lay a hand on the Lord's anointed. 24 As surely as I valued your life today, so may the Lord value my life and deliver me from all trouble."

25 Then Saul said to David, "May you be blessed, David my son; you will do great things and surely triumph."

So David went on his way, and Saul returned home.

SAMUEL IN THE PSALMS

CONTEXT

The title of this psalm notes that it is written to the choirmaster and titled "Do Not Destroy". This psalm tells of David when he fled from Saul into the cave. Charles Spurgeon noted: "There are four of these 'Destroy not' psalms, namely, the 57th, 58th, 59th, and 75th. In all of them there is a distinct declaration of the destruction of the wicked and the preservation of the righteous."

PSALM 57

Have mercy on me, my God, have mercy on me,
for in you I take refuge.
I will take refuge in the shadow of your wings
until the disaster has passed.

2 I cry out to God Most High,
to God, who vindicates me.

3 He sends from heaven and saves me,
rebuking those who hotly pursue me—
God sends forth his love and his faithfulness.

4 I am in the midst of lions;
I am forced to dwell among ravenous beasts—
men whose teeth are spears and arrows,
whose tongues are sharp swords.

5 Be exalted, O God, above the heavens;
let your glory be over all the earth.

6 They spread a net for my feet—
I was bowed down in distress.
They dug a pit in my path—
but they have fallen into it themselves.

7 My heart, O God, is steadfast,
my heart is steadfast;
I will sing and make music.

8 Awake, my soul!
Awake, harp and lyre!
I will awaken the dawn.

9 I will praise you, Lord, among the nations;
I will sing of you among the peoples.

10 For great is your love, reaching to the heavens;
your faithfulness reaches to the skies.

11 Be exalted, O God, above the heavens;
let your glory be over all the earth.

OBSERVATION & INTERPRETATION

What is the repeating pattern of Saul and Davids interactions thus far?

Why do you think this pattern is repeated?

Why does David not kill Saul?

APPLICATION

The pattern we see from Saul of repenting and then going back on his word is one we see throughout scripture with the nation of Israel. How does this play out in our own lives?

Think about the mercy that David provided to Saul. How can we be people of mercy when people do not live in the manner we want them to live? Is there a practical application to this?

LIVING ROOTED

This week spend some time reflecting on the ways in which God has shown mercy in your life. Take time to pray and praise God for his mercy. Next, reflect if there is anyone in your life that you have not be merciful towards and pray that through.



Saul's Death: A Man who Laments



CONTEXT

In this section of the study we will begin in 2 Samuel. Years have passed since David spared Saul's life. David has briefly lived in Philistine territory. Saul, on the other hand, is still deeply distressed. David is going from land to land, making allies and going to battle. At the very end of 1 Samuel, Saul dies along with his sons during a battle against the Philistines. At this point David has not been informed of Saul's death and we see him informed of this as 2 Samuel begins. As you read this, look for themes of lament.

2 SAMUEL 1

*Verse 1 –
The Amalekites
previously stole the
families and
possessions of David
and his men.*

After the death of Saul, David returned from striking down the Amalekites and stayed in Ziklag two days. 2 On the third day a man arrived from Saul's camp with his clothes torn and dust on his head. When he came to David, he fell to the ground to pay him honor.

3 "Where have you come from?" David asked him.

He answered, "I have escaped from the Israelite camp."

4 "What happened?" David asked. "Tell me."

"The men fled from the battle," he replied. "Many of them fell and died. And Saul and his son Jonathan are dead."

5 Then David said to the young man who brought him the report, "How do you know that Saul and his son Jonathan are dead?"

Verse 6 –
Some wonder if this Amalekite told the truth.

6 “I happened to be on Mount Gilboa,” the young man said, “and there was Saul, leaning on his spear, with the chariots and their drivers in hot pursuit. 7 When he turned around and saw me, he called out to me, and I said, ‘What can I do?’

8 “He asked me, ‘Who are you?’

“‘An Amalekite,’ I answered.

9 “Then he said to me, ‘Stand here by me and kill me! I’m in the throes of death, but I’m still alive.’

10 “So I stood beside him and killed him, because I knew that after he had fallen he could not survive. And I took the crown that was on his head and the band on his arm and have brought them here to my lord.”

11 Then David and all the men with him took hold of their clothes and tore them. 12 They mourned and wept and fasted till evening for Saul and his son Jonathan, and for the army of the Lord and for the nation of Israel, because they had fallen by the sword.

13 David said to the young man who brought him the report, “Where are you from?”

“I am the son of a foreigner, an Amalekite,” he answered.

14 David asked him, “Why weren’t you afraid to lift your hand to destroy the Lord’s anointed?”

15 Then David called one of his men and said, “Go, strike him down!” So he struck him down, and he died. 16 For David had said to him, “Your blood be on your own head. Your own mouth testified against you when you said, ‘I killed the Lord’s anointed.’”

DAVID’S LAMENT FOR SAUL + JONATHAN

17 David took up this lament concerning Saul and his son Jonathan, 18 and he ordered that the people of Judah be taught this lament of the bow (it is written in the Book of Jashar):

Verse 10 –
1 Samuel 31 says that Saul committed suicide after his armor bearer refused to kill him. This different form of events is likely a fabrication because the Amalekite is trying to win David’s favor.

Verse 11–
The Amalekite may have assumed that David would be delighted that his enemy and rival was dead.

Verse 18–
This book is also mentioned in Joshua. It is thought to be a collection of Hebrew poetry.

Verse 19—

All this is a powerful testimony of how David kept his heart free from bitterness, even when he was greatly wronged and sinned against.

19 "A gazelle lies slain on your heights, Israel.

How the mighty have fallen!

20 "Tell it not in Gath, proclaim it not in the streets of Ashkelon, lest the daughters of the Philistines be glad, lest the daughters of the uncircumcised rejoice.

21 "Mountains of Gilboa, may you have neither dew nor rain, may no showers fall on your terraced fields. For there the shield of the mighty was despised, the shield of Saul—no longer rubbed with oil.

22 "From the blood of the slain, from the flesh of the mighty, the bow of Jonathan did not turn back, the sword of Saul did not return unsatisfied.

23 Saul and Jonathan—

in life they were loved and admired, and in death they were not parted.

They were swifter than eagles, they were stronger than lions.

24 "Daughters of Israel, weep for Saul, who clothed you in scarlet and finery, who adorned your garments with ornaments of gold.

25 "How the mighty have fallen in battle! Jonathan lies slain on your heights.

26 I grieve for you, Jonathan my brother; you were very dear to me.

Your love for me was wonderful, more wonderful than that of women.

27 "How the mighty have fallen! The weapons of war have perished!"

Verse 26—

In our Western context, we may see romantic relationships, particularly marriage, as the most intimate form of relationships, but in the ancient world a sibling was the closest relationship a person could have. So David seeing Jonathan as a brother shows how deep their bond was.

OBSERVATION &
INTERPRETATION

What is lament? What purpose does it serve?

In this passage, what does lament look like individually and as a community?

How did David invite others into his lament?

APPLICATION

Have you ever taken time to lament before God or within community? What are some ways you could do that?

What are the things in your personal life, your community, or the world that you feel need to be lamented? Do you feel like you could lament within community?

LIVING ROOTED

Lament is a passionate expression of grief, sorrow, or mourning. Is there anything in your life, your community, or the world that you feel like needs to be lamented? Take some time this week to bring your lament to God in your own words. If you are struggling with the words to say, pray Psalm 6, 42, or 130.



God's Promises + David's Prayer: A Man Following God



CONTEXT

David is now settled in his palace, but he notices that while he is living in comfort, the Ark of the Covenant is being housed in a tent. The Ark was the ornate, gold-plated wooden chest that the Israelites built while they were wandering in the desert after being freed from Egypt. Inside the Ark were the 10 Commandments, written on stone by God Himself on Mount Sinai. At the start of this chapter, the Ark is still in the tent that was built in the desert, and this troubles David greatly. What follows is David's action plan and God's blessing upon David.

2 SAMUEL 7

Verse 1 –
Cedar wood was especially valued. This meant that David lived in an expensive, beautiful home.

Verse 7 –
David's motives here are pure, but God never asked David to build a temple. Although a temple for the Ark is good, God knows that Solomon, David's son is better suited to this project and he has other work for David to do while he is king.

After the king was settled in his palace and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, 2 he said to Nathan the prophet, "Here I am, living in a house of cedar, while the ark of God remains in a tent."

3 Nathan replied to the king, "Whatever you have in mind, go ahead and do it, for the Lord is with you."

4 But that night the word of the Lord came to Nathan, saying:

5 "Go and tell my servant David, 'This is what the Lord says: Are you the one to build me a house to dwell in? 6 I have not dwelt in a house from the day I brought the Israelites up out of Egypt to this day. I have been moving from place to place with a tent as my dwelling. 7 Wherever I have moved with all the Israelites, did I ever say to any of their rulers whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?"'"

Verse 8 –

Nathan's response to David was presumptuous. He answered according to human judgment and common sense, rather than hearing a word from the LORD.

Verse 10–

God promised David that He would build him a house in the sense of establishing a dynasty for the house of David. This was an enduring legacy for David long after his death.

Verses 12+13–

This section refers to Solomon, the next King of Israel. After God grants Solomon great wisdom, he is the one who builds the temple. Later in life, Solomon turns away from God's decrees, indulging in the things of this world but God still uses Solomon to glorify His name.

Verse 15–

*The Hebrew word for love here is **יְסֻר**. Some commentators think this word, which means loving kindness or mercy, is referring to his blessing in kingship and God rejecting him as king. Others see it as God showing Saul's lineage will not continue, unlike David's. Either way, this is not referring to an unconditional love we receive from God.*

Verse 19–

David's humble reception of this gift is shown by the repetition of the phrase "Your servant" ten times in this prayer.

8 “Now then, tell my servant David, ‘This is what the Lord Almighty says: I took you from the pasture, from tending the flock, and appointed you ruler over my people Israel.

9 I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have cut off all your enemies from before you. Now I will make your name great, like the names of the greatest men on earth. 10 And I will provide a place for my people Israel and will plant them so that they can have a home of their own and no longer be disturbed. Wicked people will not oppress them anymore, as they did at the beginning 11 and have done ever since the time I appointed leaders over my people Israel. I will also give you rest from all your enemies.

“The Lord declares to you that the Lord himself will establish a house for you: 12 When your days are over and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, your own flesh and blood, and I will establish his kingdom. 13 He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. 14 I will be his father, and he will be my son. When he does wrong, I will punish him with a rod wielded by men, with floggings inflicted by human hands. 15 But my love will never be taken away from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. 16 Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever.”

17 Nathan reported to David all the words of this entire revelation.

David's Prayer

18 Then King David went in and sat before the Lord, and he said:

“Who am I, Sovereign Lord, and what is my family, that you have brought me this far?

19 And as if this were not enough in your sight, Sovereign Lord, you have also spoken about the future of the house of your servant—and this decree, Sovereign Lord, is for a mere human!

20 “What more can David say to you? For you know your servant, Sovereign Lord. 21 For the sake of your word and according to your will, you have done this great thing and made it known to your servant.

22 “How great you are, Sovereign Lord! There is no one like you, and there is no God but you, as we have heard with our own ears. 23 And who is like your people Israel—the one nation on earth that God went out to redeem as a people for himself, and to make a name for himself, and to perform great and awesome wonders by driving out nations and their gods from before your people, whom you redeemed from Egypt? 24 You have established your people Israel as your very own forever, and you, Lord, have become their God.

25 “And now, Lord God, keep forever the promise you have made concerning your servant and his house. Do as you promised, 26 so that your name will be great forever. Then people will say, ‘The Lord Almighty is God over Israel!’ And the house of your servant David will be established in your sight.

27 “Lord Almighty, God of Israel, you have revealed this to your servant, saying, ‘I will build a house for you.’ So your servant has found courage to pray this prayer to you.

28 Sovereign Lord, you are God! Your covenant is trustworthy, and you have promised these good things to your servant. 29 Now be pleased to bless the house of your servant, that it may continue forever in your sight; for you, Sovereign Lord, have spoken, and with your blessing the house of your servant will be blessed forever.”

OBSERVATION &
INTERPRETATION

Read verses 12-13 again. How can you see a Messianic prophecy (prophecy which relates to Jesus coming as the Messiah or Savior) here? How does Jesus fulfill this prophecy?

What was David's response to God's blessing over his life?

APPLICATION

David responds to God's blessing through worship and prayer. How do you often respond in times of God's blessing in your life?

Do you have any plans that you need to offer up to the Lord? Is there anything in your life that is good (like David's plan to build the temple) that you need to have an open-handed attitude about?

LIVING ROOTED

This week spend some time praying about your future: academically, professionally, relationally, etc. Pray for God's will over your life in each of the areas and that you give over your plans to God. Journal about anything that you may be holding on to too closely and not letting God in the picture.



David + Bathsheba: A Man who Sinned



2 Samuel II

CONTEXT

David has continued battling the Philistines and the Ammonites. He is still victorious over all Israel's enemies and has been leading the battle. As part of the king's role, he would normally go to battle with the army. However, we see that David decided to remain behind in Jerusalem at the beginning of 1 Samuel 11. This decision and David's inappropriate view of women and marriage lead to his sin.

2 SAMUEL 11

Verse 1 –

The winter was not conducive to war, so everyone would wait until the spring.

Verse 3–

Bathsheba came from a notable family. She was from the upper classes. Her father was Eliam, one of David's Mighty Men and her grandfather was Ahithophel – one of David's chief counselors.

Verse 3–

In the expression "he took her, and she came to him", here is no intimation whatever that David brought Bathsheba into his palace through craft or violence.

In the spring, at the time when kings go off to war, David sent Joab out with the king's men and the whole Israelite army. They destroyed the Ammonites and besieged Rabbah. But David remained in Jerusalem.

2 One evening David got up from his bed and walked around on the roof of the palace. From the roof he saw a woman bathing. The woman was very beautiful, 3 and David sent someone to find out about her. The man said, "She is Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam and the wife of Uriah the Hittite." 4 Then David sent messengers to get her. She came to him, and he slept with her. (Now she was purifying herself from her monthly uncleanness.) Then she went back home. 5 The woman conceived and sent word to David, saying, "I am pregnant."

6 So David sent this word to Joab: "Send me Uriah the Hittite." And Joab sent him to David.

Verse 8—

David was trying to trap Uriah, so Uriah would think the baby was his own.

7 When Uriah came to him, David asked him how Joab was, how the soldiers were and how the war was going. 8 Then David said to Uriah, “Go down to your house and wash your feet.” So Uriah left the palace, and a gift from the king was sent after him. 9 But Uriah slept at the entrance to the palace with all his master’s servants and did not go down to his house.

10 David was told, “Uriah did not go home.” So he asked Uriah, “Haven’t you just come from a military campaign? Why didn’t you go home?”

Verse 11—

This shows that Uriah had a passion for the glory of God, even though he was a Hittite and not a native Jew.

11 Uriah said to David, “The ark and Israel and Judah are staying in tents, and my commander Joab and my lord’s men are camped in the open country. How could I go to my house to eat and drink and make love to my wife? As surely as you live, I will not do such a thing!”

12 Then David said to him, “Stay here one more day, and tomorrow I will send you back.” So Uriah remained in Jerusalem that day and the next. 13 At David’s invitation, he ate and drank with him, and David made him drunk. But in the evening Uriah went out to sleep on his mat among his master’s servants; he did not go home.

Verse 13—

Uriah proved to be a man of integrity, whose first loyalty was to the king’s interests rather than to his own pleasure.

14 In the morning David wrote a letter to Joab and sent it with Uriah. 15 In it he wrote, “Put Uriah out in front where the fighting is fiercest. Then withdraw from him so he will be struck down and die.”

Verse 14—

David trusted the integrity of Uriah so much that he made him the unwitting messenger of his own death sentence.

16 So while Joab had the city under siege, he put Uriah at a place where he knew the strongest defenders were. 17 When the men of the city came out and fought against Joab, some of the men in David’s army fell; moreover, Uriah the Hittite died.

18 Joab sent David a full account of the battle. 19 He instructed the messenger: “When you have finished giving the king this account of the battle, 20 the king’s anger may flare up, and he may ask you, ‘Why did you get so close to the city to fight? Didn’t you know they would shoot arrows from the wall? 21 Who killed Abimelek son of Jerub-Besheth? Didn’t a woman drop an upper millstone on him from the wall, so that he died in Thebez? Why did you get so close to the wall?’ If he asks you this, then say to him, ‘Moreover, your servant Uriah the Hittite is dead.’”

Verse 21—

In 1 Chronicles 11, Uriah is listed as one of David’s Mighty Men, some of the closest men to him and the ones who helped him expand his kingship. David did not have some random soldier killed but one who fought alongside him.

22 The messenger set out, and when he arrived he told David everything Joab had sent him to say. 23 The messenger said to David, “The men overpowered us and came out against us in the open, but we drove them back to the entrance of the city gate.

24 Then the archers shot arrows at your servants from the wall, and some of the king’s men died. Moreover, your servant Uriah the Hittite is dead.”

25 David told the messenger, “Say this to Joab: ‘Don’t let this upset you; the sword devours one as well as another. Press the attack against the city and destroy it.’ Say this to encourage Joab.”

26 When Uriah’s wife heard that her husband was dead, she mourned for him. 27 After the time of mourning was over, David had her brought to his house, and she became his wife and bore him a son. But the thing David had done displeased the Lord.

Verse 26—
This is the first mention of God in this chapter.

OBSERVATION & INTERPRETATION

When David saw Bathsheba on the roof, what should he have done?

How did David cover up his original sin with more sin?

Where did Uriah’s loyalty lie?

APPLICATION

When you are tempted to sin, what guardrails could you put in place to prevent that?

If David had confessed his sin, Uriah probably would not have died. Do you find it difficult to confess sin to God? What about confessing to others?

LIVING ROOTED

Understanding that sin never starts with a simple action, but rather the heart, spend some time reflecting on the last 24 hours. What thoughts have consumed your mind? Are there sinful actions that are often precluded by thoughts which are not honoring to the Lord? Next, offer up your thought life up to the Lord. Finally read 2 Corinthians 10:5 and practice addressing those nagging, sinful, or temptation-filled thoughts with scripture each time they come up in the next week.



Nathan Rebukes David: A Man who Repents



CONTEXT

This chapter immediately follows last week's reading regarding David, Bathsheba, and Uriah. David has not yet grasped the weight of his choice to engage in both adultery and murder until Nathan comes to him. As we read in week six, we know that David considers Nathan a trustworthy friend, so the story that Nathan tells here is well received, even when Nathan discovers the truth behind the story.

2 SAMUEL 12

Verse 1—
God mercifully kept speaking to David even when David didn't listen.

Verse 2—
Lambs were common pets at this time. Who knew?

Verse 5—
David commanded a death sentence for the hypothetical case brought by Nathan even though it wasn't a capital crime.

The Lord sent Nathan to David. When he came to him, he said, "There were two men in a certain town, one rich and the other poor. 2 The rich man had a very large number of sheep and cattle, 3 but the poor man had nothing except one little ewe lamb he had bought. He raised it, and it grew up with him and his children. It shared his food, drank from his cup and even slept in his arms. It was like a daughter to him. 4 "Now a traveler came to the rich man, but the rich man refrained from taking one of his own sheep or cattle to prepare a meal for the traveler who had come to him. Instead, he took the ewe lamb that belonged to the poor man and prepared it for the one who had come to him."

5 David burned with anger against the man and said to Nathan, "As surely as the Lord lives, the man who did this must die! 6 He must pay for that lamb four times over, because he did such a thing and had no pity."

7 Then Nathan said to David, "You are the man! This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: 'I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you from the hand of Saul.

Verse 11—

Sadly, this is exactly what happens in 2 Samuel 16:22 by the hand of Absalom, David's son. Note, God does not advocate for Absalom's behavior, but he does know it will happen.

Verse 13—

He placed the blame squarely on his own shoulders. He did not minimize his offense.

Verse 13—

God's forgiveness was immediate although David still needs to live with the consequences of his actions.

8 I gave your master's house to you, and your master's wives into your arms. I gave you all Israel and Judah. And if all this had been too little, I would have given you even more. 9 Why did you despise the word of the Lord by doing what is evil in his eyes? You struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and took his wife to be your own. You killed him with the sword of the Ammonites. 10 Now, therefore, the sword will never depart from your house, because you despised me and took the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your own.'

11 "This is what the Lord says: 'Out of your own household I am going to bring calamity on you. Before your very eyes I will take your wives and give them to one who is close to you, and he will sleep with your wives in broad daylight. 12 You did it in secret, but I will do this thing in broad daylight before all Israel.'"

13 Then David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the Lord."

Nathan replied, "The Lord has taken away your sin. You are not going to die."

OBSERVATION & INTERPRETATION

Does David's reaction to Nathan's rebuke surprise you? Why or why not?

Why do you think David didn't realize that Nathan was referring to him in the story at first?

David's response to Nathan's rebuke is "*I have sinned against the Lord.*" Why do you think his response is so brief? What does his response tell you about his heart?

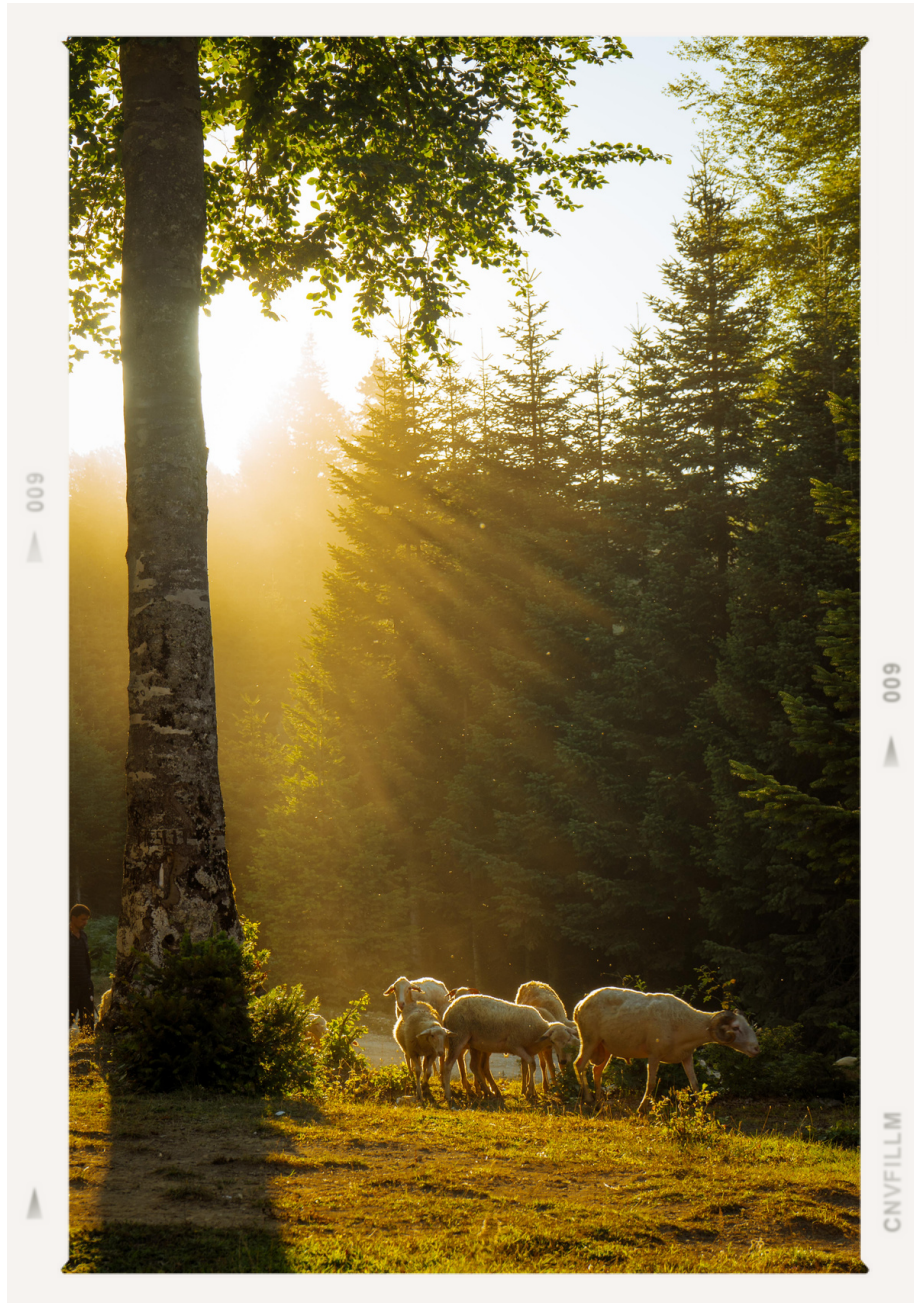
APPLICATION

What is your natural way of reacting when someone lovingly points out sin in your own life? Why do you think that is?

1 John 1:9 says "*If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.*" Have you incorporated repentance into your spiritual life? How might you add repentance into your weekly rhythms?

LIVING ROOTED

Commit to taking time this week thinking through the topic of repentance. First, spend time in silence thinking over the last week, running through the events like a movie in your mind. Then, take some time to confess the things that are not honoring to God, either out loud or written out in your journal. Finally, take some time to thank God for His grace and ask for His strength to make decisions which are honoring to Him.



*"Have mercy on me, my God, have
mercy on me, for in you I take refuge.
I will take refuge in the shadow of your
wing until the disaster has passed."*

Psalm 57:1