



HOUSE OF DAVID

THE ORIGINAL STORY
2 SAMUEL

TERM 2

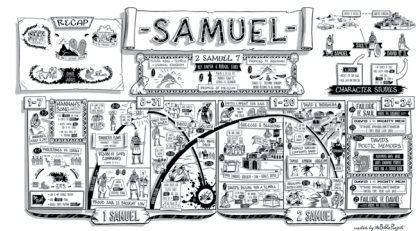
rockypc SERIES COMPANION 2025

*growing
disciples*
sacrifice. serve. speak.

*growing
disciples*
sacrifice. serve. speak



The books of 1 & 2 Samuel are really one book. We're diving in halfway through the story as we pick it up in 2 Samuel. You will find it helpful to read or listen to 1 Samuel to catch you up. You could also check out a helpful summary by the Bible Project [here](#). We are going to read some *Character Cards* to help us recap who the main players are in 1 Samuel. But your group can add to the cards as you read 2 Samuel, so that you can keep track of what the characters are doing. You can also follow where all the action's happening on your group's map/s.



The books of Samuel come after Israel has been rescued from Egypt and entered the Promised Land. They have been led by Moses, Joshua and a succession of judges. But the period of the judges ends with chaos, depravity and hopelessness, summed up by the refrain 'In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as they saw fit' (Judges 21v25).

1 & 2 Samuel follow the stories of Israel's first 2 kings. Israel reject God as king and want a human dynasty like the nations around them. God gives them what they ask for, but warns that kings will either pillage their people or lead them to obey him. In the crescendo of the story, God promises to establish a son of David on an eternal throne in blessing. As both kings ultimately fail, we're left longing for this forever king.

AUTHOR, DATE, GENRE

The author of 1 & 2 Samuel is unknown. They are named after Israel's last judge, Samuel. But he dies in 1 Samuel 25v1, so he isn't the author. Instead, he's an original source. The events of 1 & 2 Samuel occur around 1020-970 BC. But they have been compiled for later generations of Israel (eg see 1 Samuel 9v9). In fact, they are probably part of a broader section of the Bible from Joshua to 2 Kings, meaning that the final compilation was after the exile of Judah to Babylon. Those who had experienced the exile needed to understand their history in light of God's promises and actions. By this time, God's kings had rejected him, as had the whole of Israel. Yet, the promise of an enduring Davidic king remained. How would God restore blessing to Israel?

The genre of these books is *preached history*. They are real, reliable, historical events. But they are not a history textbook. 1 & 2 Samuel are relating the history with a theological purpose.

1 & 2 Samuel are to be read in the broader story of the people of Israel. For example, the text doesn't always tell us whether a character's actions are right or wrong. Just because they are recorded in the Scriptures does not mean God approves or disapproves. Rather, we're meant to reflect on Israel's stories (eg how Hannah's story of a being a favoured, yet barren wife who experiences a miraculous pregnancy mirrors the stories of other key women like Sarah and Rachel), and we're meant to reflect on the laws God gave Israel — for example, David knew God's laws, 'You shall not commit murder' and 'You shall not commit adultery' Exodus 20v13-14. Yet, he slept with Bathsheba and murdered her husband.

SHAME AND HONOUR

To our modern ears, many events in 1 & 2 Samuel seem barbaric. It will help us to remember the Biblical context and that many of the characters' actions are just as heinous to God (eg Amnon's rape of his sister, cf Leviticus 18).

A further help to us is the paradigm of *shame and honour*. In the Israelite culture of the Ancient Near East, building one's honour and purging one's shame were foundational. As we look at these books, we can look at the characters' actions and motivations through this lens. For example, David cannot bear for God to be dishonoured

by Goliath, so he acts to restore God's honour (1 Samuel 17). And he retaliates against the way the Ammonites humiliate his men (2 Samuel 10).

Shame and honour are also prominent theological themes. 1 & 2 Samuel are bounded by two songs about how God raises up the humble and shames the proud (Hannah — 1 Samuel 2 & David — 2 Samuel 22). The shaming or honouring of characters helps us know what God thinks of their actions (eg David humbly dances before the LORD and is raised to kingship, while Michal proudly mocks him and suffers the cultural shame of barrenness 2 Samuel 6)

Jesus repeats this theme often (eg Luke 18v9-14). He is the ultimate example of the one who humbled himself and was exalted to the highest place (Philippians 2). In the beauty of the gospel, Jesus removes our shame and gifts us with undeserved honour (Hebrews 2).

DAVID AND JESUS

It can be tricky to know how to apply this part of the Bible. Our default is often to read ourselves into the story and ask whose example to follow and whose to avoid. But this misunderstands how Israel's history fits into the whole Bible. It is one story. And it climaxes with the coming of Jesus. He is the king, the Son of David who reigns for all eternity. He is the champion of God's people who defeats sin, death and the devil. He is the priest-king who brings us into the presence of the Almighty God. He is the faithful one, where all else fail. He brings rest and blessing to all the world. As we read David's story, we see Jesus magnificence even more clearly, so that we can delight in him even more.

HOUSE OF DAVID	
2 SAMUEL	STUDY TITLE
Chapters 1-6	1. A New King
Chapters 7	2. A New House
Chapters 8-10	3. A Just King
Chapters 11-12	4. A Flawed King
Chapters 13-19	5. Family Feuding
Chapters 20-24	6. Praising God

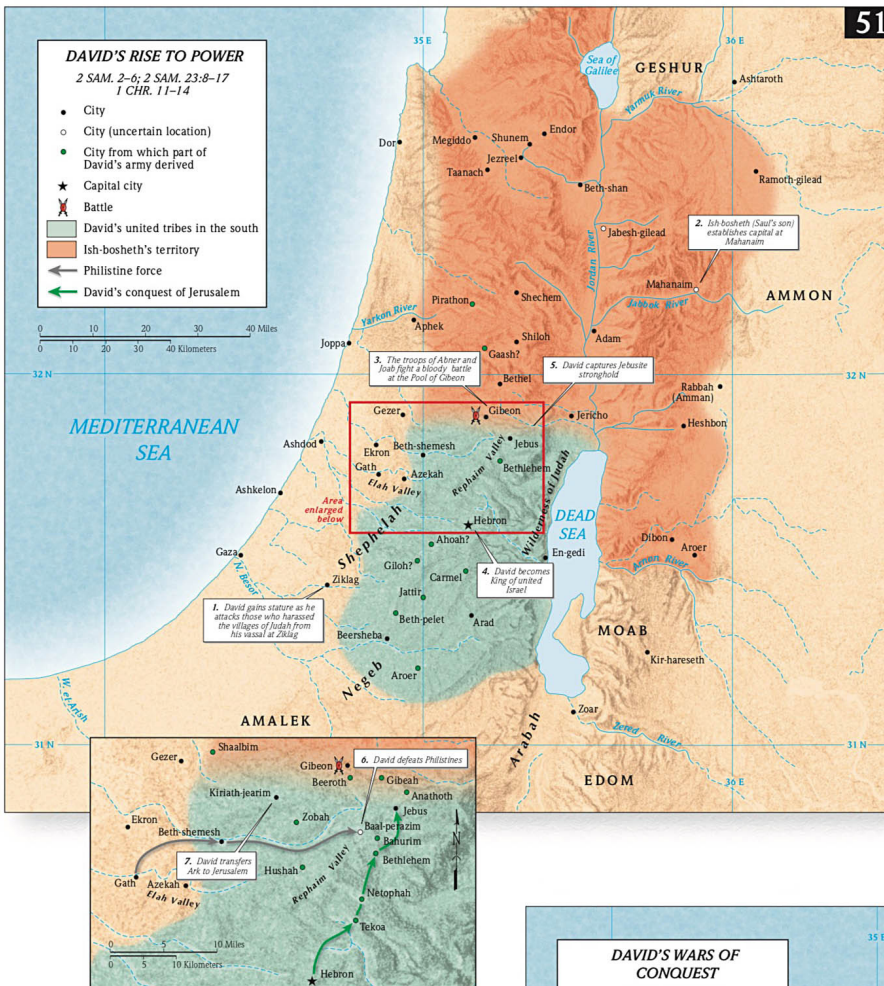
HOW TO GET THE MOST OUT OF THIS SERIES COMPANION

ON YOUR OWN—We are covering large sections of the Bible each week. You will understand the story better and see how God is working in Israel's history more clearly, if you read the whole section beforehand. We will only be reading shorter passages in our groups. It will also be a great help to you to read 1 Samuel too. If you have time, work through the questions before your GROWTH GROUP so that you've started thinking about the passage before you arrive.

WITH YOUR GROWTH GROUP—Don't be afraid to stop and talk about things that grab your attention or raise questions for you.

ON SUNDAY—Make sure you bring your SERIES COMPANION along with you, so that you can keep track of any questions you have and record the way that God's Spirit is helping you to understand His Word and grow in your love for Jesus.

These series companions are designed to be used as either a print version, or interactively on a device. Use whichever method is most helpful for you.



A NEW KING

2 SAMUEL 1-6

IN THE SPACE BELOW YOU CAN TAKE NOTES FROM THE BIBLE TALK. (IF YOU'RE USING THIS ON A DEVICE YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO CLICK AND START TYPING.)

Something I Never Knew:

Something I Was Reminded About:

A Question I Still Have:

Something I Was Challenged To Think Differently About / Do Differently:

Something I Can Share:

A Key Verse:

My prayer in response to God's word:

Israel ask Samuel to establish a human dynasty.

1. What is Israel's motivation in asking for a king?

2. What is wrong with their request? What will be some bad consequences for them?

3. What do they need in a king?

READ SAUL, JONATHAN AND DAVID'S CHARACTER CARDS NOW.

The final scene of 1 Samuel is the death of Saul and Jonathan in battle (Chapter 31). In 2 Samuel 1, the news is brought to David and he sings a song of lament for them both. He doesn't gloat or celebrate, because he still remembers that God raised Saul to the greatness of kingship. David then becomes king over his own tribe, Judah (2 Samuel 2). But this is only 1 of the 12 tribes. The other 11 tribes appoint Saul's son, Ish-Bosheth as their king (2 Samuel 2). And a bitter war ensues between the 2 royal houses. Their commanders battle against each other in betrayal and murder (2 Samuel 2--3).

READ THE **CHARACTER CARDS** FOR JOAB AND ABNER.

READ 2 SAMUEL 5v1-12

4. Who is David's rise to power attributed to? How many times do you see it in these verses?

After being crowned King and setting himself up in Jerusalem, David defeats the Philistines (under the LORD's direction and power — 2 Samuel 5v17-25). Chapter 6 tells the story of the ark of the LORD coming to Jerusalem. The ark of the covenant was a key part of the tabernacle (the tent where God met with Israel).

READ EXODUS 25v10-22

5. What was special about the ark for the people of Israel?

As Israel moved around the wilderness, the ark went out in front to lead the people (Numbers 10). The ark eventually led them into the Promised Land (Joshua 3-6). By the time of Samuel, it was in the tabernacle in Shiloh where Samuel lived (1 Samuel 1v24; 3v3). The people and the priests tried to use the ark as a good luck charm to win a battle with the Philistines (1 Samuel 4). But instead, the Philistines defeated them and captured the ark. This was judgement from God on the corrupt priests. But the LORD's hand was against the Philistines. He caused their god to bow to the ark and plagues to come on the people (1 Samuel 5). So they sent the ark back to Israel on a cart pulled by cows. It is almost like the ark itself is a character in the story. God doesn't need Israel to rescue the ark, it comes back on its own. The people are left asking 'Who can stand in the presence of the LORD, this holy God?'. The ark settles in Kiriath Jearim.

Once David becomes king, many years later, he wants the ark to be in his city. But it's not a smooth entry.

READ 2 SAMUEL 6v1-11

6. What do you think David and Uzzah get wrong here?

The ark goes to a Philistine town. Yet the LORD blesses Obed-Edom. David takes this as a good sign and tries again to bring the ark to his city.

READ 2 SAMUEL 6v12-19

7. What does David do differently this time?

READ EXODUS 28v1-5

8. What is important about an ephod?

9. What is David claiming by wearing an ephod, offering sacrifices and blessings? Does this surprise you?

READ 2 SAMUEL 6v20-23

10. What does Michal think of David's procession with the ark?

READ MICHAL'S CHARACTER CARD

11. How does David justify his actions?

READ JOHN 1v9-18; 29-34

12. How is Jesus an even better priest-king than David?

growing disciples

At **rockypc** we have 5 core values — we want to be growing disciples who are DEEP IN THE WORD, SEEKING GOD, on MISSION, as we SERVE in COMMUNITY together.

What can you celebrate about Jesus?

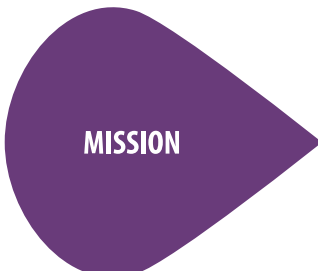
How will you celebrate?



SEEKING GOD

What would you say to someone who says that being a Christian is boring and somber?

Do you show your joy in Christ to your non-believing friends and family? How might you do this in an open and authentic way?



MISSION

PRAYER IDEAS

- Praise God that he has come near to us in his Son, Jesus. Thank him that Jesus is God in the flesh among us.
- Praise God that Jesus is both our priest and king. He is God's chosen one whose sacrifice takes away our sin. Thank him for all his blessings that come through Jesus.
- Ask God that we'd be joyful and celebrate Jesus. Pray that we'd worship him with whole-hearted delight.
- Pray for friends and family to see our joy in Jesus. Ask that they would turn to him and rejoice in his salvation too.

A NEW HOUSE

2 SAMUEL 7

IN THE SPACE BELOW YOU CAN TAKE NOTES FROM THE BIBLE TALK. (IF YOU'RE USING THIS ON A DEVICE YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO CLICK AND START TYPING.)

Something I Never Knew:

Something I Was Reminded About:

A Question I Still Have:

Something I Was Challenged To Think Differently About / Do Differently:

Something I Can Share:

A Key Verse:

My prayer in response to God's word:

In one word, describe your feelings towards King Charles.

In Australia, Charles III is our King. But a constitutional monarchy is quite different from the Ancient Near Eastern world of Israel's kings. The king had absolute power and authority. He was often considered a deity. He kept his throne by strength and protected it, to pass on to his sons.

Last week, we saw David ascend to Israel's throne, as the second king they'd ever had. The LORD had stipulated that he himself was their ultimate king, and any human kings should rule under him, in obedience to him (1 Samuel 12v12-15). Today, we come to a pivotal passage in the Bible, where we see how God will establish David's dynasty.

READ 2 SAMUEL 7v1-3

1. What problem is David trying to solve?

2. What do you think of his motives?

READ 2 SAMUEL 7v4-11a

3. What reason does God give for rejecting David's idea? Think about who has, and will act.

READ GENESIS 2v1-3

4. Keeping this picture from creation in mind, what is so good about God's promise of rest for David and Israel?

After the curses and banishment following Adam and Eve's sin, God makes promises of restoration for humanity, to one man, Abram.

READ GENESIS 12v1-3

5. How are God's promises to Abram reflected in his promises to David?

6. What is significant about this?

READ 2 SAMUEL 7v11b-17

7. What are the new promises here (as opposed to the promises to Abraham renewed and reinforced)?

8. What is the relationship between the LORD and David's son going to be?

9. How is this better than what happened with Saul?

READ 2 SAMUEL 7v18-24

10. What does David realise about himself? About God?

READ 2 SAMUEL 7v25-29

11. What does David ask God to do?

12. What results does David long for?

The rest of the Old Testament follows the expectation of these promises as David's son, Solomon, becomes king and builds a temple for the LORD (1 Kings 6-8). He is wise and blessed, but is ultimately punished by the LORD for his disobedience (1 Kings 10-11). Yet, he is not king forever. He dies and the kingdom is split in two. David's heirs only rule over 2 out of 12 tribes (called Judah) for roughly 400 years. Successive kings lead Israel to disobedience and idolatry, so they are exiled from the land. Their king is shamed, the people are cursed and the temple is destroyed (2 Kings 25). Judah are ruled by a string of foreign powers, even after they return to their homeland. This is a complete reversal of what God promised David. As the story progresses, God sends prophets like Isaiah to speak his promises again — there is still a son of David coming. Blessing and rest will come to his people and to all the world (Isaiah 11, Jesse was David's father). Into this hope and expectation steps Jesus, who traces his lineage back to King David (Matthew 1v1-17; Luke 3v23-38).

READ ACTS 2v22-39

13. How can Jesus be the promised, eternal king?

14. How does he bring rest and blessing to the whole world?

growing disciples

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What is most significant for you about Jesus being God's eternal king? How are you comforted, strengthened or encouraged?



How is Jesus' kingship good news for the whole world?



How might you explain this to a friend? Do they doubt his importance/relevance? That he is good? That he is powerful?



PRAYER IDEAS

- Thank God for his promises to David. Praise him that they are fulfilled in Jesus.
- Praise God for his Son who is faithful, righteous and obedient.
- Praise God for raising Jesus and declaring him to be king over all, eternally.
- Pray that we would repent and submit to King Jesus for forgiveness.
- Thank God that through Jesus, we receive blessing, rest and his Spirit.
- Pray that we'd have confidence, joy and hope that Jesus is always reigning and always good.
- Ask that we would tell our city that Jesus is king and urge them to turn to him. Pray that God would give 8000 new people to Jesus, in our region, just for a start. Pray that more and more would honour the king who rules over all.



A JUST KING

2 SAMUEL 8-10

IN THE SPACE BELOW YOU CAN TAKE NOTES FROM THE BIBLE TALK. (IF YOU'RE USING THIS ON A DEVICE YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO CLICK AND START TYPING.)

Something I Never Knew:

Something I Was Reminded About:

A Question I Still Have:

Something I Was Challenged To Think Differently About / Do Differently:

Something I Can Share:

A Key Verse:

My prayer in response to God's word:

If you were holding a grand banquet, which famous chef would you ask to cook for you?

Last week we saw the pivotal promises the LORD made to David,— a great name, rest from enemies and a son who would rule forever. David responds to the LORD with humility and trust in his promises. Today, we see how the LORD begins to keep these promises.

READ 2 SAMUEL 8v5-15

1. What does the refrain of these battles show? What kind of king is David?

David's name is becoming great (8v13), and he's defeating enemies as God promised in Ch 7. But it is all a gift from the LORD. Even in victory, David is showing mercy by sparing some (v2). If you have questions about the violence here, check out the excerpt at the end of the study.

As we're told about David's victory over his enemies, it's natural to wonder about former-King Saul's family and whether they remain rivals that David needs to crush. But David has a good history with Saul's son. Read the *Character Card* for Jonathon to remind you of who he is.

He says to David in 1 Samuel 20 v14-17:

'But show me unfailing kindness like the LORD's kindness as long as I live, so that I may not be killed, 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.' So Jonathan made a covenant with the house of David, saying, "May the LORD call David's enemies to account." And Jonathan had David reaffirm his oath out of love for him, because he loved him as he loved himself.'

READ 2 SAMUEL 9

2. How does David show undeserved kindness to Jonathon's son?

3. Describe Mephibosheth's attitude in response to David.

David then attempts to show kindness to another nation, whose former king had been kind to him. We don't have any details of their previous interchange. Perhaps he supported David when he was on the run from Saul (1 Samuel 18-31). But it's a different story when there's a new king.

READ 2 SAMUEL 10v1-5

4. How does King Hanun respond to David's act of kindness?

READ 2 SAMUEL 10v6-19

5. What is Joab's confidence in a seemingly unwinnable position?

6. What happens when these nations conspire against David and Israel?

Stories of David's victories over enemies (Ch 8 & 10) sandwich a story of David's kindness to someone who could have been an enemy, yet humbly bows down to him (Ch 9). This section comes in the context of the great promises to David of Ch 7. We can see how David understood the LORD's purposes, as he sings about it in Psalm 2.

READ PSALM 2

7. What is the LORD's anointed king like towards those who pay homage to him?

8. What is he like towards his enemies?

David's influence stretched over the Ancient Near East for his lifetime. But there was another Son of God, another powerful, anointed King who would rule over all heaven and earth. He destroyed all who stood against Him. Yet He is the refuge for the lame, calling them to feast at His table, calling them sons. He holds no fear for those who bow to Him.

READ REVELATION 1v12-18

9. How is King Jesus' power pictured here?

READ HEBREWS 2v14-15; COLOSSIANS 2v13-15

10. How has King Jesus destroyed his enemies?

READ LUKE 14v15-24; 15v11-32

11. Who can find refuge and blessing with King Jesus?

growing disciples

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How has King Jesus been a refuge for you? How have you been reminded of His kindness to you today?



How do today's passages help us when Jesus' name is being trashed or His people persecuted? (see also Acts 4v23-31)



What hope is there for those you know who reject Jesus' kingship or who think He's powerless?

Or for those who think they have something to fear from Him because they're unworthy?

How can you point them to Jesus' power to judge and kindness to draw them to His table as sons?

PRAYER IDEAS

- Praise God that Jesus is His Son and anointed King. Praise Him that Jesus is the one who judges justly and rules with righteousness. Thank Him that Jesus is the greatest son of David.
- Praise Jesus as the powerful king who has already destroyed all His enemies. Pray that we will trust that He will defeat anyone who stands against Him.
- Thank God that Jesus is a refuge for all who will bow to Him. Pray that we will not fear to come to Him. Thank Him that He is a generous king who blesses us.
- Praise God that we can feast at His table as sons. Thank Him that even though we are undeserving, He draws us into His kingdom.
- Pray that we will share this hope with our friends and family who are still rejecting Jesus and dishonouring His name. Ask that they will know they can always come to Him in repentance.

Sanctioned Violence?

'Some of David's actions seem brutal and merciless (v 2). If you feel a sense of abhorrence at this, and other things done in war "in the name of God", don't worry—it is right to feel this way. God himself takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked (Ezekiel 18: 23), and neither should we. But we must not judge the practices and actions of ancient warriors by modern standards of warfare. They were very different times, and, strange as it may seem to us, this mass execution of the defeated army may actually have seemed like a kindness to the first readers of 2 Samuel, and perhaps even to the nations surrounding Israel. Many other countries were far more brutal in their torture and treatment of defeated prisoners after a battle.

But this is not a mandate for genocide or war crimes either. Moab's sins were long-standing. They had been persistent enemies of God's people, and worshipped cruel gods. Child sacrifice and prostitution were common. David was acting as God's agent in bringing a just judgment upon them. David is repeatedly said to "strike down" his enemies (translated in the NIV as "defeated" in 8: 1, 2, 3, 9; "struck" or "subdued" in verses 5 and 11; and "victory over" in verse 10). It's the word used of God striking down the Philistines in 5: 24-25 and Uzzah in 6: 7. Those who reject David's rule are not just rejecting a human king, but the living God Himself. This is the message of Psalm 2. David is the agent of divine judgment. By all means let's ask our honest questions of the text of Scripture, but we must be careful not to stand in judgment over the Bible. We must let the Word of God judge our attitudes. It is easy for us to understand God's judgment on some people whom we consider exceptionally evil—murderers, child molesters, etc. But we find it more difficult to understand how God might judge our "nice" kind neighbour. But the reality is that all humanity faces God's judgment. The surprise is that God graciously spares anyone at all. The surprise was that David lets a third of the Moabites go free.'

2 Samuel For You: The Triumphs and Tragedies of God's King (God's Word For You) by Tim Chester



A FLAWED KING

2 SAMUEL 11-12

IN THE SPACE BELOW YOU CAN TAKE NOTES FROM THE BIBLE TALK. (IF YOU'RE USING THIS ON A DEVICE YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO CLICK AND START TYPING.)

Something I Never Knew:

Something I Was Reminded About:

A Question I Still Have:

Something I Was Challenged To Think Differently About / Do Differently:

Something I Can Share:

A Key Verse:

My prayer in response to God's word:

In stories and mythologies, our heroes always have a flaw — an Achilles' heel, a kryptonite or hubris (pride). Why do you think we're drawn to characters with a weakness?

God made David extraordinary promises in 2 Samuel 7. And even as God gave him great victories, David showed he was a just and merciful King (Ch 8-10). At this high point in Israel's history, the next two chapters are very jarring. You might find this week (and next week) quite confronting or triggering because of the awful things that David and his family do. Please take time or step out if you need to. Check in with your leader and work it through together. Please also remember that these graphic stories are not in the Bible because God condones the behaviour. God tells of what David and his family were like in brutal honesty. But this is in the context of the whole Bible story where his laws exhorted love for others and judged cruelty in Israel. And David and his family are not acting like their compassionate and faithful God.

READ 2 SAMUEL 11v1-5

1. What is wrong with David's actions? (see also Genesis 3v1-6; Deuteronomy 5v17-21; 17v14-20)

READ 2 SAMUEL 11v6-17

2. How does David attempt to cover up that he took Uriah's wife?
3. What do you make of Uriah's actions, in contrast with David? What is surprising here? (see also Deuteronomy 7v1-6)

In v18-25, Joab sends a messenger to David about what happened in the battle, worrying that David will be angry. David is, of course, very relaxed about the poor battle plan and his soldiers dying (including Uriah). He just commands Joab to destroy the city. Read Joab's *Character Card* again if you need to remember who he is.

READ 2 SAMUEL 11v26-12v12

4. What is the initial impact of the parable on David? v1-6
5. How does the LORD describe David's sins? v7-9

6. What will happen as a consequence? v10-12

READ 2 SAMUEL 12v13

7. What is shocking about this verse?

READ PSALM 51

In 2 Samuel 12, we only hear one short sentence of David's repentance and God taking away his sin.

8. What more do we see in this song about the King's repentance and God's forgiveness?

READ 2 SAMUEL 12v14-23

9. Does the LORD's forgiveness mean there are no further consequences for David? What is David's hope in it all?

This story ends in tragedy with the death of a child. We naturally ask if the deaths of our own precious children is a result of our sin. In our tragedy, we want to know if the LORD is punishing us.

David's family is in a specific moment in Israel's story, and has a specific word from the LORD. We cannot generalise to our own situation for 3 reasons:

1. We live in a different time in salvation history (after the coming and ascension of Jesus)
2. We do not have a specific word from God.
3. Jesus says that a child was not born blind because of his parents' sin, so parents' sin is not definitively nor necessarily connected to judgement on a child (John 9v-34).

Ultimately, we cannot know a specific reason for the deaths of our babies. But we do have David's hope in the gracious, compassionate nature of God and in His power to raise the dead.

If you are struggling with this grief, please talk it through together and keep turning to the God of all comfort.

READ 2 SAMUEL 12v24-25

4. What is surprising about what happens next? (see also Genesis 17v3-6; 2 Samuel 7v12-16)

David is a flawed hero for Israel. But it doesn't bring us great comfort to see the depths of his sinfulness. We're not happy to see that he's just like us. We need a king, loved by God, who is without flaw or failure. Someone who is far more righteous than us.

READ MATTHEW 3v16-17; 1 PETER 2v22-25

5. How is Jesus the king we need? What is so good about a flawless king?

growing disciples

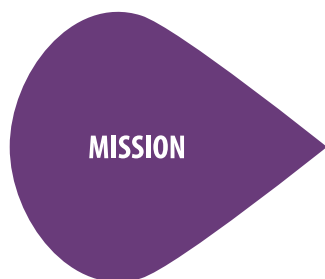
At **rockypc** we have 5 core values — we want to be growing disciples who are DEEP IN THE WORD, SEEKING GOD, on MISSION, as we SERVE in COMMUNITY together.



What has shone out to you today about the goodness and beauty of King Jesus?
How is our hope more sure than David's?



What has stood out to you about the depths of your sin and your need to repent?
Or about the costliness of God's forgiveness?
How will you respond to Him today?



Do your friends struggle to understand that their sin is grave enough to require the death of God's Son in their place? Or that God's forgiveness would be so full and free?
How can you talk about King Jesus with them?

PRAYER IDEAS

- Praise God that Jesus is His beloved Son, always pleasing to Him. Praise Him that Jesus is king over all, eternal Son and heir.
- Praise Jesus as the holy, righteous one. He committed no sin, was never deceitful and always trusted His father. Ask God that we'd trust this king to rule us with goodness and justice.
- Repent of the many ways we have despised our God. We show contempt for Him as we ignore His commands, as we see, desire and take, as we try to hide our sin and hurt others.
- Praise God that He is the one who cleanses us in the depths of our sin. He washes us clean and takes away our sin. And it's all through Jesus who bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin. Thank Him for his costly sacrifice that wins our free forgiveness.
- Pray that we would keep repenting and turning to Jesus in our many willful failures. Ask that He would lead us to live for his righteousness.
- Pray that we would speak with friends and family of their sin against a holy God and of His gracious gift of forgiveness for all who turn to Him.

FAMILY FEUDING

2 SAMUEL 13-19

IN THE SPACE BELOW YOU CAN TAKE NOTES FROM THE BIBLE TALK. (IF YOU'RE USING THIS ON A DEVICE YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO CLICK AND START TYPING.)

Something I Never Knew:

Something I Was Reminded About:

A Question I Still Have:

Something I Was Challenged To Think Differently About / Do Differently:

Something I Can Share:

A Key Verse:

My prayer in response to God's word:

Describe your family get-togethers. Is there more fun or fighting?

Last week, we saw David's fall from being a just and merciful king, to one who abused his power to cover up that he murdered another man's wife. The fallout from those sinful actions plays out for the rest of his reign. Today we'll see one of the most awful stories in the Bible. It will be hard to read and possibly triggering for you. Please do take time out if you need to, and talk and pray together. Remember that God does not condone these actions in any way.

READ 2 SAMUEL 13v1-20

1. What is so grievous in Amnon's actions? (see Leviticus 18v9, 29-30; Deuteronomy 22v28-29)

Note that the intention of the Deuteronomic law was not to further traumatise a victim, but rather to command the man to restore her honour and protection. For further information see this article at <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/rape-women-deuteronomy-22/>

READ 2 SAMUEL 13v21-22; 28-29; 37-39

2. What do you think of what Absalom does? Is he right to kill his brother?

3. What do you make of David's reaction to the rape and fratricide? (cf 1 Samuel 2v12-25; 8v1-5)

Absalom flees to his Philistine grandfather, who is king in Geshur (cf 2 Samuel 3v2-5). Time goes by and David still grieves, Joab hatches a plan to trick David into bringing Absalom back to Jerusalem. He employs a woman to spin the king a story about her sons killing one another (in a parody of Nathan's parable in Ch 12). When David promises to protect the murdering son, he realises that Joab is behind the scheme and agrees to bring Absalom back. But he still refuses to see Absalom.

READ 2 SAMUEL 14v24-15v12

4. How would you describe Absalom's character?

Absalom goes to Hebron where David was confirmed as king (2 Samuel 2v4; 5v3). He convinces some to name him king, while others attend without understanding the conspiracy at hand. David realises that he and all his people are in jeopardy.

READ 2 SAMUEL 15v13-17

David climbs the Mount of Olives and keeps travelling to Bahurim, and across the Jordan river to Mahanaim. He is exiting the Promised Land in a reverse of Joshua's conquest. The journey is filled with tears from David and all the people (15v23, 30). Along the way, he meets a variety of people. Some are loyal to him. Others lie to him. Still others curse him.

Ittai is a Philistine Gittite. He and his people, show devotion to David that is reminiscent of his great-grandmother, Ruth's devotion to Naomi (15v18-22). Zadok and Abiathar are priests who become David's spies in Absalom's court (15v24-29). Hushai, a Canaanite, is an adviser who also spies for David (15v32-37). Next he meets Ziba, Mephibosheth's steward, who claims that his master wants to become king, like his grandfather Saul (16v1-4). Then David meets Shimei who is from Saul's clan.

READ 2 SAMUEL 16v5-14

5. What are David's reasons for not killing Shimei?

1 & 2 Samuel show that David is innocent in the deaths of Saul and his family. But, David knows that he has been deposed because of the LORD's judgement on his actions towards Uriah and Bathsheba (Ch 11-12). He has fled Jerusalem in humiliation. And his only hope is that same LORD. See what he sings during this time of exile.

READ PSALM 3

6. What is David's hope in the midst of betrayal and rejection?

Meanwhile, in Absalom's court, his adviser, Ahithophel convinces him to gloat over his father by sleeping with David's concubines in public (16v20-23). This is further judgement from the LORD on David (2 Samuel 12v11-12). But David's ally, Hushai ousts Ahithophel, and helps secure victory for David over Absalom's army. Despite David still trying to protect him, Absalom meets a humiliating end.

READ 2 SAMUEL 18v9-18

7. How is Absalom shamed in death?

Despite all Absalom did to his father, David still mourns his death, to the point that his army is humiliated even in victory. Joab has to rebuke him before David stops grieving and encourages his men (18v19-19v8). As David travels back to Jerusalem, he meets various characters from his exile on the way back to his city. Now that David is king again, Shimei rushes to repent; Mephibosheth reassures David that he doesn't want the throne and Barzillai from the Israelite city of Gilead, who sheltered David, renews his devotion. Yet, Judah and the other Israelite tribes are in conflict. David's reign is limping towards its end.

David was a king under God's curse because of his sinfulness, and still he trusted God to restore blessing to him and his people. He is the paradigm of a suffering Messiah, a rejected, betrayed and scorned Son of God. In Jesus, we have a far better king who bears the curse for others' sin and rises to life and blessing. He turns our disgrace to honour.

READ GALATIANS 3v13-14; HEBREWS 5v5-10; 13v11-14

Melchizedek is a priest king who blesses the patriarch Abraham in Genesis 14.

8. How does Jesus' cursing, betrayal and suffering lead to His glory?

9. How does Jesus turn our curse and disgrace to honour and blessing?

growing disciples

At **rockypc** we have 5 core values — we want to be growing disciples who are DEEP IN THE WORD, SEEKING GOD, on MISSION, as we SERVE in COMMUNITY together.

Are you ever ashamed to follow a suffering, rejected Messiah?

What do you need to remember in those moments?



SEEKING GOD

Is your story one that God has turned from disgrace to honour? From curse to blessing?

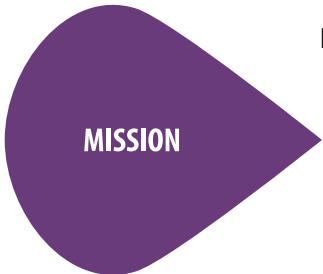
What is precious to you in how Jesus has redeemed you?



SEEKING GOD

When are you going to Jesus 'outside the camp, bearing the disgrace he bore'?

How do you need to suffer, knowing the enduring city we are looking forward to?



MISSION

PRAYER IDEAS

- Praise God that Jesus is our blameless king. Praise God that He always trusted and obeyed his Father.
- Thank Jesus for becoming a curse for us. Praise Him for suffering, being rejected and betrayed as an outsider.
- Praise Him for removing our disgrace and shame. Thank God that through Jesus, we receive blessing, redemption and eternal salvation in His enduring city. Thank Him for the gift of His Spirit by faith.
- Pray that we would be prepared to suffer along with Jesus, our king. Pray that we would delight in a suffering saviour, even when it is unpopular. Ask for God's strength to go to Jesus outside the camp and bear the disgrace He bore.



PRAISING GOD

2 SAMUEL 20-24

IN THE SPACE BELOW YOU CAN TAKE NOTES FROM THE BIBLE TALK. (IF YOU'RE USING THIS ON A DEVICE YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO CLICK AND START TYPING.)

Something I Never Knew:

Something I Was Reminded About:

A Question I Still Have:

Something I Was Challenged To Think Differently About / Do Differently:

Something I Can Share:

A Key Verse:

My prayer in response to God's word:

What would you like your last words to be?

Last week, we saw David and his family suffering the consequences of his sins, as his own son takes the throne, leaving David fleeing for his life. In the wilderness and through tears, David trusts the LORD who returns him to the throne. His troubles aren't over as another Israelite, Sheba, makes a play for the throne (Ch 20). Joab manages to take Sheba's head (through betrayal, murder and making a deal).

And that is where the chronological story of 2 Samuel ends. Ch 21-24 is like an epilogue that picks up some incidents, names and has David singing.

It comes in a Hebrew form of story-telling called a *chiasm*, with matching pairs on the outside that draws our eyes to the centre, where we see the main point. In Ch 21-24, it looks like this:

- a. David atones for Saul's sin
- b. David's mighty warriors
- c. David's final song
- c*. David's final words

b*. David's mighty warriors

a*. David atones for Israel's sin (and his own)

We're going to look at the final 3 sections to see the summary of David's reign.

READ 2 SAMUEL 23v1-7

1. How does David describe God here? (see also 2 Samuel 22v31-32)

2. How does God work through David?

3. What is the result for God's people?

READ 2 SAMUEL 23v8-12

4. What do you notice about these warriors? (see also 2 Samuel 21v20-21; 22v33-38; 47-51)

The list of warriors continues through the rest of Ch 23. God strengthened David and his men. The mighty men defeated their enemies in God's power, were devoted to his king, while seeking his honour.

The centre of the chiasm delights in God's power to save his king. And as he strengthens the righteous king, God defeats his enemies and blesses his people. David stands between God and the people — he mediates God's salvation and goodness to them.

But the epilogue shows another way God works through his king.

READ 2 SAMUEL 24v1-9

In v1, God is angry with Israel. We're not told why. But he instructs David to take a census to bring about his judgement.

READ EXODUS 30v11-16

5. What was supposed to happen with a census? What was the purpose of this?

READ 2 SAMUEL 24v10-17

David hasn't taken the atonement money that he should have. Perhaps his motives were proud, wanting to know how big his army was (as Joab seems to suggest in v3)

6. What does David's trust in, as he realises his guilt and its consequences?

7. What does David think is needed so that God's wrath can be turned aside?

Want to know more about what 'atonement' means? Here is an excerpt from a Thomas Shreiner article
Substitutionary Atonement:

'God's anger against sin represents his personal response to sin. Judgment is not merely cause and effect, but is God's holy wrath against sin, which must be distinguished from sinful human anger. God's anger is holy and in this sense beautiful and right because sin is so horrible that it warrants punishment, and the failure to see this indicates that sin is seen to be a minor defect instead of a destructive and disfiguring cancer.

We see substitutionary atonement in OT sacrifices, for their fundamental purpose is to obtain forgiveness of sins. People laid hands on the animal to signify that the animal functioned as a substitute for the person, and their sin was transferred to the animal. The violent death of the animal signifies the penalty human beings deserve for their sin. Thus, the death of the animal functions as a substitute for the worshiper. The substitutionary nature of the sacrifices is especially evident on the Day of Atonement (Lev. 16), the great day once a year when the sins of Israel were atoned for. We see in Leviticus 17:11 that atonement is secured through the shedding of blood, and the shedding of blood signifies violent death. Forgiveness only comes through the violent death of an animal, and the animal takes the penalty the worshiper deserved.'

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/essay/substitutionary-atonement/>

READ 2 SAMUEL 24v18-25

8. Why do you think the sacrifice needs to cost David something?

9. Is the sacrifice enough?

David realises his guilt before the LORD. And he knows what is needed to turn God's anger away — a costly sacrifice. So he stands in between the people and God — he mediates the atonement for the people (and himself). Israel need someone, empowered by God, who will bring God's goodness to them and atone for their sin. In fact, this is what all of humanity needs. And we can all find it in a different king.

READ EPHESIANS 1v18-23

10. How is Jesus the king empowered by God?

11. How does Jesus bring God's goodness and blessing to us?

READ JOHN 10v11-18; ROMANS 3v-26

12. What is so much better about Jesus' atonement sacrifice, compared with David's?

13. How do we take hold of Jesus' atonement on our behalf?

growing disciples

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What do you want to say to King Jesus as you reflect on his good rule and blessing?
On his atonement for us?



SEEKING GOD

How has your understanding of Jesus grown by hearing the story of His ancestor, David, this term?

How has your faith in Him grown?



SEEKING GOD

How has your heart been stirred to reach out with the gospel this term?



PRAYER IDEAS

- Praise God that He has raised Jesus in mighty power. He is our Rock and refuge. He defeats all those who stand against Him. Jesus is far above every rule, power, authority, dominion and name.
- Praise God that Jesus is the righteous king who stands between us and God. Praise Him that Jesus brings all of God's goodness and blessings to us. Jesus has given us a glorious inheritance with His people.
- Praise God that He provided Jesus as a sacrifice of atonement, at great cost to Himself. Through Jesus, His anger is turned away from us. So that we are justified before the holy God.
- Praise Jesus, the good shepherd. Thank Him for laying down his life for us, in love. Praise Him that His death brings us life.
- Pray that we would reach out with this wonderful news to those who are still God's enemies.



THE KING'S SON

2 SAMUEL 24 & 1 KINGS 1-2

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