

A STUDY OF THE LIFE OF KING DAVID





PASTOR CARTER

Why Leadership? I believe the old adage, "Everything rises and falls with leadership." The word leadership often brings up images of corporate environments like C-suites and boardrooms. While effective business leaders are critical to a company's success,

those positions are few and far between. In this study we're talking about a leadership that isn't confined to the corner office; it's everywhere.

Leadership happens in the home, community groups, and clubs. It happens while coaching little league t-ball and within most elite professional sports organizations. You see it in volunteer committees for school classrooms and even in larger family dynamics. Most of all – it happens in the mirror.

David wrestled with how to lead himself while trying to fulfill the calling God placed on his life. He struggled with a simple idea: if you can't lead yourself, you sure can't lead a nation. His story is fascinating because sometimes he excelled and inspired us all! Other times, he failed miserably. But failure is comforting because we know we're not alone. It's a stark reminder of the pitfalls we'd be wise to avoid.

I hope a few things will happen for you (and in you) during this study:

- 1. Personal Discipline My prayer is that you will develop a rhythm and discipline of studying God's Word during these six weeks. You'll need to read ahead and answer the questions before you get to your group. It won't take a lot of time, but it'll require more than looking at it an hour before group each week.
- **2. Depth** I won't be able to tackle every nuance of these powerful stories in a 30-minute sermon each week, and you and your group will bring your own context to the stories. You'll get a much richer experience by engaging the Scriptures with others.
- **3. Synergy** Something powerful happens when the people of God all start rowing in the same direction. I'm excited to see how God moves among us as we study and grow together.
- **4. Equipping** My prayer is this study helps <u>us</u> become better leaders (and better people) who are more deeply devoted disciples of Jesus, and additionally equips <u>you</u> to live this faith out in the world. Then, each of us is deployed into our communities to play our part.

More than ever, our world, nation, communities, teams, offices, and homes need better leaders. We need women and men committed to integrity, character, and faithfulness. Simply put, better leaders make everyone around them better, and Godly leaders influence the world for Kingdom purposes. And if we are going to be FOR Birmingham-if we are going to invite people to follow this amazing Jesus we follow, if we are going to bring justice and mercy to our world – we need servant leaders who will sacrifice for the good of others. What would it look like in this city if we could be leaders like David, leaders "after God's own heart?"

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BEFORE DAVID

David is the most famous of the kings of Israel. His lineage traces all the way back to Adam, and all the way forward to Jesus. During his 40-year reign, Israel experienced its most prosperous time in history. Both Israel's and David's name became great – because God was making His name great among

the nations. After David's reign, Israel's history with kings is all over the place. Mostly tragic, with kings turning away from God, while a few outliers try to turn the people back to Him.

Being the most famous king didn't mean he was the first. That title belonged to Saul. Studying the life of David isn't complete without Saul. You'll soon see that David and Saul's stories are uniquely intertwined. David's rise in calling, popularity, and power happens while Saul is still king. Your first three lessons within this study come from during this time period.

Before David or any other king of Israel, there was a different type of leader. There's a whole book of the Bible about that time period; Judges. This period of Judges has some recognizable names: Samson, Gideon, and Deborah. Others are more obscure. The Judges were leaders and rulers, but not monarchs. Kings and queens ruled with political authority, the Judges ruled with spiritual and military authority. Connected deeply to God, they were more likely to be on the frontlines of battle. Perhaps that's why David won the hearts of Israel so quickly. His prowess on the battlefield was unmatched, and he probably reminded many of the great Judges of old.

Want to learn about the gritty history of the Judges? Visit <u>Bibleproject.com/explore/video/judges</u> or scan this QR code:

Israel soon became unsatisfied with **just** Judges. They begged God for an earthly king, seeing that every other nation had one. They wanted to be like other nations. God reminds his people they are set apart and they need not desire a king to be like other nations for they were not to be like other nations at all. After all, He was the only King Israel needed. Despite these attempts, they wouldn't let up. Israel got what they asked for.

The transition player in all this was a man named Samuel. He was the bridge between the time of the Judges and the period of the Kings.

Israel's last Judge and first Prophet. It would be up to him to hear God's voice as to WHO exactly should be this king. As it turns out, it takes him a couple of tries to get the right one.

THE YOUR BEGINNING

SERMON NOTES

BACK STORY

David is the central character of our story; make no mistake! But before digging into David's call, take a look at these Scriptures to see how Saul came into power as Israel's first king. We're not going that far back, just a few generations to learn about Saul, Israel's very first king.

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characteristic?

Questions:

SAUL ENTERS THE PICTURE

Saul? What was his most notable

Reading: 1Samuel 9:1-2, 15-21

1. How does the Bible describe

DAY ONE

ISRAEL ASKS FOR A KING

Reading: 1Samuel 8:1-9, 19-22 Questions:

1.	What were the circumstances of		
	Israel asking for a king?		
		2.	How did Samuel and God seem to view Saul at his calling? What was Saul's view of himself?
2.	Why do you think God permitted Samuel to choose a king, even though it seemed like it was against His		
	plan?		

DAY THREE

anointing?

A KING HAS BEEN ANOINTED

Reading: 1Samuel 10:1, 9-11, 23-25 **Questions:**

1. How did the people respond to Saul's

2.	What did Samuel mean when he said, "There is no one like him among all the people."?
	hough initially successful (especially on the battlefield), Saul later disobeyed directions from God through Samuel. This was the turning point for Saul's reign, though he'd remain in office for many years after. It can take years for a

leader to build trust and one

moment to lose it.



DAY FOUR

SAUL DISOBEYS, GOD HAS OTHER PLANS

1. What was Saul experiencing that caused him to disobey Samuel's/

Reading: 1Samuel 13:11-14 Questions:

God's instructions?

What does it mean to be a "man after God's own heart"?
What can we learn about our own leadership from Saul's tragic fall?



e begin to understand David's calling and anointing. Verse 7 brings us a memorable lesson, and reminds us of our tendency to judge things by appearance. It's time to see things as God does.

DAY FIVE

DAVID DEFIES THE EXPECTATIONS

Reading: 1Samuel 16:1-13
Questions:

- 1. Have you ever felt distraught like Samuel or like a failure because you believed in someone who let you down?
- 2. Have you ever acted irrationally when you felt control or power slipping out of your hands?



3. What similarities did Eliab share with Saul? How was David described differently?

"But the Lord said to Samuel, "Don't judge by his appearance or height, for I have rejected him. The Lord doesn't see things the way you see them. People judge by outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."

4. How have you judged others sometimes by "outward appearance"? What arenas do we see this most prominently?

¹Samuel 9:21

NEXT STEPS

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

1.	We often try to "look the part" when in service to God. Experience and age aren't needed when we fully commit our hearts to God. Why do we often see outward appearance as being more important than inward faithfulness?
2.	If the stature of the heart guides your leadership, what are you doing daily or weekly to help improve your spirtual condition? What can you add to your routine to insure you are leading from a spirtually healthy heart?
3.	If your heart is in the right state, how might that help you lead yourself, your family, and/or your organization better?
4.	What are the ways and times you work on your heart versus the ways and times you work on your outward appearance? What are ways you can focus on having the right heart?

PRAYER

Pray for yourself and group members to take the time to focus on having a heart after God's own heart. Ask God to help you see the ways He wants to move in and shape your heart.

*Example Prayer: God, I can easily chase after the desires of my own heart, but I know that's not always best. I want to run after your heart. I want to pursue, and chase after what you want in me, for me and, ultimately, through me. I pray that our entire group would become people after your own heart. Help me to see the areas I need to change. Help me see the attitudes I need to adjust. Help me see where I need to repent and help me see what is broken in me that you might heal. Thank you for looking at my heart, God. I want to have a good heart. In Jesus name, Amen.

DAVID & SEEK 28 COLIATH

SERMON NOTES



Saul's torment over losing his favor with God leads him to David in the most peculiar way, and at the perfect time. He has no idea that this young boy has been anointed to take the throne; Saul just likes the way he plays music. We also experience one of the most iconic stories in the Bible: David vs. Goliath. At

a time when hope seemed lost and defeat was imminent, another unassuming hero enters the picture to put God's power on display!

DAY ONE

HEY ALEXA: PLAY SOME RELAXING MUSIC

Reading: 1Samuel 16:14-23

Questions:

1.	Why do you think Saul's attendants
	suggested music as a remedy for
	Saul's anguish? What kind of music
	do you listen to in order to soothe
	your soul?

2. How do the attendants describe David? How did Saul feel about David at the end of Chapter 16?

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HERE COMES TROUBLE

Reading: 1Samuel 17:1-11 Questions:

1. Goliath was over 9 feet tall, and all of his weapons and armor combined weighed more than 150 pounds! What does this tell you about how others perceived Goliath by looks alone?

his is the story of one of the most infamous battles of the Old Testament: David vs. Goliath. Goliath, of the wicked Philistines, towers over his opponents but this fear doesn't grip David's heart. It's the turning point for David's popularity and future in Israel.











2.	What threats did Goliath make?
	What would be going through your
	head as a soldier in this situation?

Questions:

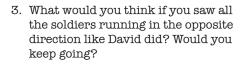
 Do you notice anything significant about how long Goliath taunted the Israelites? Where else have you seen this number?

- 3. When was a time you stood brave when all others trembled? Would you keep going?
- 2. What does David find when he arrives? If they follow the God who is the one true God, why are the Israelites afraid?

DAY THREE

GOLIATH TAUNTS THE ISRAELITES

Reading: 1Samuel 17:12-31





"If you stand up and be counted, from time to time you may get yourself knocked down. But, a person flattend by an opponent can get up again. A person flattend by conformity says down forever."

- Thomas Watson Jr.

DAY FOUR

DAVID TO THE RESCUE

Reading: 1Samuel 17:32-40

Questions:

1.	What is David's immediate comment		NYS LINE
	to Saul? Why is he so confident?	Re	HE GIANT IS DEFEATED eading: 1Samuel 17:41-58 testions:
		1.	Notice the difference between David's and Goliath's motives. Who did David fight for? Have you tried fighting a battle under your own power instead of the Lord's?
2.	Why has God chosen someone without the experience or age to go up against this giant?	_	
		2.	David runs toward his adversary. Is there a fight you're running from instead of running toward? Why?
3.	David was prepared for battle, but in an unconventional way. What has uniquely prepared you for future battles? Is there something you're going through now that might be preparing you for what's to come?		
		3.	What is the most powerful part of this triumph for you?
_		_	
_		_	
	The Lord who rescued me from the claws of the lion and the bear will	_	
ز	rescue me from this Philistine!" 1 Samuel 17:37	_	
	*Samuel 17:37		

⁴⁷And everyone assembled here will know that the Lord rescues his people,

but not with sword and spear. This is the Lord's battle, and he will give you

¹Samuel 17:47

NEXT STEPS

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

1.	Did you gain a new understanding of the David and Goliath story from this week's reading? What new takeaways did you gain?				
2.	Perhaps the funniest moment is when David tries on Saul's armor. Have you ever done something out of character to fight a battle?				
3.	What does it look like to have confidence in God, who lives inside of you? Especially when there are "giants" standing right in front of you?				
4.	Does this mean that you'll win every battle? How are followers of Jesus assured of final victory in Christ? What does that mean for our daily battles?				
5.	Think back to how God uniquely equipped David. Discuss with your group your unique skills that have equipped you for battle.				

Pray for each other and the battles you're going through and the giants you're facing. Pray for faith and trust like David in the Big God inside of you.

DAVID'S CALL, SAUL'S FALL

SERMON NOTES

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BACK STORY

Saul falls, David triumphs. The cheers, the popularity, the victory. You can feel the tension, and see the soap opera beginning to unfold, but it's just the beginning. Saul is still king; however, David knows that he's called – and anointed – to replace him. But wasn't Saul anointed, too? To make things more interesting, a new character

joins the story – Jonathan, Saul's son. He befriends David, becoming a confidant. Does David wait to take the throne when it is given to him, or does he take it for himself? After all, if he can slay a giant, surely he could

take down Saul. Right?

3.	have you pattled with Jealousy
	before? How did you overcome it?

DAY ONE

SAUL'S FEAR AND ANXIETY

Reading: 1Samuel 18:1-16
Questions:

1.	What does Jonathan see in David
	that Saul doesn't? Why?

2.	Do you think verse 7 was the tipping point? What can you learn from this about celebrating other's successes?

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INTERLUDE: A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR CARTER...

or several chapters, Saul's jealousy continues intensify and crazy stuff starts to happen! Saul offers his daughter, Michal, to David in marriage — BUT only if David succeeds in an impossible mission almost certainly resulting in his death. Once again, David is up to the task. Jonathan tries to speak some sense into his father, but he won't listen. He tries to kill David again and again. With the help of Michal, David finally escapes. Now, he's a fugitive - a national hero turned outcast. The soonto-be-king is on the run in the wilderness. Saul is relentless in his pursuit. Finally, he catches wind of David's whereabouts and believes this is his shot.

\sim
2. Saul put himself in a vulnerable position. Why didn't David kill him? Why approach him at all if he didn't intend to do him harm?
3. Were David's men justified in trying to convince David to kill Saul?
4. Have you ever seen someone "step over" someone to get a position? Have you done that?

DAY FOUR

"ON SECOND THOUGHT..."

Reading: 1Samuel 24:5-7
Questions:

Questions:	Questions:		
What happens to David after he step back? Have you ever had a moment that you almost did something you would really regret?			
	_		
	 2. David maintains his character and morals, even when he might have been justified. Why do people think that they have to let go of character to get to the top? 		
2. David and Saul's struggle is filled with drama. Can you think of a			
time that drama caused you to do something out of character?			
	3. David knows that God will advocate for him. How can you rely more on God to put you where he wants you and to advocate for you?		
3. Why do you think that David didn't			
harm the man who is trying to har him?	m		
	4. What can we take away from Saul's response to David's mercy?		
Shortcuts can short-circuit the			
purpose and power of God in our lives.			

DAY FIVE

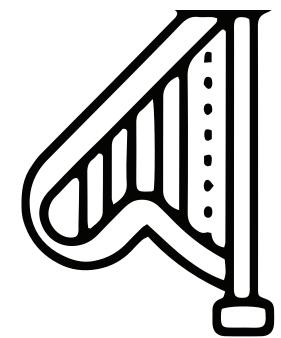
DAVID GRANTS MERCY Reading: 1Samuel 24:8-22

NEXT STEPS

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

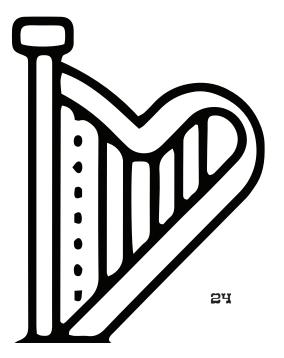
1.	Can you think of instances where you or someone you know compromised their character to get ahead? Why is the temptation so great to succeed at the price of integrity?
2.	Can you remember a time you took the high road? How did it work out? What about when you took the low road?
3.	How is it hard to lead yourself to do the right thing when others are giving you permission (and even encouraging you) to do the wrong thing?
4.	How can you have patience for God to put you in the right place in His time and not take shortcuts to get there?
5.	What steps can you take now to prepare you for the next time you are faced with a leadership challenge?

Pray for God to put wise voices around year encourage you to do the right things on the journey and for strength to choose the right things. Pray for those struggling with character or integrity issues on their journey.



WEEK 4

DAVID DANCES MADLY



SERMON NOTES

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BACK STORY

Physically flipping the page from 1 Samuel to 2 Samuel is a metaphorical page flip from King Saul to King David. Saul, out of fear and manic behavior, takes his own life in anguish. Shortly after, David receives word and is coronated King of Israel. The people anoint him as king to confirm his anointing from all those years before. Unfortunately, it isn't smooth sailing at first. Factions of the government are still loyal to

Saul, and it takes some time for Israel to find unity under their new king. Eventually Israel begins to experience its most prosperous times ever. David's anointing and leadership are clear. After reigning for seven years in unprecedented success, he endeavors on a quest. A journey to restore something sacred thought by the Hebrews to have been lost forever. David seeks to return the Ark of the Covenant back to Jerusalem. This most precious item has been missing from its rightful place for nearly 100 years. David resolved that it was time to bring it home.

DAY ONE

GOING TO GET THE ARK

Reading: 2Samuel 6:1-11
Questions:

 The Ark represented the presence of God. Why was it important for David to restore it to Jerusalem after it had been missing for so long? In Exodus 25: 10-15 God gives Moses and Israel very clear instructions regarding how the Ark should be carried. God is clear that there will be consequences if the rules are not followed. Every other time in Scripture when the Ark is transported the people follow God's instructions. David thought the rules did not apply to him and it cost a man his life. This is a great reminder that as leaders, the consequences of our decisions can unwittingly impact others.

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NO SHAME IN DAVID'S GAME

Reading: 2Samuel 6:12-15

hough the story is about the Ark returning to Jerusalem, it centers on David. Even at age 37 he still retains the same boyish devotion that set him apart as a child. It also reminds us how different that looks in contrast to the "normal" world.

Questions:

1. David's entrance is certainly memorable. Can you imagine this behavior from a king?

2.	How many men did David take and
	what happened on their initial journey?
	What does this communicate about the
	importance of the ark?

2.	Why did they have such unbridled joy? When is the last time you worshiped with that kind of joy?		
		I	AY THREE
_		Re	DMECOMING ading: 2Samuel 6:16-19 estions:
3.	How is this different from "normal" leadership behavior? What does it	1.	What is Michal's reaction? Why do you think this is the case?
	say about David's leadership?	_	
		_	
_		_	
_			
		2.	Do you think it's significant that David gave offerings to God before he blessed his people?
4.	Verse 14 states David danced with "all his might". In your walk with		
	God, what are you doing with "all	_	
	your might"? What could you be doing with "all your might"?		
_			
_			
		3.	What does this moment feel like to you? Why does David bless all the people?
		_	
		_	

DAY FOUR

MICHAL'S CRITICISM AND OPPOSITION

Reading: 2Samuel 6:20

Q u	Questions:		Questions:		
1.	Has anyone close to you criticized your devotion to God? How has this affected you?	1.	Why does he feel his unorthodox behavior is justified?		
		_			
_		. —			
_		2.	Why isn't David concerned with what other people think and what does he vow to do?		
2	What does the difference between				
∼.	Michal and David tell you about				
	their individual relationship with God? Why does Michal a fellow Jew,				
	respond differently?	_			
		- ・ 3. ・	How can you have a faith that is more concerned with devotion than appearances?		
_		_			
		_			
7	TAThat ryona Michalia hissaat aanaanna	_			
ο.	What were Michal's biggest concerns?	_			
_			Great leaders devote themselves to running toward their dream instead of running from the fear of criticism.		

DAY FIVE

Reading: 2Samuel 6:21-22

CORNER

NOBODY PUTS DAVID IN THE



NEXT STEPS

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

1.	What were some of the extreme measures David and his men took in recovering the Ark of the Covenant? Was it really necessary?
2.	In our world, digital appearances matter more than ever. However, on social media looks can be deceiving, what is on display is not always accurate. Why do we feel the need to potray a better picture of ourselves?
3.	How can you be "sold-out" for God, and still respectful of the environments in which we all live and work?
4.	Are you tempted to hide your devotion to God in front of friends, family, or coworkers, etc.? Where are you tempted to do this?
5.	Identify an area where you are not giving "all your might." Write it down on a sticky note and put it in a prominent place as a reminder to bring your best in every area of your life.



Ask God for the kind of devotion David displayed. Pray for the areas of your life right now in which you are not being faithful with "all your might".

DAVID'S STUMBLE



SERMON NOTES

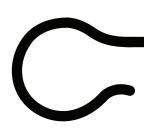
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BACK STORY

The return of the Ark to Jerusalem is a pivotal moment for David's reign. God vows to David that he will have a descendant on the throne forever and that he will make David's name great, like the greatest men on earth. After God's promise, David prays a humble prayer, thanking God for His favor. He continues to be a valiant victor in the field and "doing what was just and right for all his people" (2 Samuel

8:15). 2 Samuel 9 continues to portray David in a positive light. It tells a heartwarming story of his continued concerned for the family of his best friend Jonathan, who died in battle with his father, Saul. He cares for Jonathan's handicapped son, Mephibosheth, as if he were his own. In this regard, he is a merciful king who continues to be a mighty warrior. BUT then...something happens.

	3. How many lines can you count that David crossed in the first four verses? What were some guardrails that could have stopped David here?
DAY ONE	
MAND WARM	
A FIRST MISTAKE Reading: 2Samuel 11:1-5	
Questions:	
What did David not do that all kings do at this time of year and that he usually did?	4. How do we guard against allowing egotism to take a stronghold on our leadership?
2. Have you ever found that not doing what you should leads to you doing something you shouldn't?	his story is tragic in many ways, but so important. This was a very different time, place and culture. The rules of society were vastly different. Regardless, the same temptations have plagued humans across the eons. Ultimately, it's a story about feeling you are entitled to get what you want and think you deserve, no matter who it hurts in the process.



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MISSION IMPOSSIBLE: THE COVER-UP PART 1

Reading: 2Samuel 11:6-13

Questions:

•			
1.	What was David trying to orchestrate? Why didn't Uriah comply?		
		2.	How n
		۶.	David becau
		_	
_	VIV	_	
2.	What is revealed here about Uriah's character?		
		3.	Where in all
			yours you a
		_	
		_	
3.	What do you think is happening to David internally? Is it guilt, conviction, or maybe both?	_	
			Interior rig
			conve

DAY THREE

MISSION IMPOSSIBLE: THE COVER-UP PART 2

Reading: 2Samuel 11:14-27 Questions:

1. Why is it sometimes our instinct to cover up one sin with another? Have you ever found yourself doing this?

2. How many people were roped into David's ordeal with Bathsheba because of his original sin?

3. Where is David's accountability in all this? How can you surround yourself with people that will help you act in good faith to God?

Intergrity is about doing what is right even when it is difficult. Leading well is about being lead by your conscience rather than convenience.

DAY FOUR

NATHAN'S HINDSIGHT

	eading: 2Samuel 12:1-2 lestions:	
1.	How does Nathan's story help David see the situation more clearly?	
_		DAY FIVE
_		DAVID'S PRICE TO PAY Reading: 2Samuel 12:13-14 Questions:
	YY awa da was ha a san a bilin d to a san awar	David's consequences of sin didn't just affect him. Have you had consequences of your own sin affect others?
<u>د</u> .	How do we become blind to our own sin? How do we justify it?	
_		
_		2. What is David's response? How can we respond in confession when we sin?
7	Comptimes what we cover up Cod	
ο.	Sometimes what we cover up, God uncovers. What is significant about the consequences of David's actions?	
	une comsequences of David's actions:	
		3. If David's sin can be taken away, have you considered that your sin can be taken away?
_		





NEXT STEPS

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

1.	What was the first instance where David goes wrong? How could he have avoided it?
_	
2.	Why is self-leadership so important no matter what position you're in?
3.	How are the pressures of rising in leadership greater and how is the price of a fall more costly?
4.	Nathan was a good friend to tell David the hard truths. Do you have someone like this who is willing to have tough conversations with you?



PRAYER

Pray for leaders in your church, community, and nation. Ask God to reveal the selfish motivations in your heart that could make you do something out of character, hurting you and others in the process. Is

there something you need to confess to God? Now's a good time to do it. If He can forgive David, He can certainly forgive you.











WEEK 6

DAVID & ABSALOM



SERMON NOTES

This last section of David's story is hard to read. It contains not just a sensitive topic but an evil and tragic event. It's a story about rape and the destruction it caused for everyone involved. The objectification of the victim in this story is ugly, and it's a painful reminder that women continue to be objectified and abused. There are two things of which I hope you'll be mindful. First, I

want you to be aware of what you're about to read. Secondly, this story is primarily

victim of sexual abuse, please let someone with you on your journey to healing.	
	3. Many families will sweep things under the rug like Absalom. Why do people not talk about "family problems" *?
DAY ONE	
AMNON, TAMAR & ABSALOM Reading: 2Samuel 13:6-22 Questions:	his is more than a "family problem". Amnon has committed a crime. His treatment and objectification
How does this awful story impact many in David's family?	of Tamar is awful, cowardly and ugly. He rightly deserves to be punished, and this is beyond what many of us experience as "family problems".
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	EXTREME MEASURES Reading: 2Samuel 13:23-29
2. Have you ever seen the decision of one person impact an entire family?	bsalom takes matters into his own hands. For two years, he plots and waits for the perfect time to exact revenge on Amnon. It is
	clear that Amnon is guilty and
	deserves due punishment, but Absalom's actions are extreme,
	and it sets off a cycle of family
	dysfunction that follows David for most of his life.





Questions:		
1.	Have you ever let an offense fester for years? Did you also scheme how you would get revenge if the time was right?	
_		
2.	Is there someone in your life that has wronged you severely? How did you respond immediately? Did you respond differently years after?	
_		
3.	What is the result of allowing an offense to fester without resolution for a long time?	
_		

DAY THREE

A FAMILY SHATTERED

Reading: 2Samuel 13:37-38

Questions:

1.	Why do you think Absalom fled?
_	
2.	How long was Absalom away?
_	
_	
3.	Estranged family can cause a lot of heartache. Do you have a family member who has been estranged for years?
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	_



Verses 14:1-11 detail the first part of this story. Like Nathan in chapter 12, David hears a petition from one of his subjects not realizing it's the same situation he's currently facing. The woman telling this story was sent by Joab, David's military commander. Through her and her petition, David sees that there is hope to restore his family and bring his son back home!

DAY FOUR

TIME FOR A COMEBACK

Reading: 2Samuel 14:12-21

Questions:

1.	What is David told that he must do in order to follow God's will to end the banishment and restore his family?		trust to try and overthrow his father. Absalom was good looking, charming, and 2 Samuel 15:13 proclaims "the hearts of the people of Israel are with Absalom". David flees, and seeks to build an army capable of restoring his throne. They embark, on one condition: Absalom must not be killed in the process. Joab, David's military commander, takes matters into his own hands and kills him anyway. He figures it's the only way to end this conflict.
2.	Have you ever wished you could take		
	back your treatment of someone,	Qυ	estions:
	especially a family member? What could you have done differently?	1.	Why do you think David wasn't glad that Absalom died?
		_	
_		_	
_		_	
_		_	
3.	What does verse 14 tell you about the heart of God? How do we see this displayed in the person of Jesus?	2.	At this moment, how did David's power pale in comparison to his relationship with his son?
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_		_	

DAY FIVE

Reading: 2Samuel 18:31-33

David

NOT ALL ENDINGS ARE HAPPY

Absalom back home. Even after he returned, David didn't speak to him for two years! Finally, David

welcomes him into his chambers, and after Absalom bows down before

David all is forgiven. Everything

seems to be running smoothly, until

Absalom uses David's restored

hrough the next few chapters

we follow the long story of

eventually inviting

1	Have you ever hurt a family member to get ahead or has someone ever done that to you?	4. Have you ever been wronged by someone, finally gotten even, and it didn't feel as good as you thought it would?
	VEXT STI	
1.	In what ways was David's final trium	
ુ.	How have you seen yourself or others at home?	s WIN at all costs, even if it means LOSING
3.	How can you make sure that you win and your family well?	at home first? How can you lead yourself
1.		r if you are holding on to unforgiveness. hat you need to forgive, or maybe there is forgiveness.

Pray for any family turmoil you may be experiencing or a member you might be estranged from. Ask God for reconciliation. Pray for the protection from temptation to "get ahead" if it means leaving your family behind.

FINAL HOUGHTS

FROM PASTOR CARTER

long time ago, I had the opportunity to serve as an Associate Pastor with a pastor whom I only knew by reputation. I called a mentor of mine about whether or not I should take the positon. I was trying to discern if

this pastor was the kind of leader I wanted to follow. He said something I'll never forget. "If you serve as an associate, you can work with someone to learn what **NOT** to do or from someone to learn what **TO** do. I think this is a guy from whom you can learn what **TO** do." So I took the opportunity, and that pastor became my greatest mentor.

David is a little bit of a mixed bag, isn't he? There are many things in David's story that teach us what TO do. The character of his heart outpaces his physical gifts. He carries himself with a posture and wisdom that exceeds his age. Brave, courageous, and faithful; he has integrity and refuses to push God's timing. His passion for God is on display for all to see. A true leader, he's not afraid to take charge when no one else will. He leverages his leadership to make God's name great and bring Israel into global prominence.

Of course...

We learn some of what **NOT** to do as well. Moral shortcuts that lead to moral disasters, and egotistical behaviors that lead to a belief of "deserving" whatever he wants because of his position. David fights against his son, and loses more than his relationship in the end. Valuable time is spent building an empire instead of building a family.

And yet...

David is a man after God's own heart. That's a bit of a relief to me. I want to be that kind of man, and I'd bet you want to be that kind of man or woman. David was far from perfect, so perhaps there's hope for us as well. I hope you've **LEARNED TO LEAD** more through this study. David inspires us to do things that seem impossible, and is a stark reminder of the pitfalls where we can easily stumble. Only you know who, what and where your personal leadership will take you. But I know that when leadership is taken seriously at least one person is guaranteed to grow - YOU. The person in the mirror is often the hardest to lead, but self-leadership will help us take faithful steps to follow Jesus. Obedience to God's will for your life might require you to face some difficult things and even some things that scare you. Taking THAT faithful step is all about learning how to hand over the reins to God to let Him lead the rest of the way.

