

Old Testament Overview 6

King David – the pattern for future kings – Leader's version

For an hour study, just do the starred * questions.

Check in – ask everyone, including leaders, how they are and how they're feeling about studying the Bible today.

1. What do you remember about the prophet Samuel, and Saul, the first king of Israel, from last week's study?

What does the passage say and mean?

60 minutes

2. Read 1 Samuel 13 v 14. Why does God say Saul's kingdom will end?

Because he had disobeyed God.

*3. Samuel tells Saul that someone else will be king. How does Samuel describe him?

'A man after God's own heart', i.e. someone who loves God and seeks to obey him.

4. Why do you think it was so important that the king of Israel loved God and sought God's will in every decision?

The nation of Israel was God's chosen people. God was the King of Israel; the human king was God's representative on earth. Israel's king needed to recognise, and submit to, the authority of the King.

Explain that David was the 2nd king of Israel; the 'man after God's own heart'.

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How does David's reputation as 'a man after God's own heart' inspire you in your relationship with God? In what ways does your relationship with God need tidying up?

5. What do we learn about David in 2 Samuel 5 v 9-10, and what do you think this means in the life of a Christian today?

David became more and more powerful because God was with him.

Christians today don't necessarily become powerful (this was a gift to David as a king), but God blesses us when we continue walking along His path. Discuss ways in which God blesses us – peace, forgiveness, answered prayer, provision, etc. Try to make this a personal discussion, rather than a theoretical one.

6. Read 2 Samuel 5 v 17-20. How does David deal with the threat of an attack by his country's biggest enemies? What does this teach us?

He asks God what to do. God tells him to attack, and David wins the battle. David gradually secures all the borders of Israel and the land has peace from war (as 2 Sam 7 v 1). This was a major achievement.

Think about how we should respond to impending disaster if we are following David's example.

7. Another very important thing David did is described in 2 Samuel 6 v 17. What did he do and why was this so important?

The Philistines had stolen the Ark of the Covenant during Saul's reign (1 Sam 4 v 11). David brought it back to Jerusalem.

This is very important because God met with His people at the Ark. Israel couldn't worship God properly unless the Ark was in Israel, specifically, in Jerusalem.

Recap David's good points: he was a model king because he loved and obeyed God. Through David, God brought peace to Israel and restored their religious practices. David secured the borders of the land and brought the Ark back to Israel.

*8. We all have a weakness. Read 2 Samuel 5 v 13 to find out what David's weak spot was. Why was David's behaviour wrong?

Women. God had forbidden polygamy and it was specifically forbidden for the king in Deut 17 v 17.

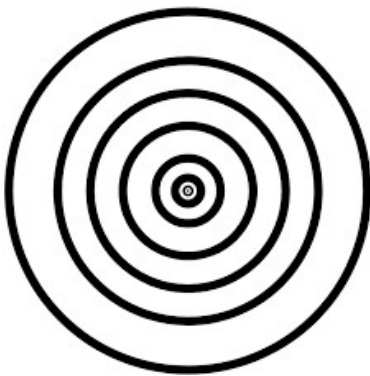
*9. **SDL** David's weakness for women led him into big trouble. Look up each step of David's downfall and work out what the right course of action would have been.

	What David did	What he should have done
2 Samuel 11 v 1	<i>Stayed at home</i>	<i>Gone with the army (which was the king's job!)</i>
2 Samuel 11 v 2-3	<i>Saw a beautiful woman bathing, sent someone to find out who she was, and was told she was married. (As was David).</i>	<i>Stop looking. Not seek further information. Having found out she was married, he should have stopped thinking about her.</i>
2 Samuel	<i>Slept with her (one night stand, not a love-affair; she probably didn't have a choice,</i>	<i>Stop thinking about her. Not summon her.</i>

11 v 4-5	<i>since he was the king). She became pregnant.</i>	<i>Not sleep with her!</i>
2 Samuel 11 v 6-9	<i>(Uriah is Bathsheba's husband, v3) Calls Uriah back from battle and tries to make him go home and sleep with his wife.</i>	<i>Confess his sin to God and his guilt to Uriah</i>
2 Samuel 11 v 14-17	<i>Arranges for Uriah to die in battle.</i>	<i>Admit what he'd done.</i>
2 Samuel 11 v 26-27	<i>Marries Uriah's wife.</i>	<i>This is probably the only decent thing David did in this series of events, but his motives are wrong! He married her as a cover up,, so the child would seem legitimate, not because he loved her.</i>

*10. What do we learn in 2 Samuel 11 v 27 about what David had done?

It displeased the Lord. The cover up may have worked in the royal court (although several people knew about it already – the man who went to get Bathsheba, Joab, etc.) but God could not be fooled. And God was displeased. This is a terrible thing to read, something no-one wants to hear about themselves.



*Draw this on the flip-chart. Ask the group to tell you what David did wrong, in order. Write the first event in the centre and work outwards. Build up the **ripple effect** of David's bad decision making.*

*11. What is your weakness? How much trouble has it got you into? Can you identify the mistakes you made?

Remind the group that you are constrained by security rules and are obliged to pass on information to the relevant authorities if you hear about crimes for which they have not been convicted.

You might like to ask one brave group member to draw the ripples of their own sin in front of the group.

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Can you see how sin's ripple effect can make one bad decision have disastrous consequences? In what way will this picture help you as you make decisions in your life?

Encourage people to think about decision making and how one little decision (in David's case, not to go to war with his army) can have totally unforeseen consequences. Think about how to make better decisions and thinking a few steps ahead.

12. Unfortunately, that wasn't the end of the story. There were more ripples to come. What did God say to David (through the prophet Nathan) in 2 Samuel 12 v 10?

That, because of his sin, the sword would not depart from David's house ('house' meaning royal line, not a building). There would be consequences. Explain that in the following years, Bathsheba's son died, David's son raped David's daughter, and another of David's sons slept with all of David's concubines. Three of David's sons died violent deaths and one of them tried to take the crown, with David fleeing for his life.

*13. Does it surprise you that David's children's lives were affected by what David did?

e.g. David's adultery set an example of using women for pleasure, his cover-up operations set an example of deceit and his hit on Uriah set an example of using violence to get what you want.

Use this as a springboard to a discussion on the example we have set for our children. Think about the sort of example we would like to start showing them.

*14. Read 2 Samuel 12 v 13. What did David do when his sin was pointed out to him by God, and what did God do?

He repented immediately (although he'd managed to live with it for about a year by this point) and God forgave him immediately.

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In what ways does David's sin remind you of your own sin, and does his forgiveness from God give you hope? Do you know God's forgiveness for your sins?

If anyone doesn't know God's forgiveness, they just need to ask, trusting in Jesus' death in their place on the cross. Explain this to them, and offer either to pray with or for them, and encourage them to talk to God about their sin later tonight.

*15. Read 2 Samuel 7 v 12-16. What did God promise to David? Who is God talking about?

David's son would be a king. His kingdom will be established (secured), v12. He king would build the Temple, v13. His throne would be established for ever so David's royal line would be preserved. God would discipline David's son but would never take His love away from him.

God is talking about 2 people at once. Solomon, the son of David and Bathsheba, would be king after David. The whole passage is about Solomon.

Jesus would be the ultimate King of Israel. His kingdom would be established for ever (eternal). The reference to discipline for doing wrong did not apply to Jesus, as He did not sin, but Jesus was punished with the rod of men – for our sins, not His own. If you have time, look up Matthew 1 v 1, 6&16.

*16. David was remembered as the best king of Israel, the example for all other kings. He was not remembered for his sins. Does this give you hope?

Think about moving on from our sins, seeking and receiving God's forgiveness, and getting on with our lives in the light of the forgiveness, not the sin (even though we may still have to serve a prison sentence for the sin, and take responsibility for our actions).

TIME-LINE If you are making a time-line, do the next part of it now – ask the group to add what they have learnt today in the appropriate place. See the time-line on the TFC website for guidance of dates.

Check out – ask everyone, including leaders, how they found the study and if they are safe to go back to the cell.

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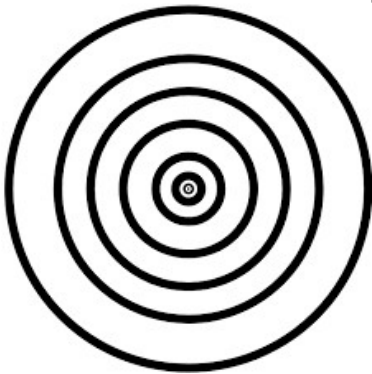
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2 Samuel 11 v 4-5		
2 Samuel 11 v 6-9	Uriah is Bathsheba's husband	
2 Samuel 11 v 14-17		
2 Samuel 11 v 26-27		

10. What do we learn in 2 Samuel 11 v 27 about what David had done?



The **ripple effect** of David's poor decisions

Draw this picture as big as you can on the back of this sheet, and fill it in.

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