

DAVID

— SHAPING A SHEPHERD —



Water of Life
community church

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Introduction

Welcome! We're so glad you're here. At Water of Life, we believe life is meant to be shared, and our Community Life ministry exists to help you get engaged in the life of the church making meaningful connections. Our mission is to cultivate spaces where healthy, Christ-centered communities can flourish—where authentic relationships are built, spiritual growth is nurtured, and serving others becomes a natural part of life. In short, Community Life is how we make a large church feel small.

In this Life of David series, we'll journey through David's incredible story—a life marked by triumphs and struggles, faith and failure. Together, we'll build on the previous weekend's message, diving deeper around tables to explore how it applies to your life. Through it all, David is remembered as a man after God's own heart. His story offers powerful lessons that challenge, inspire, and remind us of God's unwavering faithfulness and grace in every season.

As you engage in this study, we encourage you to lean in fully. Share your thoughts, connect with others, and open your heart to what God wants to teach you. We're thrilled that you've stepped into community with us and can't wait to see how God moves in your life through this series and beyond.

Let's dive in together!

Blessings,

Your Community Life Team

Water of Life Community Church

Experiencing Our Core Values and Spiritual Rhythms

In this series, you will notice that each message is paired with one of the five Water of Life **Core Values: Healing, Sending, Caring, Equipping, and Relationships.**

These pairings are intentional, designed to help you see how biblical truths can be lived out in tangible and transformative ways.

The core values represent foundational principles that guide us as a church and as individuals seeking to follow Christ. They reflect what we believe God calls us to embody as His people.

You will also be introduced to eight **Spiritual Rhythms: Daily Devotion, Prayer, Repentance, Sacrificial Generosity, Communion, Serving the Community, Sharing Your Story, and Celebrating.** We believe that each of these rhythms are essential in the life of a disciple of Jesus. Each week, one or more of these rhythms will be highlighted and tied to the messages. These rhythms are practical ways to help you engage with the messages, grow in your faith, and deepen your relationship with the Lord.

Our prayer is that as you engage with these rhythms, you will experience deeper intimacy with the Lord, greater transformation in your walk with Him, and a renewed passion to live out your faith. Whether you're in a season of preparation, celebration, challenge, or restoration, these rhythms will help you connect with the Lord and see His hand at work in your life.

Let's walk this journey together, allowing God to shape us into people after His own heart—just as He shaped David.



Our Mission

**“ To see transformed lives demonstrated
by passion for God & compassion for people.”**

Our Core Values



Healing

Restoring people physically, emotionally, and spiritually to fulfill their destiny in Christ.

Sending

Establishing long-term relationships throughout the world in order to transform lives.



Caring

Meeting physical needs of the poor in order to meet spiritual needs, resulting in transformed lives.

Equipping

Teaching and releasing people with the purpose of both mind and heart transformation.



Relationships

Transforming lives by strengthening families and building relationships.

The Spiritual Rhythms



Daily Devotion

What It Is: Spending intentional time in God's Word and presence to align your heart with His will.

Why It Matters: Daily devotion builds upon the foundation of our faith, helping us learn and know God's heart.



Prayer

What It Is: A personal and ongoing conversation with God that involves praise, confession, thanksgiving, and coming before the Lord in a position of humility.

Why It Matters: Prayer builds intimacy with God, aligns our desires with His will, and provides strength in every season. It's a rhythm that sustains us through the ups and downs of life and know God's heart.



Repentance

What It Is: Acknowledging our sins, turning away from it and back to God, and asking for His forgiveness and restoration.

Why It Matters: Repentance restores our relationship with God and reminds us of His unfailing mercy and grace. This is essential for spiritual growth and healing.



Sacrificial Generosity

What It Is: Giving selflessly of your time, resources, and energy to honor God and serve others.

Why It Matters: Sacrificial generosity reflects God's heart and demonstrates trust in His provision. It fosters humility and gratitude while advancing His kingdom and leaving a lasting legacy for future generations.



Communion

What It Is: A sacred act of remembering Christ's sacrifice and celebrating our unity with Him and other believers.

Why It Matters: Communion strengthens and reminds us of our connection with God, reminds us of His sacrifice and grace, and fosters unity within the body of Christ.



Serving

What It Is: Using our gifts and time to meet the needs of others demonstrates God's love and compassion to others.

Why It Matters: Serving transforms our faith into action, allowing us to reflect Christ's heart and meet the needs of others.



Sharing Your Story

What It Is: Using your experiences of God's work in your life to inspire and encourage others.

Why It Matters: Sharing our stories allows God to use our lives as a testimony of His grace and power while encouraging others.



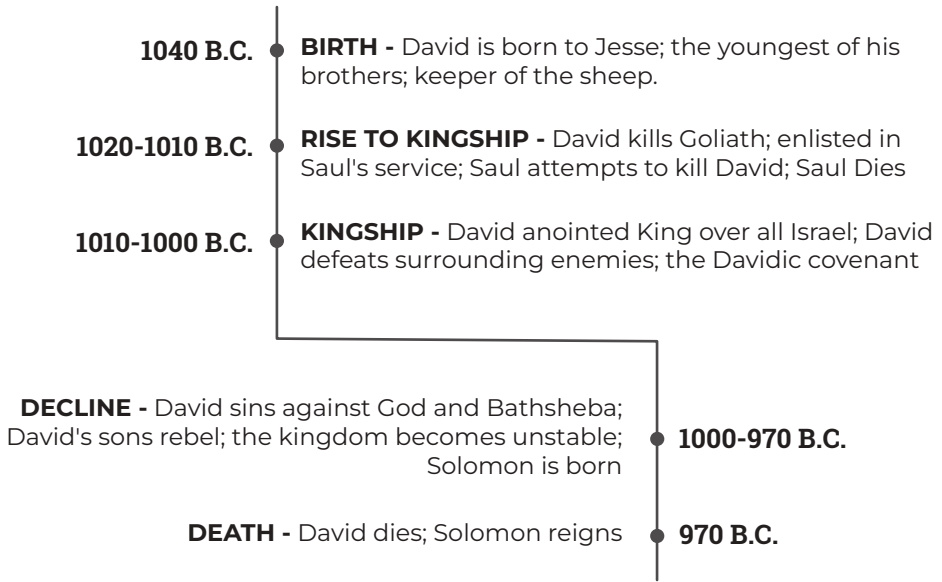
Celebrating

What It Is: Rejoicing in God's goodness, faithfulness, and work in our lives and the lives of others.

Why It Matters: Celebration strengthens our gratitude, fosters joy, and reminds us of God's blessings. It also builds community and honors God's work among His people.

David's Timeline

1 Samuel & 2 Samuel



5. **Western Hill**
6. **Central Valley** (later: Tyropoeon Valley)
7. **Eastern Hill**
8. **Valley Gate**
9. **Stepped Stone Structure'**
10. **Platform for drawing water**
11. **Pool** (receives water from Gihon Spring)
12. **Gates**
13. The excavated **Spring and Pool Towers** protected the abundant water supply of the Gihon Spring. Water from the pool would presumably have been drawn from a wooden platform.
14. **Kidron Valley**

LESSONS FROM
THE LIFE OF

DAVID

A HUMBLE BEGINNING

CORE
VALUE

EQUIPPING

SPIRITUAL
RHYTHM

DAILY
DEVOTION

◀ SERMON REWIND

David's life began in obscurity, tending sheep on the hillsides of Bethlehem. Though he seemed insignificant, God saw his heart and called him for something greater. This part of David's story teaches us that God's calling isn't about outward qualifications but about inward devotion. Despite his lowly position, David lived with a heart open to God's Spirit, evidenced by the psalms he wrote, such as **Psalms 23**.

God chooses and shapes us in hidden seasons, often away from public view, as we faithfully steward the responsibilities before us. David's defining moment came when Samuel, directed by God, anointed him in front of his family (**1 Samuel 16:1-13**). From that moment, David's life was marked for God's purposes, but his preparation continued in the field.

This lesson reminds us that God is always searching for hearts fully committed to Him (**2 Chronicles 16:9**). Even when we feel overlooked or unimportant, God sees us, and His plans for us are never dependent on earthly status or appearance.

📖 KEY VERSES

- **1 Samuel 16:7** "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.'"

- **Psalm 23** “The Lord is my shepherd; I have all that I need. He lets me rest in green meadows; he leads me beside peaceful streams. He renews my strength. He guides me along right paths, bringing honor to his name. Even when I walk through the darkest valley, I will not be afraid, for you are close beside me. Your rod and your staff protect and comfort me. You prepare a feast for me in the presence of my enemies. You honor me by anointing my head with oil. My cup overflows with blessings. Surely your goodness and unfailing love will pursue me all the days of my life, and I will live in the house of the Lord forever.”
- **2 Chronicles 16:9** “The eyes of the Lord search the whole earth in order to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him. What a fool you have been! From now on you will be at war.”



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What does it mean for God to look at the heart rather than outward appearance (**1 Samuel 16:7**)? How does this impact how we evaluate others or ourselves?
2. David was anointed as king while he was still a shepherd. How does this reflect God’s timing and purposes?
3. How does **Psalm 23** reflect David’s relationship with God? What aspects of this psalm resonate with your own experiences?

4. **2 Chronicles 16:9** says God looks for hearts fully committed to Him. What might a “fully committed heart” look like in everyday life?
5. How can we cultivate the same openness to God’s Spirit that David demonstrated?



DIVE DEEPER

This week, meditate on **Psalm 23**. Reflect on how each line applies to your life. For example, think about times God has been your Shepherd, leading you to peace, restoring your soul, or walking with you through a dark valley. Write down specific instances where you’ve seen His guidance or protection.



SUPPORTIVE SCRIPTURES

- **1 Samuel 16:7** "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.'"



PRACTICAL APPLICATION

Write a prayer thanking God for being your Shepherd and ask Him to guide you in a specific area where you feel lost or uncertain.



PRAYER / MINISTRY TIME

Ask for prayer requests

MID-WEEK / WEEKEND NOTES

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Great-Grandson of Ruth and Boaz

David's lineage is deeply rooted in a story of redemption, faithfulness, and God's providence. He was the great-grandson of Ruth and Boaz, two prominent figures whose union is beautifully detailed in the Book of Ruth. Ruth, a Moabite woman, displayed remarkable loyalty and faith when she chose to follow her mother-in-law, Naomi back to Bethlehem, saying, "Your people will be my people and your God my God" (**Ruth 1:16**). Ruth's decision to embrace the God of Israel set the stage for her extraordinary role in God's redemptive plan.

In Bethlehem, Ruth met Boaz, a wealthy and honorable man who acted as her kinsman-redeemer—a role in



But the significance of Ruth and Boaz's lineage doesn't stop with David. It extends to the promised Messiah, Jesus. Matthew's genealogy reveals that Jesus was also a descendant of Ruth and Boaz, connecting the Savior of the world to this story of redemption and inclusion. Ruth's inclusion in Jesus' lineage demonstrates that God's plan of salvation encompasses all people, transcending cultural and national boundaries. **(Matthew 1:5-6)**

Israelite culture involving the restoration of family lineage and property. Their marriage was a picture of God's provision and faithfulness, culminating in the birth of their son, Obed. Obed became the father of Jesse, who in turn became the father of David. This connection highlights God's sovereign hand in weaving together the story of David's family, from Ruth's humble beginnings as a foreigner to David's ascension as the king of Israel. **(Ruth 4:13-22; 1 Chronicles 2:12)**

This connection between Ruth, Boaz, and David, underscores God's providence and His ability to use ordinary people and unexpected circumstances to accomplish extraordinary purposes. It also highlights the importance of faith, loyalty, and obedience in fulfilling God's plans. Through Ruth and Boaz's legacy, we see how God works through generations to bring about His ultimate purpose: the salvation of humanity through His only son Jesus. **(Ruth 4:17; 1 Chronicles 2:12; Matthew 1:1-16; Luke 3:23-32)**

DID YOU KNOW?

As a young boy,
David served
as a shepherd,
courageously
defending his flock
from predators like
lions and bears.

1 SAMUEL 17:34-35

THE HEART OF A WORSHIPER

CORE
VALUE

RELATIONSHIPS

SPIRITUAL
RHYTHM

PRAYER,
CELEBRATING,
COMMUNION

◀ SERMON REWIND

Before David was a king, he was a worshiper. His time alone in the fields, playing the harp (lyre/kinnor), and communing with God shaped his heart and character. Worship was not just something David did; it was who he was. This devotion to worship later defined his leadership as he prioritized the Ark of the Covenant and restored worship in Jerusalem (**2 Samuel 6:13-17**).

David's example teaches us that a heart for God begins in solitude, where intimacy with Him is formed. Worshiping alone with God built both David's heart and skill—qualities that allowed him to lead others effectively. **Proverbs 18:16** reminds us that our gifts open doors, but it is our heart that sustains us when the doors open.

This part of David's life shows that greatness in God's kingdom starts with faithfulness in the unseen. Just as David prepared alone in the fields, we must take time to be alone with God, worshiping Him and letting His Spirit shape us for the purposes He has prepared.

📖 KEY VERSES

- **1 Samuel 13:14** “But now your kingdom must end, for the Lord has sought out a man after his own heart. The Lord has already appointed him to be the leader of his people, because you have not kept the Lord's command.”

- **Psalm 37:5** “Commit everything you do to the Lord. Trust him, and he will help you.”
- **Proverbs 18:16** “A man’s gift makes room for him and brings him before great men.”



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why is worship foundational in building a relationship with God? How does it transform us?
2. What does it mean to have “a heart after God’s own heart” (**1 Samuel 13:14**)? How can we develop this kind of heart?
3. How did David’s time alone in the fields prepare him for leadership? What can we learn about the value of solitude with God?
4. **Proverbs 18:16** states, “A man’s gift makes room for him.” How can we faithfully develop the gifts God has given us?

5. David trusted God to elevate him in His timing rather than forcing his way to the throne. How can we apply this principle to our own ambitions?

DIVE DEEPER

Set aside 15 minutes each day to worship God this week. Worship can include singing, praying, journaling, or simply reflecting on His character and goodness. Focus on building a heart of worship like David's, who praised God even in solitude.

SUPPORTIVE SCRIPTURES

- **Psalm 100:2-4** – “Worship the Lord with gladness. Come before him, singing with joy. Acknowledge that the Lord is God! He made us, and we are his. We are his people, the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving; go into his courts with praise.”

Reflect on the joy of worship and thanksgiving.

- **John 4:23-24** – “But the time is coming—indeed it's here now—when true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth. The Father is looking for those who will worship him that way.”

Ask yourself how you can be intentional about worshipping God authentically.

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

Create a worship playlist or journal your thoughts about God's greatness. Share with a friend or family member how worship has impacted your week.



PRAYER / MINISTRY TIME

Ask for prayer requests

MID-WEEK / WEEKEND NOTES

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FACING GIANTS

CORE
VALUE

HEALING

SPIRITUAL
RHYTHM

PRAYER,
REPENTANCE

◀ SERMON REWIND

The story of David and Goliath (**1 Samuel 17**) is a powerful reminder that God equips and empowers us to face the “giants” in our lives. David’s victory wasn’t because of his strength or skill alone but because he trusted fully in God. While others, including King Saul, saw only the giant’s size and strength, David saw the power of the living God, declaring that the battle belonged to Him (**1 Samuel 17:45-47**).

David’s confidence was rooted in the private victories he had won in the fields, protecting his sheep from lions and bears. These moments of preparation in solitude taught him to rely on God’s strength. When the time came for a public battle, David didn’t fight with Saul’s armor but with the tools and faith God had already given him.

This story challenges us to trust God completely in our battles, recognizing that our struggles are spiritual in nature (**Ephesians 6:12-13**). Like David, we can boldly face obstacles, knowing that God’s power is greater than anything that comes against us.

📖 KEY VERSES

- **1 Samuel 17:45-47** “David replied to the Philistine, ‘You come to me with sword, spear, and javelin, but I come to you in the name of the Lord of Heaven’s Armies—the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. Today the Lord will conquer you, and I will kill you and cut off

your head. And then I will give the dead bodies of your men to the birds and wild animals, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel! And 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 to us!"

- **Ephesians 6:12-13** “For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places. Therefore, put on every piece of God's armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm.”
- **Romans 8:31-39** “What shall we say about such wonderful things as these? If God is for us, who can ever be against us? Since he did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all, won't he also give us everything else? Who dares accuse us whom God has chosen for his own? No one—for God himself has given us right standing with himself. Who then will condemn us? No one—for Christ Jesus died for us and was raised to life for us, and he is sitting in the place of honor at God's right hand, pleading for us. Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death? (As the Scriptures say, 'For your sake we are killed every day; we are being slaughtered like sheep.') No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us. And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. David saw the battle with Goliath as God's, not his. How does recognizing that “the battle belongs to the Lord” (**1 Samuel 17:47**) change the way we approach challenges?
2. How do spiritual battles (**Ephesians 6:12-13**) manifest in our lives today? What tools has God given us to stand firm?
3. Why is it important to operate in the opposite spirit (e.g., responding to anger with kindness, fear with faith)? How does this reflect God's character?
4. David refused Saul's armor and trusted in what God had equipped him with. How can we identify and trust the unique ways God has equipped us for challenges?
5. **Romans 8:31-39** reminds us that nothing can separate us from God's love. How does this assurance help us face life's “giants”?

DIVE DEEPER

Identify a “giant” in your life this week—something that feels overwhelming or impossible to overcome. Spend time in prayer each day, asking God for wisdom and strength to face it. Journal about what trusting God with this battle looks like practically.

Suggestion: Establish a rhythm of prayer by designating times throughout your day to pray, you can even set your phone alarm to remind you.

SUPPORTIVE SCRIPTURES

- **2 Chronicles 20:15** – “This is what the Lord says: Do not be afraid! Don’t be discouraged by this mighty army, for the battle is not yours, but God’s.”

Consider how releasing control to God can bring peace.

- **Philippians 4:6-7** – “Don’t worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God’s peace, which exceeds anything we can understand.”

Reflect on how gratitude and prayer can shift your perspective when facing challenges.

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

Take one step of faith toward facing your giant, whether it’s starting a difficult conversation, tackling a big project, or praying for courage. Trust God with the outcome, remembering His power and promises.



PRAYER / MINISTRY TIME

Ask for prayer requests

MID-WEEK / WEEKEND NOTES

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DID YOU KNOW?

**David was a
talented musician
and lyre/kinnor player.
He often played for
Saul to bring him
peace and spiritual
solace.**

1 SAMUEL 16:23

TRUE FRIENDSHIP AND TRUSTING GOD IN UNEASY TIMES

**CORE
VALUE**

RELATIONSHIPS,
CARING

**SPIRITUAL
RHYTHM**

SERVING,
SACRIFICIAL
GENEROSITY,
PRAYER,
COMMUNION

◀◀ SERMON REWIND

David and Jonathan's friendship and David's journey during times of fear both reveal the importance of relationships and trusting God.

True Friendship: David and Jonathan's bond, rooted in faith and mutual respect, demonstrates sacrificial love and loyalty (**1 Samuel 18:1-4**). Jonathan's selfless acts—offering his robe, armor, and weapons—foreshadow the sacrificial love of Jesus. Even in adversity, Jonathan encouraged David, uplifting him and pointing him to God (**1 Samuel 23:16-17**). Their friendship teaches us the power of selflessness, encouragement, and loyalty in our relationships.

Trusting God in Uneasy Times: In contrast, David's fear during his escape from Saul led to poor decisions, such as lying to Ahimelech (**1 Samuel 21**). These choices resulted in devastating consequences but also highlighted God's unchanging faithfulness. Despite David's failures, God reminded him of past victories and remained with him, teaching him to trust rather than act out of fear.



KEY VERSES

- **1 Samuel 18:1-4** – “Jonathan loved him as he loved himself. Jonathan sealed the pact by taking off his robe and giving it to David, together with his tunic, sword, bow, and belt.”
- **1 Samuel 23:16-17** – “Jonathan went to find David and encouraged him to stay strong in his faith in God.”
- **Psalms 37:3-5** – “Trust in the Lord and do good. Then you will live safely in the land and prosper.”
- **Proverbs 17:17** – “A friend is always loyal, and a brother is born to help in time of need.”
- **Isaiah 26:3** – “You will keep in perfect peace all who trust in you, all whose thoughts are fixed on you!”
- **1 Samuel 21:1-2** – “David went to the town of Nob to see Ahimelech the priest. Ahimelech trembled when he saw him. ‘Why are you alone?’ he asked. ‘Why is no one with you?’”
- **1 Samuel 22:16-19** – Saul ordered, ‘Kill them all!’ So Doeg the Edomite turned on them and killed them that day... 85 priests in all.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Jonathan sacrificed his status and position for David (**1 Samuel 18:4**). What does this teach us about selflessness in relationships, and how can we apply this principle today?

2. How did Jonathan's encouragement (**1 Samuel 23:16-17**) strengthen David during a challenging time? Why is encouragement a vital part of friendship? Do you have a friend like this and are you a friend like this to someone?

3. Why did David resort to lying to Ahimelech in **1 Samuel 21:1-2**? What can we learn about the dangers of acting out of fear rather than faith?

4. How did David's fear-driven decision impact Ahimelech and the priests? What does this teach us about the ripple effects of our choices on others?

5. How do emotions like fear and loneliness affect our ability to trust God? How can we guard against being ruled by these feelings?



DIVE DEEPER

Reflect on the relationships and challenges in your life:

- Is there a friend or family member you can honor this week through encouragement, support, or selfless action?

- Are you facing a situation where you're tempted to act out of fear or control? Reflect on God's past faithfulness in your life and spend time surrendering this situation to Him in prayer. Write down specific ways God has provided for you in the past to remind yourself of His unchanging nature.

SUPPORTIVE SCRIPTURES

- **Proverbs 27:17** – “As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend.”
- **Romans 12:10** – “Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other.”
- **Psalms 46:1** – “God is our refuge and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble.”

Isaiah 26:3 – “You will keep in perfect peace all who trust in you, all whose thoughts are fixed on you!”

Consider how fixing your thoughts on God can bring peace in uncertain situations.

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

Friendship: Identify one act of encouragement or sacrifice you can make for a friend to reflect Christ's love. Whether it's a small gift, a word of affirmation, or simply spending time together, let your action be intentional and selfless.

Trusting God: Make a “faithfulness journal” entry this week, recounting times when God helped you overcome fear or provided in unexpected ways. Use this list to encourage yourself when fear arises again.

PRAYER / MINISTRY TIME

Ask for prayer requests

MID-WEEK / WEEKEND NOTES

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Tribe of Judah

David belonged to the Tribe of Judah, one of the twelve tribes of Israel descended from Jacob's fourth son, Judah. This tribe held a prominent position among the tribes, as it was prophesied by Jacob in **Genesis 49:8-12** that Judah's descendants would possess leadership and authority. Jacob's blessing foretold that "the scepter shall not depart from Judah," signaling that the tribe would be the source of Israel's kingship and ultimately the lineage of the Messiah.

David's role as king was a direct fulfillment of this prophecy, solidifying Judah's position as the royal tribe. Throughout the Bible, the Tribe of Judah is associated with strength, courage, and leadership, qualities embodied by David during his reign. This lineage would later culminate in the birth of Jesus Christ, the ultimate fulfillment of the promise that a ruler from Judah's line would reign eternally. David's connection to the Tribe of Judah highlights God's faithfulness in keeping His covenant and unfolding His plan of redemption for all humanity. (**1 Chronicles 2:15; Genesis 49:8-12; Matthew 1:1-17**)



DID YOU KNOW?

**At the Lord's
command,
the prophet Samuel
anointed David
as the future king
of Israel, long before
he took the throne.**

1 SAMUEL 16:12-13

LESSONS FROM THE CAVE

CORE
VALUE

HEALING

SPIRITUAL
RHYTHM

PRAYER,
COMMUNION

◀ SERMON REWIND

David's time in the Cave of Adullam was one of loneliness and rejection, yet it became a place of transformation. In the darkness, David poured out his heart to God, as reflected in Psalms like **Psalm 54** and **Psalm 57**. This cave became a sanctuary where David learned humility, worship, and trust. His ragtag group of followers also grew into mighty warriors under his leadership. The story reminds us that God uses hard places to shape us, prepare us, and draw us closer to Him.

📖 KEY VERSES

- **1 Samuel 22:1-2** – “David left Gath and escaped to the cave of Adullam. Soon his brothers and all his other relatives joined him there. Then others began coming—men who were in trouble or in debt or who were just discontented—until David was the captain of about 400 men.”
- **Psalm 57:1-2** – “Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy! I look to you for protection. I will hide beneath the shadow of your wings until the danger passes by.”
- **Isaiah 40:31** – “But those who trust in the Lord will find new strength.”



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why do you think God allowed David to experience the cave of Adullam? How does God use difficult seasons in our lives?
2. David's followers in the cave were described as distressed, in debt, and discontented (**1 Samuel 22:2**). Why do you think God often calls the broken to Himself, and what does this reveal about His character?
3. **Psalm 57**, written in the cave, shows David worshiping God in the midst of trials. How does worship during hardships transform our perspective?
4. How does David's leadership in the cave reflect Jesus' leadership in gathering and transforming the broken?
5. What can we learn from David's steadfastness in waiting for God's timing to ascend to the throne?



DIVE DEEPER

David's time in the cave was a season of waiting, refinement, and deep reliance on God. Reflect on any "cave" season in your life—a time of difficulty or uncertainty. How did God shape you during that time? How might He be using your current challenges to refine your character and strengthen your faith?

Reflect on Psalm 57

Psalm 57 - For the choir director: A psalm of David, regarding the time he fled from Saul and went into the cave. To be sung to the tune "Do Not Destroy!"

¹ Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy! I look to you for protection. I will hide beneath the shadow of your wings until the danger passes by. ² I cry out to God Most High, to God who will fulfill his purpose for me. ³ He will send help from heaven to rescue me, disgracing those who hound me.

Interlude

My God will send forth his unfailing love and faithfulness. ⁴ I am surrounded by fierce lions who greedily devour human prey—whose teeth pierce like spears and arrows, and whose tongues cut like swords. ⁵ Be exalted, O God, above the highest heavens! May your glory shine over all the earth. ⁶ My enemies have set a trap for me. I am weary from distress. They have dug a deep pit in my path, but they themselves have fallen into it.

Interlude

⁷ My heart is confident in you, O God; my heart is confident. No wonder I can sing your praises! ⁸ Wake up, my heart! Wake up, O lyre and harp! I will wake the dawn with my song. ⁹ I will thank you, Lord, among all the people. I will sing your praises among the nations. ¹⁰ For your unfailing love is as high as the heavens. Your faithfulness reaches to the clouds. ¹¹ Be exalted, O God, above the highest heavens. May your glory shine over all the earth.



SUPPORTIVE SCRIPTURES

- **Psalm 34:17-19** – “The Lord hears his people when they call to him for help. He rescues them from all their troubles. The Lord is close to the brokenhearted; he rescues those whose spirits are crushed.”

Reflect on how God’s closeness sustains us during hard times.

- **Romans 8:28** – “And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.”

Meditate on how God uses trials for growth and preparation.



PRACTICAL APPLICATION

Spend time in prayer this week asking God to show you how He is working in your current struggles. Write a letter to God, expressing your thoughts and thanking Him for His presence, even in the darkness.



PRAYER / MINISTRY TIME

Ask for prayer requests

MID-WEEK / WEEKEND NOTES

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DID YOU KNOW?

David served
as one of Saul's
armor-bearers,
earning favor
within the
Israelite military.

1 SAMUEL 16:21

TRUSTING GOD'S TIMING

CORE
VALUE

HEALING

SPIRITUAL
RHYTHM

DAILY DEVOTION,
PRAYER

◀ SERMON REWIND

David was twice presented with the opportunity to kill King Saul (**1 Samuel 24 and 26**). Each time, his men interpreted the open door as God's will, urging him to act. However, David resisted, understanding that God's promises should be fulfilled in His timing, not by human intervention. These moments of restraint reveal the importance of trusting God's timing, even when circumstances seem to align with our desires. David's decision to honor Saul demonstrated his faith in God's sovereignty and his understanding of kingdom values over human values.

📖 KEY VERSES

- **1 Samuel 24:4-5** – “Now's your opportunity!” David's men whispered to him. “Today the Lord is telling you, ‘I will certainly put your enemy into your power, to do with as you wish.’” So David crept forward and cut off a piece of the hem of Saul's robe. But then David's conscience began bothering him.”
- **Psalm 37:5-7** – “Commit everything you do to the Lord. Trust him, and he will help you. Be still in the presence of the Lord, and wait patiently for him to act.”



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What does David's decision not to harm Saul, despite the opportunity, reveal about his faith in God's sovereignty?
2. How can we discern whether an open door is a test or a sign from God?
3. Why do you think David's men interpreted the situation as God's will? How can we avoid misunderstanding circumstances?
4. How does self-control, as demonstrated by David, reflect spiritual maturity?
5. How can waiting on God's timing deepen our faith and prepare us for future challenges?



DIVE DEEPER

Reflect on a current situation where you are waiting for clarity or direction.

Ask yourself: Are you actively waiting on God, seeking His will through prayer and Scripture, or are you passively waiting, doing nothing? Spend time meditating on **Psalm 37:5-7** and consider how committing your way to the Lord can help you trust His timing. Write down areas where you've struggled to let go of control and pray for patience and faith to endure.



SUPPORTIVE SCRIPTURES

- **Isaiah 40:31** – “But those who trust in the Lord will find new strength. They will soar high on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not faint.”

Waiting on God renews our strength and aligns us with His purposes.

- **Proverbs 16:9** – “We can make our plans, but the Lord determines our steps.”

Trusting God's timing requires surrendering our plans to His greater wisdom.



PRACTICAL APPLICATION

Each day this week, set aside 10 minutes to pray specifically about a situation where you're waiting on God. Ask Him to guide your steps and give you peace as you trust in His timing.



PRAYER / MINISTRY TIME

Ask for prayer requests

MID-WEEK / WEEKEND NOTES

A series of horizontal dotted lines for writing notes.

WISDOM THAT REDIRECTS

CORE
VALUE

CARING

SPIRITUAL
RHYTHM

SHARING YOUR
STORY, SACRIFICIAL
GENEROSITY

SERMON REWIND

David's encounter with Nabal and Abigail (**1 Samuel 25**) illustrates the power of self-control and the importance of godly counsel. Nabal's insult infuriated David, prompting him to prepare for revenge. However, Abigail's wisdom and intercession stopped him from making a rash decision that could have jeopardized his destiny. This story reminds us that listening to wise counsel and pausing before acting in anger can save us from unnecessary regret and destruction.

KEY VERSES

- **1 Samuel 25:32-33** – “David replied to Abigail, ‘Praise the Lord, the God of Israel, who has sent you to meet me today! Thank God for your good sense! Bless you for keeping me from murder and from carrying out vengeance with my own hands.’”
- **Proverbs 15:1** – “A gentle answer deflects anger, but harsh words make tempers flare.”



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why is it important to pause and reflect before responding to offense or anger, as Abigail demonstrated?
2. Abigail's intercession saved David from a grave mistake. How can godly counsel protect us from harmful decisions?
3. David praised Abigail for her discernment (**1 Samuel 25:32-33**). What qualities of discernment can we cultivate to navigate conflicts?
4. How does this story show the importance of self-control in preserving God's plans for our lives?
5. What lessons can we learn from Nabal's arrogance and Abigail's humility in dealing with others?



DIVE DEEPER

Think of a time when your emotions led you to act impulsively or harshly. How might the outcome have been different if you had paused, prayed, and sought wise counsel? Reflect on Abigail's wisdom in **1 Samuel 25:18-33**. She demonstrated humility and urgency, seeking peace rather than escalation. Identify one relationship or situation where you can apply her example this week.



SUPPORTIVE SCRIPTURES

- **James 1:19-20** – “Understand this, my dear brothers and sisters: You must all be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry. Human anger does not produce the righteousness God desires.”

Pausing to listen and reflect prevents rash decisions.

- **Proverbs 19:11** – “Sensible people control their temper; they earn respect by overlooking wrongs.”

Abigail's actions exemplify the wisdom of controlling emotions.



PRACTICAL APPLICATION

If you feel offended or angry this week, take a moment to pause and pray before responding. Ask God for wisdom and consider reaching out to a trusted friend for advice.



PRAYER / MINISTRY TIME

Ask for prayer requests

MID-WEEK / WEEKEND NOTES

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DID YOU KNOW?

David famously defeated the Philistine giant, Goliath, during a battle between the Israelites and Philistines. Armed with only a sling and five stones, he killed Goliath with a single shot to the forehead.

1 SAMUEL 17:49-50





Birthplace – Bethlehem

David's humble beginnings in Bethlehem underscore the theme of God choosing unlikely individuals to fulfill His purposes. As the youngest of Jesse's eight sons, David was not the obvious choice for kingship by human standards. However, God looked beyond outward appearances and chose David for his heart and faith.

Centuries later, Bethlehem's significance deepened when it was prophesied as the birthplace of the Messiah. **Micah 5:2** declares, "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel." This prophecy was fulfilled in the birth of Jesus, who came from David's lineage, solidifying Bethlehem's place as a cornerstone in God's redemptive plan.

David's birth in Bethlehem not only marked the beginning of his extraordinary journey from shepherd to king but also foreshadowed the ultimate Shepherd and King, Jesus, who would be born in the same town to bring salvation to the world.

(1 Samuel 16:1, Micah 5:2; Luke 2:4-7)

DID YOU KNOW?

**David composed
73 of the 150 psalms
found in the Book
of Psalms,
making him one
of the primary
contributors to this
ancient collection of
sacred songs
and prayers.**

THE DANGER OF COVERING UP

CORE
VALUE

HEALING

SPIRITUAL
RHYTHM

REPENTANCE,
PRAYER

◀ SERMON REWIND

David's sin with Bathsheba (**2 Samuel 11**) illustrates the destructive nature of sin and the dangers of attempting to cover it up. His actions, fueled by lust, led to adultery, deceit, and murder. The consequences were far-reaching, affecting his family, his kingdom, and his relationship with God. However, David's eventual repentance (**Psalms 51**) reminds us that no sin is too great for God's grace and forgiveness when we confess and turn back to Him.

📖 KEY VERSES

- **2 Samuel 11:27** – “But the Lord was displeased with what David had done.”
- **Psalms 51:10-12** – “Create in me a clean heart, O God. Renew a loyal spirit within me. Do not banish me from your presence, and don't take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and make me willing to obey you.”



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why do you think David, a man after God's own heart, fell into such serious sin? What can we learn from this about human vulnerability?
2. How did David's cover-up of his sin lead to greater consequences than the initial act?
3. What does **Psalm 51** reveal about David's understanding of repentance and God's mercy?
4. Why is confession essential for healing and restoration in our relationship with God and others?
5. How can we protect ourselves from falling into similar patterns of sin and concealment?

DIVE DEEPER

David's attempt to cover up his sin with Bathsheba (**2 Samuel 11**) shows how sin escalates when it's concealed. Reflect on areas in your life where you may be hiding sin or avoiding confession. Meditate on **Psalm 51:1-12**, focusing on David's heart of repentance. Ask God to help you bring any hidden struggles into the light and experience the freedom of His forgiveness.

SUPPORTIVE SCRIPTURES

- **1 John 1:9** – “But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.”

Confession leads to restoration and cleansing.

- **James 5:16** – “Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results.”

Sharing with a trusted believer brings healing and accountability.

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

This week, write a prayer of confession. Be honest about areas where you've struggled or failed, and ask God to renew your heart and spirit. If needed, consider speaking with a trusted godly friend or mentor to bring these struggles into the light.

PRAYER / MINISTRY TIME

Ask for prayer requests

MID-WEEK / WEEKEND NOTES

A series of horizontal dotted lines for writing notes.

RESTORING HOPE: SURRENDERING BROKEN DREAMS TO GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY THROUGH GENEROSITY & TRUST

CORE
VALUE

HEALING

SPIRITUAL
RHYTHM

PRAYER,
COMMUNION,
SACRIFICIAL
GENEROSITY

◀ SERMON REWIND

David faced the devastating loss of his dreams when his son Absalom conspired against him, and his trusted confidant betrayed him. His response demonstrates profound faith and surrender. Despite immense sorrow, David walked barefoot on the Mount of Olives, mirroring Jesus' own surrender centuries later. In this act, David cast himself on God's mercy, recognizing that his destiny lay in God's hands, not his own efforts. He later declared that everything belongs to God, acknowledging His sovereignty and learning to live with an open heart of generosity and forgiveness. David would even send the Ark back, which underscores his trust in the sovereignty of God.

📖 KEY VERSES

- **2 Samuel 15:25-26** - "Then the king instructed Zadok to take the Ark of God back into the city. 'If the Lord sees fit,' David said, 'he will bring me back to see the Ark and the Tabernacle again. But if he is through with me, then let him do what seems best to him.'"

- **Psalm 3:3** - “But you, O Lord, are a shield around me; you are my glory, the one who holds my head high.”
- **1 Chronicles 29:12-14** - “Wealth and honor come from you alone, for you rule over everything. Power and might are in your hand, and at your discretion people are made great and given strength. O our God, we thank you and praise your glorious name! But who am I, and who are my people, that we could give anything to you? Everything we have has come from you, and we give you only what you first gave us!”



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. David chose to return the Ark of God to Jerusalem, saying, “If the Lord sees fit, He will bring me back” (**2 Samuel 15:25-26**). What does this decision reveal about his faith and understanding of God’s sovereignty? Meaning, He has the power, wisdom, and authority to do anything He chooses within His creation.
2. In **Psalm 3:3**, David declares that God is his shield and the lifter of his head during one of the darkest times of his life. How can this perspective shape how we respond to trials?
3. David reflects in **1 Chronicles 29:14**, “Everything we have has come from you.” How does recognizing God’s ownership of all things affect how we approach generosity and stewardship?

4. David experienced deep loss and betrayal, yet he ultimately surrendered to God and found healing. What can we learn from his journey about letting go of control in our own lives?
5. Generosity and forgiveness are central themes in David's later years. How do these practices reflect God's character, and why are they essential for spiritual growth?



DIVE DEEPER

Consider a time in your life when things didn't go as you planned—when a dream, goal, or relationship fell apart. How did you respond? Did you try to control the outcome, or were you able to surrender it to God? Reflect on David's decision to send the Ark of God back to Jerusalem (**2 Samuel 15:25-26**), symbolizing his complete trust in God's will.

Questions for Reflection:

- What does surrender look like in your current situation?
- Are there any dreams or desires you need to release into God's hands?
- How can you trust God to restore what is broken, even if it looks different from what you envisioned?



SUPPORTIVE SCRIPTURES

- **Proverbs 3:5-6** – “Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.”

Trusting God requires acknowledging that His wisdom surpasses ours and surrendering the need to have all the answers.

- **Matthew 6:33-34** – “Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need. So don’t worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its own worries. Today’s trouble is enough for today.”

Prioritizing God’s Kingdom allows us to release control and trust Him to meet our needs in His perfect timing.

- **Romans 8:28** – “And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.”

Even in loss, we can trust that God is orchestrating all things for our good and His glory.

- **Psalms 37:4-5** – “Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you your heart’s desires. Commit everything you do to the Lord. Trust him, and he will help you.”

Surrendering our desires to God aligns our hearts with His will and opens the door for His help and guidance.

Journaling Exercise: Write a letter to God expressing the following:

1. Acknowledgment of His sovereignty over your life.
2. Confession of areas where you’ve struggled to trust Him.
3. A declaration of surrender, giving Him control over your dreams and desires.
4. A request for peace and faith to trust His timing and plans.

Challenge for the Week: Practice generosity as a way to release control and trust God's provision. Whether it's through acts of service, financial giving or encouraging words, let your actions reflect an open heart and a reliance on God.



PRACTICAL APPLICATION

This week, identify one area in your life where you are struggling to trust God. It could be a career challenge, a strained relationship, or a personal dream that hasn't come to fruition. Spend time this week meditating on **Psalm 3:3**, which describes God as the "one who holds my head high." Take a tangible step in trusting His sovereignty by:

1. Writing a prayer of release, asking God to take control.
2. Sharing your struggle with a trusted friend or mentor for prayer and encouragement.
3. Practicing generosity in that area (e.g., giving, serving, or encouraging someone else).



PRAYER / MINISTRY TIME

Ask for prayer requests

MID-WEEK / WEEKEND NOTES

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LIVING AS A GIVER, NOT A TAKER

**CORE
VALUE**

HEALING,
CARING

**SPIRITUAL
RHYTHM**

REPENTANCE,
DAILY DEVOTION,
SACRIFICIAL
GENEROSITY,
SERVING

◀ SERMON REWIND

At the end of David's life, he made a critical mistake by numbering the people, reflecting pride and reliance on human strength rather than God. When faced with God's judgment, David chose to fall into God's hands, trusting His mercy. Directed to the threshing floor of Araunah, David insisted on paying for the land to build an altar, stating, "I will not offer burnt offerings to the Lord my God that cost me nothing" (**2 Samuel 24:24**).

This act of sacrificial worship foreshadowed the ultimate sacrifice of Jesus on the same mountain, Mt. Moriah. David's story highlights that worship must cost something, whether time, resources, or the surrender of our hearts. Living as a giver means reflecting God's generosity, not for gain but as an act of worship.

📖 KEY VERSES

- **2 Samuel 24:24** - "But the king replied to Araunah, 'No, I insist on buying it, for I will not present burnt offerings to the Lord my God that have cost me nothing.' So David paid him fifty pieces of silver for the threshing floor and the oxen."
- **Luke 6:38** - "Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full—pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap. The amount you give will determine the amount you get back."

- **1 Chronicles 21:26** -“Then David built an altar to the Lord there and sacrificed burnt offerings and peace offerings. And when David prayed, the Lord answered him by sending fire from heaven to burn up the offering on the altar.”
- **Romans 12:1**- “And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him.”



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. David insisted on paying for the threshing floor, saying, “I will not offer burnt offerings to the Lord my God that cost me nothing” (**2 Samuel 24:24**). Why is it important for worship to involve sacrifice? How does this principle apply to your own life?
2. In **Luke 6:38**, Jesus says, “Give, and you will receive...The amount you give will determine the amount you get back.” How does this principle challenge our mindset about giving, and what does it teach about God’s provision?
3. David’s pride led him to sin, but his repentance brought him back into alignment with God’s will. How can we identify areas of pride in our own lives, and what steps can we take to surrender them to God?

4. **Romans 12:1** calls us to present our bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God. What does it mean to live as a “living sacrifice,” and how does this mindset shape daily decisions?
5. David’s story demonstrates the principle of sowing and reaping. How do our actions—whether generosity, forgiveness, or judgment—affect our spiritual lives and relationships?



DIVE DEEPER

David’s insistence that he would not offer a sacrifice to God “that cost [him] nothing” (**2 Samuel 24:24**) challenges us to consider the quality and intention behind our worship. Reflect on the areas in your life where God is calling you to deeper sacrifice, whether it be your time, finances, talents, or heart.

Ask yourself:

- Do I give to God out of convenience or out of love and reverence?
- What areas of my life am I holding back from God?

Remember David turned his failure into an opportunity for worship and restoration. His act of sacrificial worship not only honored God but also paved the way for deeper connection and healing. Similarly, when we worship God sacrificially, it reflects our trust in Him and His worthiness.



SUPPORTIVE SCRIPTURES

- **2 Samuel 24:24** - “But the king replied to Araunah, ‘No, I insist on buying it, for I will not present burnt offerings to the Lord my God that have cost me nothing.’”

Consider how you can model David’s mindset of worship that requires meaningful sacrifice.

- **Romans 12:1** - “And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him.”

Worship isn’t limited to Sunday mornings; it’s a daily offering of yourself to God in all areas of life.

- **Luke 6:38** - “Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full—pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap. The amount you give will determine the amount you get back.”

Generosity opens the door for God’s blessings, not necessarily material, but spiritual fulfillment and joy.

- **Matthew 6:21** - “Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.”

Your priorities reveal the focus of your heart. Is God the center of your worship and giving?

- **Psalms 51:16-17** - “You do not desire a sacrifice, or I would offer one. You do not want a burnt offering. The sacrifice you desire is a broken spirit. You will not reject a broken and repentant heart, O God.”

True worship begins with humility and repentance, acknowledging God’s mercy and grace.

Journaling Prompt:

- Write about a time when you gave sacrificially to God—whether your time, resources, or forgiveness—and how it deepened your faith.
- Reflect on what God might be calling you to offer to Him now and why it feels challenging.

Challenge for the Week:

- Set aside a specific time to pray and ask God: “What do You want me to give to You this week as an act of worship?” Then act on it, trusting Him to work through your obedience.



PRACTICAL APPLICATION

1. Identify Your Sacrifice:

- Think of something valuable to you—your time, resources, or even a fear or burden—and intentionally offer it to God this week.
- Example: Set aside extra time in prayer, give financially to someone in need, or forgive someone who has wronged you.

2. Practice Generosity:

- Seek out opportunities to give without expecting anything in return. This could be through serving, giving, or simply encouraging someone who needs support.

3. Journal Your Journey:

- Write down what you’re offering to God and how it impacts your heart and your relationship with Him. Reflect on the challenges and blessings that come from sacrificial worship.



PRAYER / MINISTRY TIME

Ask for prayer requests

LEAVING A LEGACY

CORE
VALUE

SENDING

SPIRITUAL
RHYTHM

SHARING YOUR
STORY, SACRIFICIAL
GENEROSITY

SERMON REWIND

David longed to build a temple for God, but he was not permitted to do so because of the bloodshed in his life (**1 Chronicles 22:7-10**). Instead of growing bitter, David chose to prepare for the next generation by gathering materials and setting up his son Solomon for success. David's story reminds us that even when our dreams don't unfold as we hope, God's plans are greater. Legacy is built not by achieving personal goals but by faithfully serving God and empowering others to continue His work.

KEY VERSES

- **1 Chronicles 22:19** – “Now seek the Lord your God with all your heart and soul. Build the sanctuary of the Lord God so that you can bring the Ark of the Lord's Covenant and the holy vessels of God into the Temple built to honor the Lord's name.”
- **Psalms 30:5** – “Weeping may last through the night, but joy comes with the morning.”

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How did David's response to God's refusal to let him build the Temple demonstrate faith and humility (**1 Chronicles 22:7-10**)?

2. How does Psalm 30:5 encourage us to maintain hope even when our dreams remain unfulfilled?

3. What does it mean to build a spiritual legacy, and how can we intentionally invest in the next generation?

4. Why do you think humility is critical for leaving a God-honoring legacy?

5. How can David's willingness to prepare materials for the Temple inspire us to support God's work even when we don't see the results?



DIVE DEEPER

What kind of legacy are you building with your life? Reflect on **1 Chronicles 22:7-10**, where David prepared materials for the Temple even though he wouldn't see its completion.

Ask yourself: How can I contribute to God’s work in ways that impact the next generation? Consider ways you can serve, mentor, or encourage others to walk in their faith.

SUPPORTIVE SCRIPTURES

- **Deuteronomy 6:6-7** – “And you must commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these commands that I am giving you today. Repeat them again and again to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are on the road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up.”

Think about how you can share your faith with the next generation.

- **Matthew 6:20** – “Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal.”

Reflect on how investing in God’s kingdom leaves an eternal impact.

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

This week, take a purposeful step toward building a spiritual legacy. Consider engaging in an intentional, ongoing conversation about the Lord with your children, mentoring someone younger in their walk with Christ, volunteering your time and skills in your church or community, or giving financially to support your local church. Allow yourself to be stretched and ask God for wisdom and guidance on how your actions can make an eternal impact, leaving a lasting influence that extends beyond your lifetime.



PRAYER / MINISTRY TIME

Ask for prayer requests

MID-WEEK / WEEKEND NOTES

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Shepherd as a Youth

Before rising to prominence as a king, David began his life in the fields of Bethlehem as a humble shepherd, tending his family's flocks. This role, though seemingly ordinary, was foundational in shaping David's character and preparing him for his future as a leader of God's people. As a shepherd, David developed qualities of responsibility, vigilance, and compassion, which he later applied in his kingship.

David's time as a shepherd was not without challenges. He displayed remarkable courage and trust in God when he protected his sheep from fierce predators, such as lions and bears. In recounting these experiences to King Saul, David highlighted how the Lord delivered him from the paw of the lion and the bear, strengthening his faith that God would also deliver him in battle against the Philistine giant, Goliath. (**1 Samuel 17:34-37**)

David's humble beginnings as a shepherd remind us that God often uses seemingly insignificant roles to prepare His people for



great purposes. His faithfulness in the fields prepared him to shepherd the nation of Israel and lead them with courage, wisdom, and reliance on God's strength. (**Psalm 23;**
1 Samuel 17:34-37)





Continuing Your Journey

We hope and pray that this study has been a blessing to you! It's been an incredible journey exploring God's Word together, and we're so thankful for the time and effort you've dedicated to deepening your relationship with Him.

As you reflect on what you've learned, we want to encourage you to keep growing in your faith. Growth doesn't happen by accident—it requires intentionality. To help you continue your journey, we invite you to explore the many opportunities available to you.

Join A Small Group

You've experienced firsthand what it's like being in a small group—the encouragement, connection, and growth that happens when we come together in authentic community. Imagine what it would be like to continue building those deep relationships and sharing life with others who are also seeking to grow in their faith.

Small groups are where real connections happen. They're more than just meetings—they're a space where you can be known, supported, and challenged to grow. Whether it's diving deeper into God's Word,

praying for one another, or simply sharing life's ups and downs, small groups are a vital part of living out our faith.

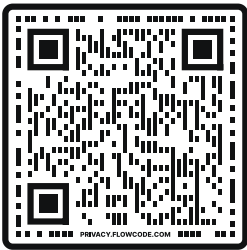
Now is the perfect time to take the next step and join a Small Group.

Lead A Small Group

Have you ever considered the incredible impact you could have by leading a small group? Small groups are where life change happens—where people grow in their faith, build authentic relationships, and experience the love of Jesus in a powerful way. And you can be part of making that happen!

Leading a small group isn't about having all the answers—it's about creating a space where others feel welcome, encouraged, and supported. It's about being intentional in pointing people toward Jesus and walking alongside them as they grow.

If you have a heart for others, a desire to see lives transformed, and a willingness to step out in faith, this is your opportunity. Leading a small group is more than just facilitating meetings—it's about being part of God's work in building His Kingdom, one life at a time. We'll equip you with everything you need to succeed, from training to resources, so you'll never feel alone in the journey. Now is the perfect time to take a step of faith and lead a Small Group.



**Scan the QR code to
discover all that God has
in store for you.**

The journey of faith is ongoing, and God has so much more for you. As you continue to seek Him, may you experience His peace, purpose, and power in every area of your life. Let's keep growing, serving, and building His Kingdom—together! We're excited to see all that God will do in and through you as you step forward in faith.

Thank you for being part of this study!

