



The Life of David

In this series, we look at a man on whom the hinges of history hang, but who also lived a deeply human life. He was a man of victories and failures, and yet was called a man after God's own heart. We also will see how his vertical relationship with God impacted his horizontal relationship with others: when David and God were in a good place, David handled his relationships well, and when he wasn't, well, we will see how that goes. May we lean into this man's life and ask the Spirit for help to see how we can apply these lessons in our own lives.

Read the Scripture:

Individual: Read the passage from two or three different translations.

Group: Have two different group members read the passage using different Bible translations.

Speak the Scripture:

Individual: Recite the story aloud from memory (as best you can) or tell it to a friend or family member. The goal here is to get the essence of the passage in your heart.

Group: Have someone volunteer to recite the passage aloud in their own words, as best they can.

Understand the Scripture:

Individual or Group: Use the Discovery Questions to help ensure you understand the passage.

Dig Deeper into the Scripture:

Individual: Work through the Digging Deeper questions and pray about what God reveals to you through His word. Discuss with a Christian friend or family member, if you choose.

Group: Work through the Digging Deeper questions as a group, celebrating the work God is already doing in each person's life, and encouraging each other to trust Him in the places that need growth.

Small Group Guidelines

This is a Safe Group

Confidentiality is key—what is said in the group stays in the group. Be aware how you are affecting the environment with your words, actions, and non-verbal communication. This needs to be a place where people feel comfortable opening up and sharing.

No Crosstalk

Be considerate of others as they are sharing. No side conversations, phone time, texting etc.

Listen

Let's value one another by listening to what is being shared. Allow a pause after someone shares to allow them to finish and others to consider what was said. Eye contact and body posture play key roles in creating a positive or negative group environment.

No Rescuing or Fixing

We are not here to fix each other; Jesus does that part. Avoid the tendency to rescue when someone is struggling to get the words out or shares a struggle or conviction.

Use "I" Statements

It's easy to talk about the issues of others, or respond with "we," "us," or "the church," but for us to grow as disciples and build relationships, we want to use "I" statements.

Don't Over-talk

We want to create time for all members of the group to participate in the discussion. Be careful not to always be the first responder or regularly give long responses.

Fight for Relationship

It's not if conflict or hurt feelings will happen, but when. We commit to fight for relationship with each other. Go to the person and share your struggle or seek wise advice if you are not sure how to handle the conflict.

Discussion:

Background: King Saul had been chosen and anointed as the first king of Israel, but then he chose to go against God's will and perform a sacrifice that only the prophet Samuel had authority to perform. Samuel then realized that Saul could no longer remain the king of Israel, and at some point something would need to be done about this situation. Then God lets Samuel know the plan, which is where we pick up the story.

Read: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

Discovery Questions:

What do we learn about God in this passage?

What can we learn about trusting God from this passage?

What do you think God might be teaching you personally through this passage?

What action do you think the Holy Spirit may be leading you to take with what you've learned this week?

Digging Deeper:

God tells us He looks at the heart, but we are focused on outward appearances. Why do you think outward appearances (how things seem) are so important to us as people?

Describe a time when God allowed you or someone you are close to to look at the heart rather than the appearance of things. How did that change the situation?

What do you think it would take you to notice when God is trying to point out matters of the heart?

Prayer:

Father, thank You for being a God who isn't focused on outward appearance. In an image-obsessed world, You remind us that what is real is what is unseen. Holy Spirit, help us to stay attuned to the matters of the heart, so that we, like David, can be people who are after Your heart. Jesus, may we follow your footsteps to understand what closeness to the Father looks like. In the name of Jesu we pray, amen.