

A study of the early life of David



California Kids Camp 2015
Teen Workbook

Name:

Parent Signature:

Preface

This year we are studying the early life of David – from the time of his anointing to just before he became king of Israel. The study of David is fascinating and exciting. In Acts 13, the apostle Paul, under divine inspiration, has this commentary on David: "...he raised up unto them David to be their king; to whom also he gave testimony, and said, I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfill all my will." (Acts 13:22)

This shows us how God viewed David. What an incredible summary for any man to receive of God. Since we know that he was a man after God's own heart, we realize we must closely look at David's life, to see what it takes to be given such a wonderful summary.

As young people, close to the age where David showed such incredible faith at the beginning of his long service to God, we can learn so many lessons. Our age is no excuse – we can fully dedicate ourselves to God now. In fact, while we are young and full of vitality, this is the time to do it. There is no trial too gigantic, there is no sin too tall. In the words of David himself at the age of 17: "What shall be done to the man that killeth this Philistine and taketh away the reproach of Israel? For who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?....Let no man's heart fail because of him; thy servant will go and fight with this Philistine."

There are many exciting things to learn as you progress through this workbook. We pray that you will enjoy and benefit from looking at the life of David as much as we have!

May God grant you wisdom and knowledge as you endeavour to more greatly understand His Word.

Useful Resources:

- KJV Bible
- Other Bible Versions
- Strong's Concordance
- Bible Dictionaries and Maps
- The Man David – Harry Tennant

1 Samuel 16 – David is Anointed

God told Samuel to stop mourning in disappointment for Saul, especially since God had rejected Saul as king. Use your cross references to find out what incident prompted God to reject Saul as king over Israel. Write the verse, and briefly explain the story.

God told Samuel “I have provided me a king ... ”.

a) Find three other references where God talks about the fact that he chose David to be king. (If you have a centre margin, it will be a big help).

b) God has always ruled in the kingdoms of men, setting up whom He will to reign over countries. Find where it tells us this in scripture.

Why was Samuel worried about anointing a new king, and what did God tell him to do?

Using a Strong's concordance, look up the Hebrew word for "sacrifice".

#: _____ Heb. Word: _____ Meaning: _____

Using an Englishman's concordance, find verses that use that same Hebrew word.

Looking especially in the books of Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy, which specific offering does this word always refer to? Because of this, what offering can we safely conclude that Samuel was going to do with Jesse and his family?

Using a bible dictionary, as well as Leviticus 3, outline what this offering was all about. What animal(s) was used? Who could offer this offering? Did the offerer partake of the offering, or just the priests? What did this offering represent? (i.e. the burnt offering in scripture, which involved completely burning the animal, represents complete dedication to God).

How many boys came before Samuel before he found God's chosen one? _____

What lesson did God want to teach Samuel by doing this?

Look up 1 Sam. 9:1,2. How is Saul described? How does this contrast to what God is trying to teach Samuel in 1 Sam. 16:7?

In this day and age, the world tells us that appearance is what matters. Magazines, movies and advertisements are telling us to wear makeup, diet to be thin, wear certain brands of clothing, cut our hair a certain way, drive certain cars, and even buy certain phones. All of these things contribute to the outward appearance. What is God looking for in His children? What do you think can help us to fight against these temptations within ourselves?

What was David doing while all of this was going on? _____

What characteristics would a shepherd of sheep have to develop in order to be a good shepherd? Keeping these characteristics in mind, why would a lowly shepherd be a good king?

Make a list of as many shepherds you can think of in Scripture.

How is David described? _____

After looking up some of the different words that are used to describe David, describe him in your own words: _____

What came upon David as soon as he was anointed? _____

In contrast to this, what happened to Saul at the same time?

1 John 3:24 says "And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that the abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us."

2 Chronicles 15:3 says: "...The LORD is with you, while ye be with him and if ye seek him, he will be found on you; but if ye forsake him, he will forsake you."

What do these verses tell us? Since God had withdrawn from Saul, what is that telling us about Saul's spiritual state at this time? What can we learn for ourselves from this?

One of our human characteristics is to blame others when things are not going well. Far too often, we blame God when our lives seem difficult. There are times we can feel abandoned or forgotten by God. This is when we should stop, and think "have I abandoned God?" If we have, we must make Him a priority in our lives. If we are serving God, then we can be absolutely sure that he has not abandoned us, and will help us get through the difficult trials of life. "...be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me."

Hebrews 13:5,6

Saul's servants could see that Saul was struggling. What was their solution? Based on the paragraph in the text box, what could Saul have done to find permanent relief?

What new characteristics do we learn about David in v.18?

"He who loves purity of heart, and whose speech is gracious, will have the king as his friend." ESV - Proverbs 22:11

When Jesse sent David to Saul, he sent a gift. What did he send with David?

Jesse was a generous man, who had great respect for those in authority. To whom else did he send a gift, and what was it? _____

Look at these other times in the O.T. that gifts were sent for people, and what the gifts were. Briefly explain the circumstance behind each gift. Look up Proverbs 18:16. Based on these verses, what do you think the purpose of the gifts were in these instances?

Gen. 43:11	
1 Sam 25:18	
2 Sam 16:1,2	



What words are used to describe how Jonathan felt about David?

1 Samuel 17- David and Goliath

This epic battle scene between David and Goliath depicts the battle of a godly man against sin. Answering the following questions will help to establish that Goliath is representative of SIN.

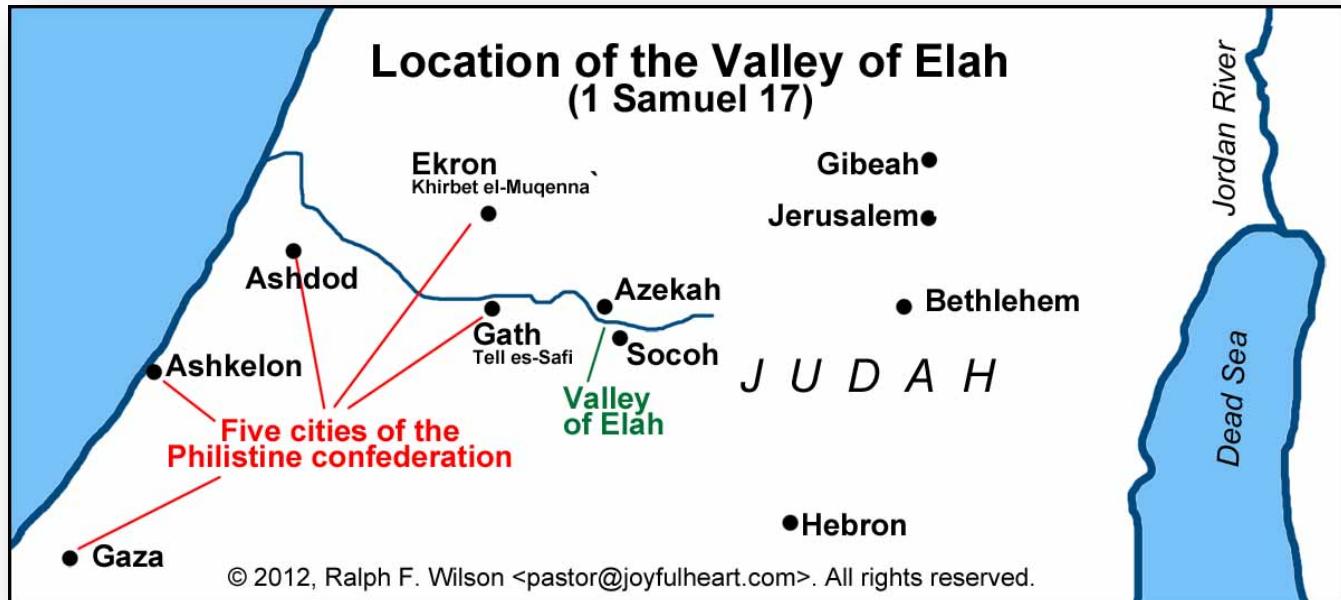


Goliath was a Philistine – Determine what the Philistines represented, by looking up the word “Philistine” in Strong’s. You will have to look at the root words to get the complete meaning!

Goliath was protected by armour of brass. List the parts of Goliath’s armour which were made of brass. What does brass represent in scripture? (the following verses might help – Isa 48:4-5; Je 6:28; Ezek 22:17-18)

How tall was Goliath according to the scriptures? How tall is that in modern units? What does the number 6 represent? Give a reference to prove your answer. It is interesting to note that “Goliath” appears 6 times in the Bible!

What does Goliath's name mean? How does the meaning of his name relate to the fact that he represents Sin?



When Goliath called to the Israelites he asked that a man come forth to fight him. How do the following verses support the idea that Saul was the one who should have come forward? 1 Sam. 8:20, 1 Sam. 9:2

What was the response of Saul and the men of Israel when they heard the words of Goliath, the Philistine? _____

How did David's response to Goliath differ from that of Saul and the Israelites?

In verse 10, Goliath says, "I defy the armies of Israel this day". The word 'defy' is translated 'reproach' in some other versions. David later refers to this in v26 and v.36. Who does David say that Goliath was reproaching? _____

What term does David use to describe Goliath in v.26 and v.36. Who else referred to the Philistines in this way? (Hint look up 1 Sam. 14:6) Why do you think that these faithful men called the Philistines "uncircumcised"? _____

Who was first person instructed to circumcise his household? What was it meant to represent? (Look up Gen. 17:10-14 to find the answers) _____

Read Numbers 13:26-33 which contains details of a similar situation. List as many similarities between the incident in Numbers 13 and the story here in 1 Sam. 17.

Like Israel, we face "giants of SIN" in our daily lives. List 5 temptations that Christadelphian young people may have to battle. What can we learn from the example of David in battling these temptations. _____

How many days did Goliath present himself before Israel each morning and evening? _____ . List a few other scriptural events that went on for this period of time. Why do we say that this number represents a period of probation? (make sure you understand and define what “probation” means!) _____

What 3 rewards did Saul offer to the man that would kill Goliath? Do you think that David chose to fight Goliath in order to receive these rewards? What do you think was David's motivation? _____

When David went to Saul and offered to fight Goliath, why did Saul question his ability? What two events gave David confidence? _____

"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me" (Phil. 4:13)

Saul sought to clothe David in his armour. What was Saul's armour made of? Keeping in mind what this represents, why would David not have been successful if he chose to wear Saul's armour? _____

David chose to confront Goliath with a staff in his hand and a sling rather than a coat of mail and armour of brass. Look up 1Cor 1:27-29 where it says that "God hath chosen the weak things of this world to confound the things that are mighty". What is the reason that God has chosen the "weak things" according to that passage?

Ephesians 6:10-18 speaks of "putting on the whole armour of God". List what the armour of God consists of.

- your loins girt with _____
- breastplate of _____
- your feet shod with the _____
- shield of _____
- helmet of _____
- the sword of the _____, which is the _____

It has been suggested that the 5 smooth stones represent the word of God that David took and put in his bag or vessel. At this point in history, how many books of the Bible would have been available for David to read? _____

In v.43 Goliath cursed David by "his gods", while in v.45 David said that he came to Goliath "in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel". According to v.46 what did David hope that his victory would accomplish? Look up the following verses and determine what other key events had the same purpose.

- Exodus 9:14-16 ~ _____
- Joshua 4:22-24 ~ _____
- 1Kings 18:36-37 ~ _____
- Isaiah 37:14-20 ~ _____

In v.47 David referred to the nation of Israel as "this assembly". The Hebrew word for 'assembly' is the equivalent of the Greek word 'ecclesia'. David wanted the ecclesia to know that victory over the Philistines would come by faith in God and not by the strength of the sword!

Victory over Goliath came when God guided the stone into the forehead of Goliath. Look up Genesis 3:15 which is a prophecy of Christ's victory over sin. Match the following symbols with their corresponding meanings, and how they're represented in the account.

seed of the woman Sin Goliath

seed of the serpent defeat of sin David

serpent bruised in head Christ stone in the forehead

In Daniel chapter 2 there is an image of a man that represents the kingdoms of men. How is that image brought to the ground? _____

What did David do with the head of Goliath in v.54? _____

It is interesting to note that Christ was crucified outside of Jerusalem at a place called Golgotha. Look up Golgotha in a concordance – it is mentioned 3 times in the New Testament. Each of the 3 verses tells us the meaning of the word – what does it mean? Why would it be appropriate that David would take Goliath's head to the place where Christ would be crucified?

Where else did David go with the head of Goliath? _____

1 Samuel 18

We are often drawn to people that we have something in common with, and those that have common goals as us. Read 1 Samuel 14:1-17, and briefly outline what happened in that chapter. Then explain why Jonathan would feel connected to David – what characteristics they shared.

When we have dedicated our lives to serving God, we must surround ourselves with people that have the same goal. Having close friendships in the Truth is a beautiful blessing. What kind of people should we be looking for to form close friendships with? What kind of people should we avoid?

What did Jonathan give to David? _____

Jonathan was the king's son. Normally, as the king's son, he would be next in line for the throne. What is significant about what he gave to David --- what was he showing David?

What job did Saul give to David? _____

What happened when David returned from conquering the Philistines?

Look up 1 Sam. 21:11 and 1 Sam. 29:5. What do they tell us about this incident?

What emotion reared up its ugly head when Saul heard the singing? _____



Envy is a very powerful emotion. Song of Solomon 8:6 says "Jealousy is cruel as the grave; the coals thereof are coals of fire". It is one of the most destructive emotions we can have if we give in to it. Look up the word "envy" and "jealousy" in a concordance. Find at least 3 verses that explain how powerful it is, and what it can lead to. List them here, along with a quick summary of each verse.

Did you notice what other sins/evil characteristics envy is often grouped with?

What other events in scripture were the result of men's envy against another man? (List at least 4 with verses)

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

4) _____

As humans, we often succumb to envy. When we see others succeed, sometimes we feel more jealous of their success instead of rejoicing with them, and being happy for them. Believe it or not, with practice, we can overcome this evil characteristic, and the younger we start working on it, the better off we are. What are some ways that you could overcome envy/jealousy of others? (What are some positive things you could think/say/do to overcome?) Try to imagine or remember a time when someone has succeeded and you've felt envy, and turn it into positive thinking.

Has this ever happened to you? Sometimes we look at someone else in the Truth – maybe someone at CYC or meeting, and we are jealous of them because they seem “more spiritual” and seem to make better choices than we do. We feel jealous that they do more bible study than we do. We feel jealous that they seem closer to God than we do. And it makes us put them down and think badly of them. The wonderful thing is that we can turn these negative feelings around, and instead of despising that person, let’s work at making better choices, do more bible study, and get closer to God through prayer. Before you know it, you’ll end up being in the same position as them. Who knows, you may end up with a close friend like Jonathan, which is much better than ending up with an anger management problem like Saul!!!

What did Saul’s envy lead him to attempt to do to David? _____

From this moment on, Saul began to show his unstable character. He told David he would give him his eldest daughter Merab, and then he gave her to someone else. When Saul found out that is other daughter loved David, he was pleased.

What was the other daughter’s name? _____

What was Saul hoping would happen if he gave her to David? _____

Both times when Saul offered a daughter to David (v.18 and v.23), what was David's reaction? What does this tell us about his character, despite the fact that he was a famous hero in the eyes of the people for miles around?

What did David have to give to Saul in order to marry Michal, and why?

After this Saul was even more afraid of David. What did he fear?

Look up the word "set by" (v.30) in Strong's. What does it mean? (Your margin will also tell you!)

The same Heb. Word is found in Isa. 43:4. Write that verse out:

"...if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!"
Matt. 6:23

Look up Phil 2:5-11. Who are these verses talking about? _____

Now, thinking back through the chapter we have just studied, how do these verses relate to David?

1 Sam 19-20 - David Flees the Kingdom

"The name of the LORD is a strong tower: The righteous runneth into it, and is safe."
Prov. 18:10

1 Sam 19

When Jonathan heard that Saul wanted to kill David, what did he do?

Jonathan was a godly man, much unlike Saul. When he was reminding Saul about David's service, who did he say "wrought salvation in Israel"? (v.5) _____
This should have been a reminder to Saul that it is Yahweh that was behind David's success.

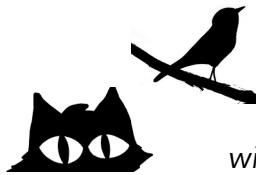
Look up 1 Sam.11:13, and notice that they are the same words that Jonathan used in v.5. What is ironic about this? Do you think Jonathan chose those words on purpose?

What did Saul swear to Jonathan? _____

God takes the vows of men very seriously...especially when His name is part of the vow!
Look up Lev.19:12, Num 30:2, Matt 5:34 What do they tell us about how God sees vows?

What was the result of Jonathan talking with his father? _____

Sometimes when someone is being unreasonable, if we calmly speak with them, gently pointing out scripture, they can be changed...though sometimes it is only temporary!
"A soft answer turneth away wrath..." Prov. 15:1



Bro. Harry Tennant, in his book "The Man David", conjures up an interesting image about David returning to the palace. He says:
"...David was restored to 'favor', like a bird when the cat's paw is withdrawn but its eyes remain glued to its victim." (p.36)

What happened after David returned victorious yet again from war with the Philistines?

How did Michal help David? _____

Look up Psalm 59. At the beginning of the Psalm, before the verses, there may be a heading. What does it say? Read through the Psalm, and write down which verses could obviously be linked to this event in David's life.

In v. 17, what did Michal give as the reason she let David escape?

To where and to whom did David flee?

What happened to Saul's messengers when he sent them to Naioth? What happened when Saul himself came to Naioth? Using your cross references, write down when this had happened before. Why do you think God did this to Saul?

As humans, we so often forget that God is in complete control of our lives. With medicine and doctors, research and science, we have been able to control many illnesses and aspects of our lives, forgetting that God is ultimately in charge. We see in this instance with Saul, that when God chooses to intervene, we have no way of preventing it. The prophet Jeremy learned this as he tells us in Jer. 20:9: "Then I said, I will not make mention of him, nor speak any more in his name. But his word was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I was weary with forbearing, and I could not stay."

1 Sam.20

In v.3, what did David say that showed that he was afraid for his life?

What terrifying enemies had David been up against before, and how had he dealt with them? _____

David was aware from the beginning that Saul was the Lord's anointed, and because of this, he didn't feel he could deal with Saul as he had the other opponents he had faced.

Research Question: What was the feast of the New Moon? Find where it is introduced in scripture, and using bible verses and a Bible dictionary, explain how often the children of Israel celebrated it, and how it was celebrated.

In v.14-15, after promising to warn David if he was in danger, and help him escape, what does Jonathan ask for in return? Thinking about the customs of the day, why would Jonathan request this? (Look up the following verses to help you understand his request: (2 Kgs 9:2,3 + 2 Kgs 10:1,7; 2 Kgs 11:1)

Read vv. 19-22, and describe in your own words the plan that Jonathan made with David.

What did Saul (correctly) accuse Jonathan of, and what was his reaction?

In v.31, what reason did Saul give to show Jonathan that Jonathan was confused and wrong in how he was treating David?

"Saul...knew that David was ordained to sit on the throne and hated him for it. Jonathan, whose place David would take, loved him as the Lord's chosen. There is a lesson here for all of us. The will of God is a test of our character. We can co-operate and be blessed, or resist and be destroyed. Saul had set himself against the irresistible might of the incoming Davidic tide. Jonathan humbled himself before it in marvellous resignation and willing acceptance."

~ The Man David, Harry Tennant, p.44

What did David do that showed that he always was humble, and “esteemed others greater than himself”? _____

What was the difference between Saul’s vowing a vow in God’s name, and Jonathan and David vowing vows in God’s name? _____

List how Jonathan showed true friendship at various times:

(A) I Sam 19:4-5 _____

(B) I Sam 20:4 _____

(C) I Sam 20:41-42 _____

(D) I Sam 23:15-18 _____

1 Sam 21-23: David the Outlaw

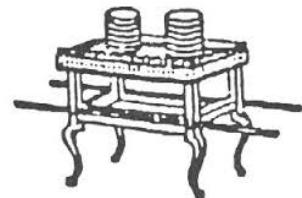
After the event we have just looked at, David could never again show up in the kingdom while Saul was alive!

1 Sam 21

How did Abimelech feel when he saw David? _____

What did David use as the explanation for being there? _____

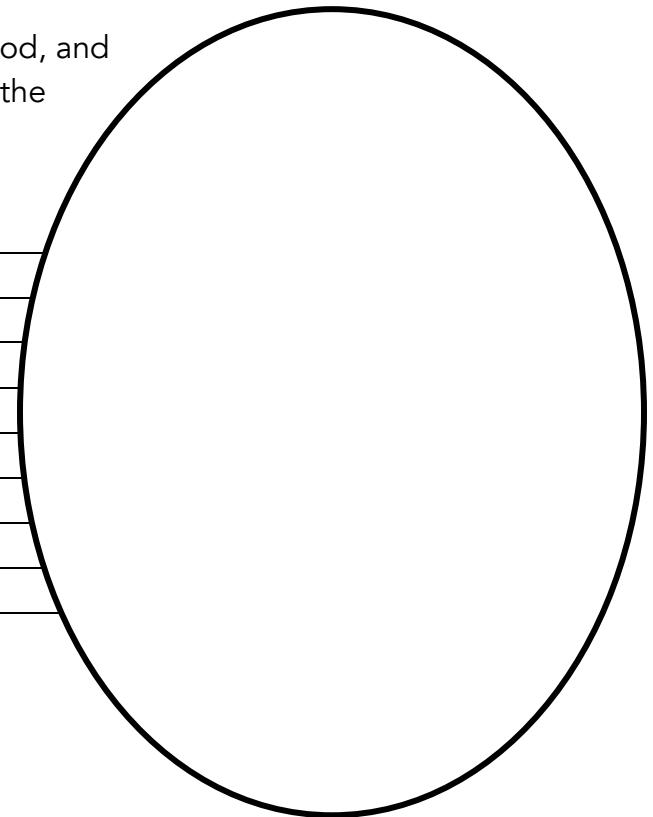
Research Question: In Nob David asked for bread from the table of shewbread. Read Lev. 24:5-9, and explain what the shewbread was. Jesus refers to this incident with David and the shewbread. Find the reference and write it down. What point was Jesus proving?



What did Abimelech give to David besides the shewbread? _____

Where was the sword kept? _____

Look for other references that describe the Ephod, and draw a picture of it here and describe it beside the picture. What was the Ephod used for by the priests?



David used the Ephod at other times in his life. When, and what for? What clue do you think this gives us about David's mindset when he was at the tabernacle in Nob? What do you think he could have done differently? *It is easy to see in hindsight what a person could do differently, but when we are under extreme pressure, we often waver in our faith, even if it is just momentary.*

Who was in the tabernacle at the same time that David was, and what was his position in Saul's kingdom? _____

Who was the father of the Edomites? _____

Where did David flee to next? _____

What made him afraid that he had made a mistake in fleeing there? _____

How did he get out of the situation? _____

1 Sam 22

Where did David flee to next, and who came to visit him? _____

How many men came to join David, and how are they described? _____

Look up 1 Cor 1:25-29. How do these verses relate to the group that came to David?

These men became David's mighty men (II Sam. 23). How did David change their lives?

Why do you think Moab would be a safe place for David to place his parents? (Keep in mind David's family tree)

Meanwhile, Saul was sitting under a tree, whining to his army. Yet again, we see his character and how pathetic he was. It is such an example of the contrast between the king that the men chose based on his looks, and the king that God had anointed based on his heart.

Outline what happened between v.9 – 19. _____

What lies did Doeg tell? (Compare what he says (or leaves out) with what happened in ch.21) _____

Who did Doeg kill? _____

So often when man takes vengeance into his own hands, he takes it too far. This event is a very strong example of this!

This terribly sad and unfair event actually fulfilled a prophecy that was given earlier in 1 Samuel. Can you find that prophecy? Who was it spoken against, and why was it given?

Who escaped from Doeg and where did he go? _____

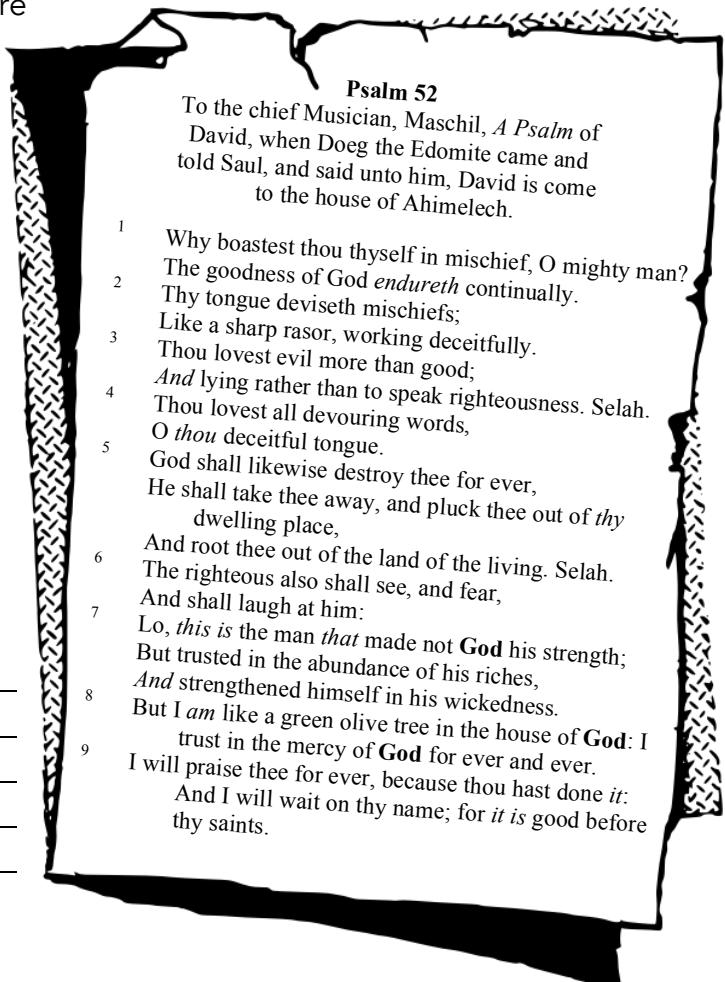
How did David feel when he found out what happened? _____

1 Sam 23

If you look at a map, you'll see that the city of Keilah was right on the border of Phillistine territory. Why do you think David would care about protecting other cities when he himself is in such grave danger?

What did David do that shows us that he was getting spiritually stronger through his trials?

How can we apply this lesson to our lives?



In v.7, what did Saul say when he found out where David was? _____

Look at ch 24:4-6 (which we will discuss a little later). What was ironic about Saul's statement? _____

How many men were now with David? _____

How sad it is that the men of Keilah, after being so generously saved from certain death at the hands of the Philistines, were so eager to turn their saviour over to his enemy!

Where did David flee to next? _____

Who came to visit David? _____

Read v.14. What does it tell us? What does this tell us about what God thought of Jonathan? _____

Imagine what a wonderful boost it would have been for David to see Jonathan, a friend he loved so dearly. It says that Jonathan "strengthened his hand in God". This is yet another example of how powerful Godly friends in the Truth are for our wellbeing.

"Strengthen ye the weak hands, And confirm the feeble knees. Say to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: Behold, your God will come with vengeance, Even God with a recompence; He will come and save you." ♦ Isaiah 35:3,4

In v.24-26, we read of probably the closest David came to being captured by Saul. Draw a picture of what the scene would have looked like. Try to imagine yourself there in this situation. How frightening it would have been!

Psalm 54

To the chief Musician on Neginoth,
Maschil, *A Psalm* of David, when the
Ziphims came and said to Saul, Doth
not David hide himself with us?

me, O **God**, by thy name, And judge me by thy
strength. Hear my prayer, O **God**; Give ear to
the words of my mouth. For strangers are risen
up against me, And oppressors seek
after my soul:
We not set **God** before them. Selah. Behold, **God is**
mine helper: The Lord *is* with them that uphold
my soul. He shall reward evil unto mine
enemies: Cut them off in thy truth. I will freely
sacrifice unto thee: I will praise thy name, O
LORD; for *it is* good. For he hath delivered me
out of all trouble: And mine eye hath seen *his*
desire upon mine enemies.

How did God intervene to save David and his men? _____

1 Samuel 24 – David Spares Saul’s Life

How many men did Saul take with him to attempt to capture David? _____

What word is used to describe them? _____

What contrast can you see between the amount and description of Saul’s men and the description of David’s men? What lesson can we learn from this (remembering that God was with David and his men, not Saul and his men)

Picture the scene as it is described: Saul enters the dark cave. David and his 600 men are all in the cave. You can imagine the sound of 3,000 men approaching – surely the men in the cave would have heard and hushed quickly, moving into the dark shadows. Everyone is pressed against the sides of the cave, holding their breath, trying not to make a sound. A man approaches, and enters the cave, and lo and behold – it is King Saul! Some of David’s men press around him excitedly. “This is the chance God promised you...that your enemy would be delivered into your hand, that thou mayest do to him as it shall seem good unto thee,” they whisper urgently into his ear. And then David slowly, slowly creeps up with his knife. You can imagine the men waiting, eager to see their enemy avenged. They wait, watching Saul, waiting for him to cry out – to clutch at his chest – to drop to the ground. But here is David, returning, and Saul seems not to have even noticed he was there. David is clutching a small piece of cloth, and guilt is written all over his face. The men are incredulous. What on earth is going on??? David says simply: “The LORD forbid that I should do this thing unto my master.”

What is astounding is that the word of God tells us that “David stayed his servants with these words...” They were ready to pounce, and with one sentence, David controls all 600 of them. What does this tell us about the respect that David had among his men?

What would you have done in this situation?

Notice the careful wording of the Lord, a promise that was given to David at some point that is not recorded for us. Finish the sentence from v.4: "Behold the day of which the LORD said unto thee, Behold, I will deliver thine enemy into thine hand,

"

What is important about this last part? _____

Find some verses in scripture that tells us that vengeance belongs to God only. Use a concordance to help you.

What did David tell Saul was the reason that he had only cut off a part of his skirt

What did Saul confess that he knew? (v.20) _____

What did Saul request of David? _____

Why do you think David and his men went back into hiding instead of going home now? _____

An important lesson for us in our lives with others is that we must be sure to prove ourselves trustworthy, and prove that our word is true. David didn't ever believe what Saul said, and with good reason. We must analyse ourselves, and make sure that we don't become someone that no one will ever trust.

What is the overriding lesson that we learn from this chapter?

Has a situation like this ever happened to you...either being a David and not taking vengeance on someone when you had the chance, or being a Saul and knowing that you deserved something, but being shown obvious mercy? What was your reaction? How could you improve your reaction in the future? (You don't need to write these answers down....just think about them).



1 Sam 25 – Nabal & Abigail

This chapter begins with news of the death of Samuel. David would have been mourning the death of the prophet. What association did David have with Samuel before his death? (Hint – review quickly chapters 16 and 19)

In this chapter we meet a very spiritual woman who would become the wife of David. How is the character of Abigail described? How is her husband's character described? (Use another translation to help you)

Abigail:

Nabal:

Look up the meaning of Nabal's name. What does it mean? What does v.25 tell us about the appropriateness of his name?

Look up the meaning of Abigail's name. What does it mean?

The time of sheep shearing was generally a time of prosperity and festivity. It was common to share of blessings with those in need. How does v.36 confirm this?

Nabal was not generous with the gifts that God had given him. What do each of the following verses tell us about sharing of our goods with others?

- Deut 15:7-11: _____
- Deut 24:19-22: _____
- Prov 29:7: _____
- Luke 14:12-14: _____
- 1 John 3:17-18: _____

What greeting did David's servants repeat 3 times to Nabal in v.6? What do you think this tells us about Nabal? _____

What was Nabal saying about David when he responded: "There be many servants now a days that break away from their masters?"

Highlight the word "my" that appears in v.11. Nabal failed to recognize that the riches he possessed were gifts from God. There is a parable that Jesus tells about a similar type of person. Look up Luke 12:13-21. Make a list of the similarities between the parable and Nabal. (Hint: there are at least 5 similarities)

1 Sam 25	Luke 12

When Nabal refused to show kindness to David and his men, what did David resolve to do? Do you think that this was the right idea? Look up Romans 12:17-21 and explain how the principles there apply to David's situation.

What had David and his men done for Nabal? _____

Nabal's servants called him a "son of Belial". Use a concordance or another version to find the meaning of this term. _____

What do v.18-20 tell us about Abigail? What chapter of the Bible speaks of the Virtuous Woman? When you find the chapter read about the virtuous woman and try to describe her in one word.

Abigail played a very important role in this chapter of David's life. In her wisdom she prevented David from unjustly avenging himself upon Nabal and his entire household. David was coming against Nabal with 400 men, resolving to wipe out every man that belonged to Nabal! Abigail managed to dissuade David from a wrong course of action, using the wisdom of the scriptures. We might be called upon to help a friend from going in the wrong direction in their life. In answering the following questions we will consider some of the necessary characteristics that are needed to be successful in helping a friend from going in a wrong direction.

- In verse 18, we are told that "Abigail made haste". What could happen if we do not respond quickly when we see a friend going the wrong way?

- Abigail prepared a great amount of food for David and his men. List what she gave to David? How did this "make right" the wrong of Nabal?

- Why would it have been helpful for Abigail to bow herself to the ground before David in v.23? We don't have to bow ourselves before a friend, but what approach would be the opposite to bowing down and how would that hinder our efforts to help?

- In v.26 Abigail pointed out that God did not want David to avenge himself upon his enemies. She might have been thinking of Leviticus 18:18. What does this verse say? How can being familiar with scripture be beneficial when we try to help a friend? _____

- In v28 Abigail told David that he should remember that God would make him "a sure house". She was telling him to think about the big picture. What "big picture" event might help us and our friends to make right choices?

- While Abigail was humble in her approach, she did not shy away from telling David that it would be sin to murder innocent men (see v.31). Why is it important to speak plainly? _____

- In v29 there is a phrase which would have reminded David about a previous event in his life where God helped him. What is the phrase and what event is being referred to? How would remembering this event help David now?

- List any other spiritual qualities that Abigail demonstrated or actions that she took to help David. _____

In v.34 who did David say held him back from sinning? Who does he say kept him from sinning in v.33? What does this demonstrate about the way God works in our lives (commonly referred to as “providence”)

What does it mean in v.37 when it says “when the wine was gone out of Naboth”? Why is drunkenness a problem for those who want to serve God? Find a couple of verses to support your answer.

After the death of Nabal, David invited Abigail to be his wife. What did her response to David’s servants in v.41 say about her character?

In 2 Samuel 3:3 we are told that David and Abigail had a son named Chileab (he is also called Daniel according to 1Chronicles 3:1). What does the name Chileab mean? Think about the events of 1Samuel 25 and write down why you think they chose this name for their son.



1 Samuel 26 – David Spares Saul's life . . . again!

The last mention of Saul in the record is in chapter 24 where we were told that Saul's life had been spared by David. Saul had confessed his understanding that David would be king and David had promised that he would not destroy the house of Saul. There appeared to be a degree of safety for David. But now Saul once again pursued after David.

How many men did Saul take with him to chase after David? (Note that this was the same number that he took with him in chapter 24 – 1Sa 24:2) _____

How many men were with David? (see 1Sa 23:13; 27:2; 30:9) _____

What position did Abner have in Saul's kingdom? According to 1Sam 14:50, how was Abner related to Saul? _____

Saul was asleep in the middle of his men with a sword at his bolster. How do other Bible versions, translate the word bolster? _____

How was it possible that David and Abishai could sneak up on Saul while he was sleeping? (An answer is given in this chapter) _____

Abishai wanted to kill Saul at that instant. What does he mean "I will not smite him the second time"? _____

Abishai said that God delivered Saul into the hands of David. He interpreted the circumstances to mean that it was God's will for David to kill Saul. He might have argued that God was giving David a second chance to do so, after David had not killed Saul in chapter 24. What reason did David give for not killing Saul?

Highlight each time the phrase “LORD’s anointed” appears in 1Samuel 26 (and 24). Why does that fact that Yahweh anointed Saul stop David from killing Saul?

Who had just taught David the lesson about not taking vengeance on an enemy, but allowing God to work things our in his own time? _____

There may be times in our lives that it appears God is leading us in a certain direction. All the “signs” may point us towards a certain decision as if God is opening up doors for us. However all our decisions should be first based on scriptural principles. God may not be opening up the door for us at all but rather testing us to see if we will make the right decision. Read the following story, and answer the questions below:

George is in his last year of high school and interested in going to an engineering school. The best University for his program is out of state and nowhere near an ecclesia. He applies to the program anyways, because he feels that his marks are likely not good enough for him to get in. Much to his surprise he is accepted to the University and even qualifies for a partial scholarship because of his families financial situation. His Aunt (who is not a Christadelphian) lives close to the university and offers him a place to stay meaning he won’t have to pay rent. Finally he learns that one of his best friends from High School has also been accepted into the program.

- Why might George feel that God is guiding him to attend this school?

- How can we be certain that God does not want him to go there?

- What scriptural principles can you give that show God would not want him to attend? Give some verses to back up your response.

What did David take from Saul this time? What had he taken in chapter 24 when he first had the chance to kill Saul? What do you think is the significance of this difference? (Hint – think about what the items represent)

In conversation with Saul (v.19), David expressed two reasons as to why he was being chased by Saul. What were those two possible reasons?

In v.19 what aspect of being chased around the wilderness caused him the most grief?

In v.24 who did David trust to deliver him? _____



1 Samuel 27-31 - Battles

Chapter 27

Saul's actions forced David into fleeing from Israel. Where did he flee to? Do you think that this was a good decision? What sin did David commit as result in verses 8-10?

What city did Achish, a Philistine king, give to David? _____

According to Joshua 15:31 (and it's context) who should that city have belonged to?

How long did David dwell in that city? _____

What did David do while living in Ziklag? While his actions there may seem a little extreme, there are verses which support the actions of David. How do the following verses justify David's actions?

- Ex 17:14-16: _____

- Deut 25:19: _____

- Deut 7:1-4: _____

What nations did David tell Achish he had been fighting against? _____

How did David ensure that no one would find out which cities he had been fighting against? _____

Chapter 29

What two nations gathered together to fight with each other in chapter 29?

Which side did David line up with? _____

How did David's actions in Philistine territory lead him to be in a potential conflict on the side of the Philistines, fighting against Saul, (Yahweh's anointed!)?

How did God, through his providence, save David from this potentially difficult situation?

Chapter 30

List everything the Amalekites had done to Ziklag and its inhabitants while David had been absent. _____

When David was in great distress we are told in v.6 that "he strengthened himself in the LORD his God". What do you think he did? Find 3 or 4 passages from the Psalms that describe the manner in which David would turn to God in times of trouble.

David asked Abiathar, the priest, to bring the ephod that he might enquire of Yahweh. The ephod was associated with the breastplate of the priest and the Urim and Thummim. Making use of a Bible Dictionary or other resources research what the Ephod, the Breastplate and the Urim and Thummim. Describe how they were used to enquire of God.

Back in 1Samuel 21 when David was fleeing from Saul he visited Ahimelech the priest to ask for bread. What else did he take from the tabernacle at that time (see v.9)? What did he leave behind? In light of your research from the previous question what lesson had David learned?

When David pursued after the Amalekites, why did 200 men stay behind at the brook Besor? _____

How far was it from Ziklag to Besor? _____ Why do you think the men were so faint after travelling only a short distance? _____

Was there anything David did not recover from the Amalekites? What lesson does this teach us about God? Provide a modern example of how this lesson might apply to our lives. Lastly, find an appropriate verse that reinforces the lesson.

In v.22, how does the Bible describe some of David's men? Why? How was the attitude of these men similar to those who murmured in Christ's parable of the Labourers in the Vineyard? (see Mt 20:1-16) _____

What did David do with the spoil he had taken from the Amalekites?

Chapter 31

Why did Saul want his armour bearer to thrust him through?

It says that Saul's armour bearer was "sore afraid". What does that mean? (see 2 Sam 1:13-14) Who had shown this same Godly fear?

Look up 1 Sam 17:50-54 and compare them to this chapter. How do the events surrounding the death of Saul and the reaction of the Israelites reverse the events of 1Sam 17:50-54? _____

The contrast in the previous question shows the importance of leadership. Compare and contrast the leadership provided by David to that provided by Saul that you have seen in your studies of the life of David. Provide at least five points of comparison and give supporting verses.

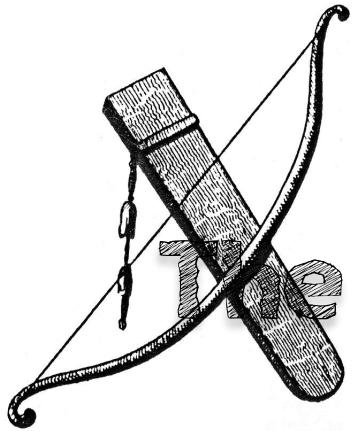
1)

2)

3)

4)

Who came and recovered the body of Saul and his sons so that they could be given a proper burial? Why did these men risk their lives to do this? (Hint – see 1Sam 11:1-11)



2 Samuel 1

The Song of the Bow

This chapter records David's reaction to the death of King Saul. Read the chapter and list five remarkable points about David's reaction. Beside each point write a word or two which describes the character of David.

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

4) _____

5) _____

Why did David put the Amalekite to death?

David composed a song as a memorial to Saul and Jonathan. It is found in v.19-27 and is commonly referred to as "The Song of the Bow". The KJV says that David taught the children of Judah "the use of the Bow". Look up other versions and note what David actually taught them.

With the Song of the Bow, David was teaching the tribe of Judah to respect those that were anointed by God to be king even if they were not completely faithful. What did other kings do when a king from a rival family died? (Hint – you have answered this question before in this workbook!)

David was a remarkable character. Time and again he showed his love for God, and his complete and total trust in him. What is wonderful about the inspired record of David, is that we are shown his failings and his weaknesses too. Despite this, we are told that David was considered a man after God's own heart. The story of David teaches us so many things, but it teaches us primarily about forgiveness. "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us." In this early part of David's life that we have studied, we see over and over again that David showed mercy and forgiveness to the most base and undeserving of men. Later on in his life, when he fell far from the right path, God was able to forgive him, and show mercy, because David had done so in his life. If you apply these same principles in your life, you will find that no matter how far you fall, our loving and merciful Heavenly Father will be there to forgive, if we turn to him, and have shown that in our lives. May Yahweh guide you, and may you choose to be like David...the man after God's own heart.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

CHOOSE ONE PROJECT TO COMPLETE BEFORE CAMP. PLEASE BRING IT WITH YOU TO CAMP.

1. There are many Psalms that relate to David and the early part of his life. Find the Psalms that relate to chapters we studied, and make a chart with your findings. Choose a couple of these Psalms and write a couple of paragraphs on how the Psalm provides insight into how David was feeling during the event.
2. Choose a character from the chapters we are covering at Kid's camp, and do a complete character study of that person. Write your study in an essay format.
3. David spent many years running from King Saul. Draw out a large map, and map out his journeys. Be sure to include key events at each place when applicable, as well as the verses that explain that event, and David's approximate age.
4. Do a study on the Philistines. Look at their history, and their spiritual significance. Explain what they represent in scripture, and how God regards them as a nation.