

“David: Developing God’s Heart”

October 29-30, 2016 | Heroes Series #2

INTRODUCTION

This study looks at the life of David as we continue in the series *Heroes on Mission*, in which we examine the lives of individuals in the Bible. Each of these individuals can teach us something that we can incorporate into our own lives as we grow in our walk with Christ. This week we will discover how David endeavored to seek after God’s heart. He wasn’t perfect, but that didn’t stop him from being commended by God as a “man after my own heart” for his passionate devotion. By looking at David’s life events in 1st and 2nd Samuel, and by looking into David’s heart through the Psalms that he wrote, we can gain insights into how to develop our own heart for God.

Ice Breaker (Optional):

The author Gary Chapman wrote about the “Five Love Languages” which included: words of affirmation, receiving gifts, quality time, physical touch, and acts of service. Which of these would be your current favorite for making you feel loved?

Study Questions (45 MIN)

The Life of David

Q1. Read 1 Samuel 16:7, 13; Acts 13:22; 36

David’s life was filled with great ups and downs. He was secretly anointed as king by the prophet Samuel (1 Sam 16:13) after God had rejected King Saul for his disobedience (1 Sam 15:23). What did God tell Samuel He was looking at when choosing the next king (1Sam16:7)? David wasn’t perfect as demonstrated by his failures including: adultery¹, and counting his soldiers². And he wasn’t without trials including: Saul’s attacks³ and his son Absalom’s rebellion⁴. But David trusted God who helped him through his sin and trials, and he is listed in the “Hall of Faith” in Hebrews 11⁵. In what ways would you say your trust in God has been challenged or tested?

¹ 2Sam 11 ² 2Sam 24 ³ 1Sam 18-31 ⁴ 2Sam 15-18 ⁵ Heb 11:32

David chose Courage over Cowardice

Q2. Read 1 Samuel 17:32-37, Psalm 27:14

David was possibly in his mid-teens at this point in his life when the army of Israel was confronted by the Philistine champion Goliath in the Valley of Elah, we see that there was great fear throughout the army as no one would go up against Goliath even amidst his great taunting and ridicule of God. It would have been easy for David to meld into the crowd and not do or say anything. But his courageous heart “stood

head and shoulders” above everyone else’s including his brothers’, seasoned soldiers’ and even the king’s himself. From this passage in 1Samuel, what do you see that David drew on for his courage in the midst of everyone else’s cowardice? Is there a ‘Goliath’ in your life that is challenging you, and how might you seek out the courage of David?

David chose Conviction over Convenience

Q3. Read 1 Samuel 24:3-7; Psalm 4:3

King Saul had been unjustifiably attacking David and eventually pursued him for eight years until Saul’s death. David waited patiently holding to his convictions to be made king. It was possibly 15 years from the time David was originally anointed by Samuel to when he became king over Judah when Saul died¹, and then another seven years before he was made king over all Israel. This passage gives us insight into how David kept his patience. What reasons do you see why David didn’t attack King Saul when given a clear chance to kill Saul? Even though David had a following of supporters and soldiers, he chose obedience over opportunity, and conviction over convenience. Where do you often see people choosing convenience over conviction? What are some ways you can guard yourself from this error, especially in light of Psalm 4:3?

¹ 2Sam 2:1-4

David chose Confession over Cover-up

Q4. Read 2 Samuel 12:9-10, 13; Luke 6:42; Psalm 51:4; Hebrews 4:13

The prophet Nathan confronted King David with his sin using the allegory of a rich man taking advantage of a poor man which allowed David to truly see the gravity of his sin. What does David say in response to Nathan? How does Hebrews 4:13 encourage you to confess your own sin?

Wrap-Up

David is in many ways a person much like us with ups and downs, good choices and bad, but he demonstrated courage, conviction and confession that gave him the commendation of a “man after God’s heart”. May we too strive to be a people with a passionate devotion to God that earns us the same commendation.

Memory Verse

Know that the LORD has set apart his faithful servant for himself; the LORD hears when I call to him.
Psalm 4:3 NIV

Challenge: Write down one way that you will pursue a more passionate devotion to God (e.g., confess sin, establish a regular prayer time, confront fear, follow your convictions on something, etc.)

Prayer (20 MIN)

Ask your group to pray for you regarding one area where you can apply this study in your life: _____

Pray for your group members' needs: _____

Q1 Read 1 Samuel 16:7, 13 from your Bible.
Act 13:22, 36 NIV 22 After removing Saul, he made David their king. God testified concerning him: 'I have found David son of Jesse, a man after my own heart; he will do everything I want him to do.' ... 36 "Now when David had served God's purpose in his own generation, he fell asleep; he was buried with his ancestors and his body decayed.
Q2 1Samuel 17:32-37 NIV 32 David said to Saul, "Let no one lose heart on account of this Philistine; your servant will go and fight him." 33 Saul replied, "You are not able to go out against this Philistine and fight him; you are only a young man, and he has been a warrior from his youth." 34 But David said to Saul, "Your servant has been keeping his father's sheep. When a lion or a bear came and carried off a sheep from the flock, 35 I went after it, struck it and rescued the sheep from its mouth. When it turned on me, I seized it by its hair, struck it and killed it. 36 Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, because he has defied the armies of the living God. 37 The LORD who rescued me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will rescue me from the hand of this Philistine." Saul said to David, "Go, and the LORD be with you."

Psalm 27:14 NIV Wait for the LORD; be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD.

Q3 Read 1 Samuel 24:3-7 from your Bible.
Psalm 4:3 NIV Know that the LORD has set apart his faithful servant for himself; the LORD hears when I call to him.

Q4 2Samuel 12:9-10, 13 NIV 9 Why did you despise the word of the LORD by doing what is evil in his eyes? You struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and took his wife to be your own. You killed him with the sword of the Ammonites. 10 Now, therefore, the sword will never depart from your house, because you despised me and took the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your own.' ... 13 Then David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD." Nathan replied, "The LORD has taken away your sin. You are not going to die.

Psalm 51:4 NIV Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are right in your verdict and justified when you judge.

Luke 6:42 NIV How can you say to your brother, 'Brother, let me take the speck out of your eye,' when you yourself fail to see the plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.

Hebrews 4:13 NIV Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.