

The Heart of the Matter Is A Matter Of The Heart The Life of David Series - Week 1 1 Samuel 16:1-13

Note: Over the next few weeks, we will follow the life of David from an unknown shepherd boy in Bethlehem to the next King of Israel. From the pages of the Bible, we will trace the hand of God working behind the scenes in David's life and see how God met David at each turning point in his life. This Bible study will encourage us and inspire us to know how God will be with us at each turning point in our life as well.

A brief bio of David - David was a giant-slayer; a hero to thousands of Israel fans; a court musician; a gifted poet and writer; a talented architect; and became Israel's greatest king. Unfortunately, David was also an adulterer and a murderer who was strong in battle, but weak at home. However, the greatest thing about David was what God said of him that God said of no one else - he is a man after My own heart (Acts 13:22).

What the people wanted - a king like the other nations (1 Samuel 8:4-9)

Section 1: Saul - the people's choice for king. (1 Samuel 16:1-3)

Section 2: Samuel comes to Bethlehem to make a sacrifice to the Lord. (1 Samuel 16:4-5)

Section 3: Samuel's sons seem to be a no-go for king-elect. (1 Samuel 16:6-10)

Section 4: David - the Lord's choice for king. (1 Samuel 16:11-13)

## Today's Take-Away Truths from God's Word

**Truth #1** - If you don't know what steps to take next, fear not. At the right time, God will make the way plain. Samuel had no idea who would be the next king, but he journeyed to Bethlehem and waited on God to let him know.

**Truth #2** - Nobody is ever somebody that God has overlooked or forgotten. While David was out on the hillsides watching over sheep, God was watching over David.

**Truth #3** - David's years of tending the sheep were not just waiting time nor wasted time - they were training time.

**Truth #4** - Circumstances and people will fail, but nothing of God fails. What was God doing while Saul was self-destructing? He was preparing David to be king.

Truth #5 - The heart of the matter is always a matter of the heart.



David's Second Life Turning Point: From the Pasture to the Palace The Life of David Series - Week 2 1 Samuel 16:14-23

→ Note: In this study, we will be tracing the hand of God working behind the scenes in David's life and see how God met David at each turning point he faced. Seeing God at work in David's life will encourage us and comfort us to know how God will be with us also at each turning point in our life.

Section 1 - Saul's tormenting spirit. (1 Samuel 16:14)

Section 2 - Saul's servants search for a solution. (1 Samuel 16:15-17)

Section 3 - The candidate: one of Jesse's sons plays the harp. (1 Samuel 16:18)

Section 4 - A harp playing teenage shepherd plays in the palace before King Saul. (1 Samuel 16:19-23)

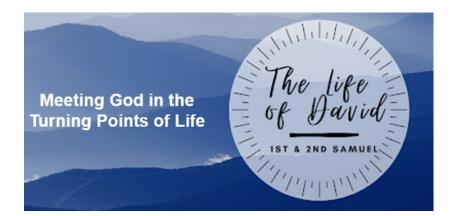
# Today's Take-Away Truths from God's Word

**Truth #1** - When you don't know what to do, keep faithfully doing what you are doing. At the right time, God will lead you to what's next. David faithfully tended the sheep before he was anointed king and after he was anointed king and waited on God's leading for whatever was to happen next.

**Truth #2** - Others are always watching how we live our lives. One of Saul's servants had seen David playing the harp and God used that moment to move David from the pastures to the palace.

**Truth #3** - There is a key principle at work in 1 Samuel chapter 16 - the principle of God's providence. Providence is the Divine care, guidance, and intervention of God. He knows where we are and where we should be. He will arrange even the smallest of details in our life to make sure we get to where we should be as long as we are acknowledging Him in all our ways.

**Truth #4** - The Holy Spirit never leaves a believer and an unholy spirit can never possess a believer. A believer can be oppressed by the Devil or a demon but never possessed by the Devil or a demon. The Holy Spirit of God will never allow Satan or a demon to possess the believer in whom He is indwelling and has eternally sealed. (Ephesians 1:13; Ephesians 4:30; 1 John 4:4)



David's Third Life Turning Point: Facing And Defeating a Giant - Part 1 The Life of David Series - Week 3 1 Samuel 17:1-31

→ Note: In this Bible study, we are watching the hand of God working behind the scenes in David's life to meet him, guide him, and help him at each turning point in his life. What God did for David, He will do for us too. God will meet us at each turning point in our life to guide us and help us.

Section 1 - Two mountains, two armies, one valley. (1 Samuel 17:1-3)

Section 2 - Main Character #1 - A giant named Goliath. (1 Samuel 17:4-11)

Section 3 - Main Character #2 - A shepherd boy named David. (1 Samuel 17:12-15) Section 4 - David brings supplies to his siblings at Israel's camp. (1 Samuel 17:16-20)

Section 5 - Someone in Israel's camp trusts God more than fears Goliath. (1 Samuel 17:21-27)

Section 6 - Before David battles the big giant, David's big brother will battle with him. (1 Samuel 17:28-31)

## Today's Take-Away Truths from God's Word

**Truth #1** - Goliath defeated the Israelites with fear before he would ever defeat them with a spear. The Israelites were dismayed (discouraged) and terrified (full of fear). One of the Devil's most effective tools against Christians is fear. Getting the believer to focus on the size of a giant instead of the size of their God. David saw the giant - but he also saw His God. And that made all the difference!

**Truth #2** - Saul was the king, but because he was not walking with God, ("The Spirit of the Lord had departed from Saul." - 1 Samuel 16:14), when problems came, he was filled with discouragement and fear (1 Samuel 17:11). When we are not walking with God, we will also respond to problems in life with discouragement and fear instead of faith in God.

**Truth #3** - The men of Israel saw things only from man's perspective. David saw things from God's perspective and cared about the things God cares about. So should we.



David's Third Life Turning Point: Facing And Defeating a Giant - Part 2 The Life of David Series - Week 4 1 Samuel 17:32-54

Note: In this Bible study, we are watching the hand of God working behind the scenes in David's life to meet him, guide him, and help him at each turning point in his life. What God did for David, He will do for us too. God will meet us at each turning point in our life to guide us and help us.

Section 1 - Lions and bears and giants ... oh my! All along God has been training David for this battle. (1 Samuel 17:32-37)

Section 2 - David prepares to battle the Philistine, but not in man's power. (1 Samuel 17:38-40)

Section 3 - Goliath starts trash talking and fast walking toward David. (1 Samuel 17:41-47)

Section 4 - God gives David the victory over Goliath. (1 Samuel 17:48-51) Section 5 - God gives Israel victory of the Philistines all because one person believed what God could do.  $(1\ \text{Samuel}\ 17:52-54)$ 

#### Today's Take-Away Truths from God's Word

**Truth #1** - There are no coincidences in life when we know God is at work in all of life. Do we think it was a coincidence that David showed up at Israel's camp when he did? Do we think it was a coincidence that a soldier "overheard" David speak with confidence about Goliath being defeated and it was told to Saul? Do we think it was a coincidence that there was a stream with smooth stones on David's side of the battlefield? There are no coincidences in life when we know God is at work in all of life.

**Truth #2** - Sometimes we remember what we ought to forget and forget what we ought to remember. "Giants" in life can cause us to remember what we should forget - our fears, worries, and anxieties. They can also cause us to forget what we should always remember - the faithfulness of God.

**Truth #3** - David didn't know something that the soldiers of Israel's army didn't know. They all knew God was great and powerful. At any moment, any solider could have killed Goliath in the name of the Lord. The difference between David and the other soldiers was not that he had faith and they had doubts. Or that they had doubts and David had none. The difference was this: David acted on his belief and ignored his doubts while the soldiers acted on their doubts and ignored their belief.

**Truth #4** - The only giant in David's life that he looked up to was God. Nothing else and no one else could measure up to God's power and authority. God has no equal ... nothing else and no one else is even close. Still true today!



David's Fourth Life Turning Point: Dealing with A Green-Eyed Jealous King The Life of David Series - Week 5 1 Samuel 18:1-30

Note: In this Bible study, we are watching the hand of God working behind the scenes in David's life to meet him, guide him, and help him at each turning point in his life. What God did for David, He will do for us too. God will meet us at each turning point in our life to guide us and help us.

Section 1 - Saul's son finds a faith-based friendship with David. (1 Samuel 18:1-4)

Section 2 - The eyes of the King are turning green. (1 Samuel 18:5-9)

Section 3 - Jealousy unchecked. Saul attempts to kill David. (1 Samuel 18:10-11)

Section 4 - David is transferred from the palace to the battlefields. (1 Samuel 18:12-16)

Section 5 - Saul sets a trap for David. (1 Samuel 18:17-25)

Section 6 - David becomes Saul's son-in-law. (1 Samuel 18:26-27)

Section 7 - The Lord continues to bless David with success because of David's faithfulness to Him. (1 Samuel 18:28-30)

## Today's Take-Away Truths from God's Word

Truth #1 - Saul lost control of his self-talk and that gave way to all kinds of anger, suspicions, jealously, envy, and fears. We must always be monitoring our self-talk - what we are saying to our self. Our self-talk will either lead us close to God or away from God. Our self-talk will either lead us to faith in God or lead us to all kinds of fears.

**Truth #2** - Sadly, some people try to use the story about the friendship of David and Jonathan as a biblical basis for homosexual relationships. They read into the story something that is not there and something the Bible clearly says is immoral (Genesis 19:1–13; Leviticus 18:22; 20:13; Romans 1:26–27; 1 Corinthians 6:9).

**Truth #3** - Just as God put Jonathan in David's path, God puts friends in our path for a reason and a season.



David's Fourth Life Turning Point: Dealing with A Green-Eyed Jealous King - Part 2 The Life of David Series - Week 6 1 Samuel 19:1-24

 Note: What was true for Saul regarding toxic emotions is true for us also - either we deal with toxic emotions or they will deal with us.

Section 1 - The eyes of the King are still jealous green. (1 Samuel 19:1a)

Section 2 - Jonathan warns David of Dad's plans to kill David. (1 Samuel 19:1b-3)

Section 3 - Jonathan tries to defend David before Saul. (1 Samuel 19:4-5)

Section 4 - Saul "seems" to reconcile with David. (1 Samuel 19:6-8) Section 5 - Saul's toxic emotions lead to toxic actions. (1 Samuel 19:9-10)

Section 6 - David escapes Saul's chase with the help from his wife. (1 Samuel 19:11-17)

Section 7 - David runs to see the prophet Samuel - the one who started the whole succeeding Saul prophecy. (1 Samuel 19:18)

Section 8 - David is pursued again by Saul and his men but God has a surprise for them. (1 Samuel 19:19-24)

# Today's Take-Away Truths from God's Word

**Truth #1** - Saul looked at David as an enemy because Saul's jealousy wanted to see him that way. Toxic emotions will always affect how we see others.

**Truth #2** - As with Saul, the Devil is more than ready to attack us where we are most vulnerable. For Saul, jealousy and envy were vulnerable places to attack and tempt Saul to sin. We must be aware of our vulnerable places and seek God's help to overcome the temptations that will come. (1 Corinthians 10:13)

**Truth #3** - Just as David needed reassuring of the Lord's leading and care that Samuel gave him, the Lord will bring people into our life to give us reassurance of the Lord's leading and care. At other times, we are the "Samuel" the Lord will use to encourage someone else.



David's Fifth Life Turning Point: The Lord Brings David a Faithful Friend The Life of David Series - Week 7 1 Samuel Chapters 18-23

• Note: Just as God meet David at each turning point in his life, to guide him and help him, God will do the same for us today.

Four characteristics of a faith-based friendship

Characteristic #1 - Commitment. (1 Samuel 18:1-4)

Characteristic #2 - Loyalty. (1 Samuel 19:1-7)

Characteristic #3 - Sacrifice. (1 Samuel 20:30-33)

Characteristic #4 - Encouragement. (1 Samuel 23:15-18)

# Today's Take-Away Truths from God's Word

**Truth #1** - As with David and Jonathan, when two friends have a commitment to the Lord, what they have in common in the Lord is always bigger than any differences or disagreements.

**Truth #2** - Just as God used Jonathan to encourage David, God continues to use friends to encourage one another today. Jonathan encouraged David by reminding him of God's promises and presence that would be with David at this difficult time in his life. We can do the same.

**Truth #3** - Saul said he would kill David but he never did. God had other plans for David. We are reminded that man can say anything but God always has the final say.



David's Sixth Life Turning Point: Overwhelmed but Not Overcome The Life of David Series - Week 8 1 Samuel 22:1-5

**Central Truth**: Just as God met David at each turning point in his life, to guide him and help him, God will do the same for us today.

1 Samuel 21:12-15 - David goes from acting like God's man to acting like a madman.

Note: David's words in Psalm 56 help us understand what was going on with David in 1 Samuel 21. Many of the 150 psalms have what is called a "superscription" or "title." The superscription tells us about the context - that is, what is going on - in the psalm we are about to read (see also Psalm 34 and Psalm 142).

1 Samuel 22:1-5 - What's a king doing in a cave?

What a cave of discouragement looks like - Psalm 142:1-7: A *maski* [probably a musical term] of David. When he was in the cave. A prayer.

<sup>1</sup> I cry <u>aloud</u> to the Lord; ["*I can't contain the pain.*"] I lift up my voice to the Lord <u>for mercy</u>. ["*Please, make it stop, Lord.*"] <sup>2</sup> I <u>pour out</u> before him my complaint; ["I completely share with You."] before Him I tell my trouble. <sup>3</sup> When <u>my spirit grows faint</u> within me, ["*I am emotionally exhausted.*"] it is You who watch over my way. In the path where I walk people have hidden a snare for me.

<sup>4</sup> Look and see, there is no one at my right hand; <u>no one is concerned for</u> <u>me</u>. I have <u>no refuge</u>; ["*I see no place to go for help.*"] <u>no one cares for my</u> <u>life</u>. ["*I feel all alone in this.*"] <sup>5</sup> I cry to You, Lord; I say, "*You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living.*" <sup>6</sup> Listen to my cry, for <u>I am in desper-</u> <u>ate need</u>; ["*I'm not seeing other options.*"] rescue me from those who pursue me, for <u>they are too strong for me</u>. ["*This situation is stronger than I am.*"] <sup>7</sup> Set me free <u>from my prison</u>, ["*I feel so trapped.*"] that I may praise your name.

#### How to climb out of a cave of discouragement

1. Keep praying - the disaster will pass. (Psalm 57:1)

2. Keep believing - there is purpose beyond the pain. (Psalm 57: 2)

**3. Keep trusting** - stay focused on God's help, love, and faithfulness. (Psalm 57:3)

#### Today's Take-Away Truths from God's Word

**Truth #1** - No one gets away with sin - not even a Bible hero like David. It's the law of reaping what we sow (Galatians 6:7). Obedience brings bless-ings, and disobedience brings consequences.

**Truth #2** - Little sins can have big consequences. David only started with a little lie, but the little lies took him to places (such as humiliating himself before his enemies) that he never imagined he would go.

**Truth #3** - We can never be low enough or discouraged too much that God can't lift us up and restore us. David was at the lowest point in his life at this time, but as David later shared in Psalm 142, he knew the Lord would rescue him!

**Truth #4** - David didn't know the whole story of his life. But he trusted in God when he didn't know what was next (1 Samuel 22:3). We don't know the whole story of our life - even the next chapter. Therefore, we should wisely trust God with the pen writing our story. Instead of trying to take the pen - we need to trust the pen to the Author.



David's Seventh Life Turning Point: Trusting in A Good God When Circumstances Are Bad The Life of David Series - Week 9 1 Samuel 23:1-29

**Central Truth:** Just as God met David at each turning point in his life, to guide him and help him, God will do the same for us today.

Section 1 - David does it to the Philistines again. (1 Samuel 23:1-6)

Section 2 - Saul hearing from Saul, not the Lord. (1 Samuel 23:7-8)

Section 3 - A close call with Saul. (1 Samuel 23:9-14)

Section 4 - When David felt weak, God sent him a friend to strengthen him. (1 Samuel 23:15-18)

Section 5 - Another bad day in the life of David - betrayed by the Ziphites. (1 Samuel 23:19-23)

Section 6 - Saul's pursuit, David's escape, and God's plans. (1 Samuel 23:24-29)

# Today's Take-Away Truths from God's Word

**Truth #1** - Even when our circumstances are confusing, remember that God is still in control.

**Truth #2** - When we are tempted to panic, always turn to the Lord.

**Truth #3** - Help someone find strength in God by reminding them of God's presence, God's power, and God's promises.

**Truth #4** - Although our circumstances in life change - God does not. The God we fully trust when things are good is the same God we can fully trust when things are bad.



David's Eighth Life Turning Point: The Temptation To Do God's Job The Life of David Series - Week 10 1 Samuel 24:1-22

**Central Truth**: Just as God met David at each turning point in his life, to guide him and help him, God will do the same for us today.

Section 1 - While Saul is seeking David, David finds Saul. (1 Samuel 24:1-3)

Section 2 - How to behave in a cave when the king is present. (1 Samuel 24:4-7)

Section 3 - Guess who's behind you, Saul? (1 Samuel 24:8-15)

Section 4 - Saul sees his wrong and seeks to reconcile with David ... for now. (1 Samuel 24:16-22)

# Today's Take-Away Truths from God's Word

Truth #1 - Temptation will always rationalize sin.

**Truth #2** - When we are walking close with God, even the "small acts of sin" will bother us because we know our disobeying dishonors God.

**Truth #3** - We have no control over what people say about us or what they do to us. But we do have control over how we respond. There is always a right way we can respond to others.

**Truth #4** - When mistreated - always choose to let God settle the score. God is much better at it than we are.

**Truth #5** - The temptation to do God's job by taking matters into our own hands is a subtle temptation but it always comes with consequences.



David's Ninth Life Turning Point: Giving into Discouragement The Life of David Series - Week 11 1 Samuel 27:1; 30:1-20

**Central Truth**: Just as God met David at each turning point in his life to guide him and help him, God will do the same for us today.

What discouragement did to David (1 Samuel 27:1)

- 1. Discouragement distorted David's perspective.
- 2. Discouragement led David to make bad decisions.
- 3. Discouragement drove David to compromise the commands of the Lord.

Section 1 - David's discouragement now becomes David's distress. (1 Samuel 30:1-6)

Section 2 - David looks to the Lord to get back what was taken. (1 Samuel 30:7-10)

Section 3 - A helpless Egyptian helps David find his enemies. (1 Samuel 30:11-16)

Section 4 - The Lord gives back to David and his men all that had been taken from them and more. (1 Samuel 30:17-20)

# Today's Take-Away Truths from God's Word

**Truth #1** - What we say in our heart has the power to shape our thinking, our actions, and even the direction of our life.

**Truth #2** - Compromising what God has said is never the solution to our problems and only brings consequences from our own wrong decisions.

Truth #3 - Life falls apart when we leave God out.

**Truth #4** - Discouragement is inevitable when we attempt to face the problems of life in our own strength. Always turn to and trust in the Lord for the strength you need for whatever comes your way.



## *David's Tenth Life Turning Point: David Becomes King* The Life of David Series - Week 12 1 Samuel 31:1-6; 2 Samuel Chapters 1-5

**Central Truth**: Just as God met David at each turning point in his life to guide him and help him, God will do the same for us today.

# 1 Samuel Chapter 31

The tragic end of the life and reign of King Saul. (1 Samuel 31:1-6)

#### 2 Samuel Chapter 1

Section 1 - David mourns the death of Saul and Jonathan. (2 Samuel 1:1-4)

Section 2 - A story shared but not to be believed. (2 Samuel 1:5-10)

Section 3 - David mourns the messenger's news about Saul and Jonathan. (2 Samuel 1:11-12)

Section 4 - David has the Amalekite put to death. (2 Samuel 1:13-16)

#### 2 Samuel Chapter 2

Section 1 - David finally anointed king ... sort of. (2 Samuel 2:1-7)

Section 2 - Two kings but only one throne. (2 Samuel 2:8-11)

#### 2 Samuel Chapter 5

David is made King over all of Israel - 2 Samuel 5:1-5

# Today's Take-Away Truths from God's Word

**Truth #1** - God always keeps His promise but not always on our timetable.

**Truth #2** - "Faith is believing in advance what will only make sense in reverse." (Philip Yancey)

**Truth #3** - Things aren't always as they appear. Always look for the Big Picture of what God is doing. Saul's death appeared to be the end of all national hope for Israel - it wasn't. Saul's death seemed like evil had won - it hadn't. Saul's death actually provided the opportunity for God's man to come to the throne who would lead Israel to years of blessings from God.



David's Eleventh Life Turning Point: A Chance to Show Grace Given The Life of David Series - Week 13 2 Samuel 9:1-13

**Central Truth**: Just as God met David at each turning point in his life to guide him and help him, God will do the same for us today.

Section 1 - David remembers a past promise made to his best friend. (2 Samuel 9:1-8)

Section 2 - Finding grace in a most unlikely place. (2 Samuel 9:9-12)

Section 3 - David keeps his promise to Jonathan and fulfills that promise to Mephibosheth. (2 Samuel 9:13)

#### Why God's grace is so amazing

**Reason #1** - God's grace is so amazing because we don't deserve it. (2 Samuel 9:3a)

**Reason #2** - God's grace is so amazing because we can never earn it. (2 Samuel 9:3b)

**Reason #3** - God's grace is so amazing because we can never repay it . (2 Samuel 9:13)

## Today's Take-Away Truths from God's Word

**Truth #1** - Grace isn't picky. There is nothing about us that deserves all the grace (kindness) God has shown to us. Because David was a recipient of God's kindness, he wanted to show God's kindness to others. Grace isn't picky - "*Is there anyone ...*" God's grace received is always looking to show God's kindness to others.

**Truth #2** - Never underestimate the far-reaching grace of God to change a person's life.



David's Twelfth Life Turning Point: Learning The High Price of Giving In to Sin The Life of David Series - Week 14 2 Samuel 11:1-17; 26-27

**Central Truth**: Just as God met David at each turning point in his life to guide him and help him, God will do the same for us today.

Section 1 - David's first mistake that led to bigger mistakes. (2 Samuel 11:1)

Section 2 - David's encounters, pursues, and yields to temptation. (2 Samuel 11:2-4)

Section 3 - A message that would mess up everything. (2 Samuel 11:5)

Section 4 - David tries to cover up what he had messed up. (2 Samuel 11:6-13)

Section 5 - David starts to discover that sin will take you further than you want to go and cost you more than you ever wanted to pay. (2 Samuel 11:14-17)

Section 6 - David marries Bathsheba but displeased the Lord. (2 Samuel 11:26-27)

# Today's Take-Away Truths from God's Word

**Truth #1** - We shouldn't be where we don't belong. Had David been where he belonged - with his troops - there never would have been a David and Bathsheba affair.

**Truth #2** - Sin always carries consequences. We need to always be mindful of the consequences of our choices. And as David learned, no one ever walks with God so long that they cannot fall.

**Truth #3** - Either we control our desires with God's help or our desires will control us.

**God's promised help - 1 Corinthians 10:13**: "The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, He will show you a way out so that you can endure."



David's Thirteenth Life Turning Point: Leaving a Lasting Legacy The Life of David Series - Week 15 1 Chronicles 29:10-30

**Central Truth**: Just as God met David at each turning point in his life to guide him and help him, God will do the same for us today.

**Question**: "When your life has come to its conclusion, what will be said of your life?"

Section 1 - David reminds the people that all praise and glory belong to God alone. (1 Chronicles 29:10-13)

Section 2 - David affirms that everything we have ultimately but surely comes from God. (1 Chronicles 29:14-16)

Section 3 - David is mindful that God not only cares about what is in our hands but what is in our hearts. (1 Chronicles 29:17-20)

Section 4 - The completion of David's reign and the beginning of the reign of Solomon. (1 Chronicles 29:21-25)

Section 5 - The end of the life and reign of King David. (1 Chronicles 29:26-30)

→ Note: Each of the 17 times when Jesus is called "Son of David," it meant the people were referring to Him as the long-awaited Messiah who was the fulfillment of whom the prophets had foretold.

**Truth #1** - Legacy matters. Everyone leaves some kind of a legacy. David's life wasn't perfect, but his legacy was that of being a man who lived to please God. Wherever we find our life story today, may we make the rest of our life the best of our life for God. That's a legacy worth remembering!

**Truth #2** - May we live in such a way that we can say, "By the grace of God, I did my best to live a life that was pleasing to God."

**Truth #3** - For David, life was all about God. From the first chapter to the last chapter we read of his life. David didn't compartmentalize God to only one part of his life - every part of his life included God. Our world needs Davids - believers who wholeheartedly love God and live out their faith in God.