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**KING DAVID**

**Known for:** A man after God’s own heart

**Scriptures to study:** 1 Samuel 13:14, 1 Samuel 10:1, 2 Samuel 11:4-5, 1 Chronicles 14:17, I Chronicles 18:14, Psalm 23, 2 Samuel 19:5-7, 1 Chronicles 29:27-30

David succeeded Saul as King of Israel. He is known for battling the Philistines during Saul’s reign, and killing the mighty Goliath. David was also a harpist and songwriter and grew up as a shepherd. Following his anointing as King, David conquers the city of Jerusalem and establishes it as Israel’s capital. There he prepares to build a temple for God. More is written about David than any other biblical character—66 chapters are dedicated to him. This does not include the Psalms that David himself wrote.

As king of Israel, David won numerous battles and made Israel a formidable nation, expanding its territory and military might, all while pointing his people to God. David was far from perfect—he committed adultery with Bathsheba and then had her husband Uriah killed to cover up his sin. Because of this, God determined that David will not build His temple in Jerusalem, but instead handed that responsibility to his successor, Solomon.

Before he anointed David, the prophet Samuel rebuked Saul and warned him “the Lord has sought out a man after his own heart” (1 Samuel 13:14). David is the only person referred to this way in the Bible. But the Bible doesn’t explicitly tell us what Samuel meant by this. It’s possible that he simply meant David cared about the things God cared about. It’s also possible that we learn something of the character of God through the character of David.

**Key thoughts:**

* David was a key figure in all of Scripture and in the lineage of Jesus.
* David was known for obeying God in his early life and years on the throne; he was a prolific songwriter and wrote many of the psalms.
* Even though David was “a man after God’s own heart”, he also committed terrible sins and displeased God.



* Did you start out from humble beginnings? What humble jobs or activities did you have early in life that may have prepared you for leadership later on?
* What is a “giant” that you have faced in life or work? Were you victorious?
* What kind of man is one “after God’s own heart”? Do you know anyone in your life that you would describe in this way?



* Read 1 Samuel 17:34-37. What experience does David draw on to defeat Goliah?
* Read Psalm 23:1-6. David draws on his time as a shepherd to create a powerful psalm about his relationship with God. What is special about this particular psalm?
* Read 1 Chronicles 18:14. What kind of leader was David?
* Read Luke 1:32. How was David remembered hundreds of years later?
* Read 1 Chronicles 29:27-30. How does the Bible summarize David’s life and reign?



* What does David’s life teach us that is key about being a godly leader? How can we emulate that in our lives and work today?
* What should be our reaction when we are confronted by our sin?
* What can you do in your life and work this week that will help you to shape a positive leadership legacy?