

# DAVID

**LIFE GROUPS  
FALL 2023**

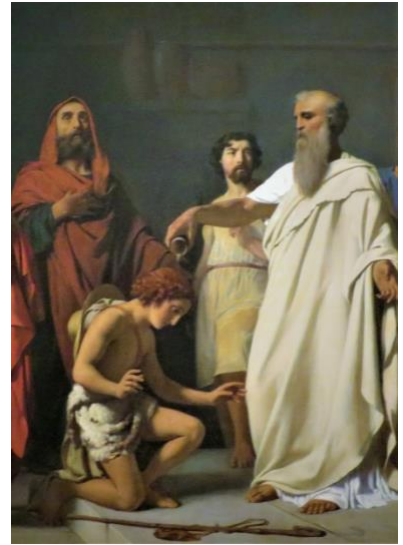
# DAVID

## A Conflicted Character, A Faithful God

David is a towering figure in the Old Testament. From his humble beginnings as a young shepherd, David rose to become Israel's second and most beloved king. Through David, God established a united kingdom of Israel that was to be an icon of God's justice, love, and power. Jesus Christ would later be referred to as the Son of David, a descendant of the king.

Despite his legacy as a king, musician, and poet, David is hardly the perfect paradigm of piety and morality. His story is a mixed bag of successes and failures, of faithfulness and rebellion. At his best, David is a foreshadowing of the righteousness and kingship of Jesus. At his worst, he is a cautionary tale of sin's effects.

Ultimately, David's life is a picture of how the faithful love of God meets us in the messiness of our ordinary lives. And *that* is why his story matters. As we explore David's life, we seek to discover how "God-shaped, God-influenced, God-graced these storied lives of ours in fact are."<sup>1</sup>



Samuel Anointing David  
by Francois-Léon Benouville  
(1842)

## David's Story in Scripture

David's story is recorded in I and II Samuel and I and II Kings. These books tell the story of David's early life, his ascent to the throne of Israel, and his reign as a skilled warrior and political leader. This series explores early scenes from David's life before he becomes king. The Book of Psalms, an anthology of Hebrew religious hymns, is traditionally attributed to David.

## Resources on David

- **Video: David the Priestly King**  
<https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/david-priestly-king>
- **Article: David: What's the Big Deal?**  
<https://bibleproject.com/articles/david-whats-big-deal>
- **Podcast: David, the Leaping Priest-King**  
<https://bibleproject.com/podcast/david-the-leaping-priest-king>
- **Podcast: David, the Latecomer King**  
<https://bibleproject.com/podcast/david-latecomer-king>

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<sup>1</sup> From *Leaping the Wall* by Eugene Peterson

## SESSION SCHEDULE

### Setting the Stage

The passage for the sermon on September 3, *before* Week 1 of Life Groups, sets the stage for the stories we explore in this series. That Sunday's passage (**1 Samuel 16.1; 6-13a**) narrates the "calling" of David and his anointing as a future king by the prophet Samuel. It helps frame David's story, and our own stories, as grounded in the gracious love of God.

Subsequent weeks reflect the Scripture from the previous Sunday. All sermons are posted at [www.christchurchkc.org/sermons](http://www.christchurchkc.org/sermons).

### Weekly Schedule

WEEK	DATE	THEME	SCRIPTURES
1	Week of September 11	David and Goliath	1 Samuel 17:3-11, 32-49   Psalm 27
2	Week of September 18	David and Jonathan	1 Samuel 18:1-16   Psalm 55
3	Week of September 25	David and Doeg	1 Samuel 21.1-9; 22:11, 17-18   Psalm 52
4	Week of October 2	David and Saul	1 Samuel 24:2-22   Psalm 57
5	Week of October 9	David and Abigail	1 Samuel 25:1b-3, 21-35   Psalm 37
6	Week of October 16	David and His Men	1 Samuel 30:1-6,9-10,16-25   Psalm 139
7	Week of October 23	David and Grief	2 Samuel 1:1-12   Psalm 116

### Tuesday/Wednesday Evening On-site Group Schedule

- 6:00 pm Dinner
- 6:30 pm Announcements & Teaching
- 6:45 pm Small Group Discussion
- 8:00 pm Dismissal

Participants may access a digital copy of this guide and recordings of Sunday sermons at [www.christchurchkc.org/lifegroup](http://www.christchurchkc.org/lifegroup).

# WEEK 1: David and Goliath

## Scripture

1 Samuel 17:3-11, 32-49

## Overview

Israel was at war with the Philistines, who had assembled an army near David's home. Goliath, the Philistine champion warrior, challenged Israel to send forward a champion of their own to face him in combat. Filled with fear, none of Israel's warriors would fight Goliath, but David remembered God's history of delivering his people from terrifying foes. David stood against Goliath armed only with a sling and defeated him.



David Slaying Goliath by Peter Paul Rubens (1616)

## Teaching/Sermon Notes

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## Group Discussion

1. Group introductions and icebreaker: Share your favorite summertime food, drink, or activity.
2. What in this story do you find challenging, interesting, or encouraging?
3. Where do you see evidence of sin and brokenness in this story? Of God's grace?
4. Discuss Saul's view of David (v. 33) and Goliath's view of David (vv. 42-44). What role does others' assessment of us play in our ability to face challenges with courage?
5. How was David's perspective on the situation different than those around him? What was the source of his confidence?
6. How do you tend to react when you are afraid? Fight or Flight? Other? What factors contribute to keeping you locked in that fear response?
7. What does it mean to face giants "in the name of the Lord Almighty"? Are there ways you need the Lord's strength in your own life right now?

## Prayer Time

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*Spend time sharing thanksgivings/burdens and pray together as a group. If your group is large, consider splitting into smaller groups of 3-4. End your prayer time by praying Psalm 27:1,5,13-14 together:*

<sup>1</sup>The Lord is my light and my salvation—  
whom shall I fear?  
The Lord is the stronghold of my life—  
of whom shall I be afraid?

<sup>5</sup>For in the day of trouble  
he will keep me safe in his dwelling;  
he will hide me in the shelter of his sacred tent  
and set me high upon a rock.

<sup>13</sup> I remain confident of this:  
I will see the goodness of the Lord  
in the land of the living.

<sup>14</sup> Wait for the Lord;  
be strong and take heart  
and wait for the Lord.

## WEEK 2: David and Jonathan

### Scripture

1 Samuel 18:1-16

### Overview

After defeating Goliath in battle, David began serving King Saul as a soldier. David and Saul's son Jonathan became close friends during this time, both being renowned warriors with high integrity. As David's popularity increased, Saul's envy of him developed into hatred.



David and Jonathan by  
Rembrandt (1640)

### Teaching/Sermon Notes

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### Group Discussion

1. Group introductions and icebreaker: What is a friendship from a book, movie, or tv show that you admire?
2. What in this story do you find challenging, interesting, or encouraging?
3. Where do you see evidence of sin and brokenness in this story? Of God's grace?
4. What role have friendships played in your life of faith?
5. Jonathan gives up his right to become the future king by acknowledging David as the anointed. How might that act of submission have impacted David?
6. Saul became jealous of David after his success. What effect does jealousy have on our relationships? How can we overcome it and move to a place of healthy trust?
7. In what ways do you imagine the disciples experienced friendship with Jesus? In what ways do you desire to experience deeper friendship with Jesus? With others?

## Prayer Time

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*Spend time sharing thanksgivings/burdens and pray together as a group. If your group is large, consider splitting into smaller groups of 3-4. End your prayer time by praying Psalm 55:1-2, 22 together:*

<sup>1</sup>Listen to my prayer, O God,  
do not ignore my plea;  
<sup>2</sup>hear me and answer me.  
My thoughts trouble me and I am distraught

<sup>22</sup>Cast your cares on the LORD  
and he will sustain you;  
he will never let  
the righteous be shaken.

## WEEK 3: David and Doeg

### Scripture

1 Samuel 21:1-9; 22:11, 17-18

### Overview

David fled from Saul and was sheltered by a group of priests, who provided food and weapons for him. When Saul heard about this, he ordered the priests to be killed. Most of Saul's attendants refused to raise a hand against the priests, but Doeg the Edomite obeyed, killing 85 priests and most of the villagers for sheltering David.



Doeg kills Ahimelek at the Behest of Saul by Masters of Otto van Moerdrecht - Manuscript (1430)

### Teaching/Sermon Notes

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### Group Discussion

1. Group introductions and icebreaker: What “dangers” were you most afraid of when you were young?
2. What in this story do you find challenging, interesting, or encouraging?
3. Where do you see evidence of sin and brokenness in this story? Of God's grace?
4. Why did David deceive the priest Ahimelek in the house of the Lord? What does this reveal about David's motives?
5. What were the consequences of David's actions for the priest and his family? For David?
6. What are the greatest temptations we face when we feel we are threatened? How can we maintain our integrity in such moments?
7. Jesus refers to David eating and sharing the consecrated bread when his disciples are accused of breaking the Sabbath by pulling off and eating heads of grain (Matthew 12:1-14). He tells the religious leaders, “If you had known what these words mean, I desire mercy, not sacrifice, you would not have condemned the innocent. For the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath.” Why do you think Jesus makes this connection? What parallels can you draw between these two stories?



## Prayer Time

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*Spend time sharing thanksgivings/burdens and pray together as a group. If your group is large, consider splitting into smaller groups of 3-4. End your prayer time by praying Psalm 52:1-3, 8-9 together:*

<sup>1</sup> Why do you boast of evil, you mighty hero?  
Why do you boast all day long,  
you who are a disgrace in the eyes of God?

<sup>2</sup> You who practice deceit,  
your tongue plots destruction;  
it is like a sharpened razor.

<sup>3</sup> You love evil rather than good,  
falsehood rather than speaking the truth.

<sup>8</sup> But I am like an olive tree  
flourishing in the house of God;  
I trust in God's unfailing love  
for ever and ever.

<sup>9</sup> For what you have done I will always praise you  
in the presence of your faithful people.  
And I will hope in your name,  
for your name is good.

## WEEK 4: David and Saul

### Scripture

1 Samuel 24:2-22

### Overview

Saul chased David through the Desert of En Gedi. David had the opportunity to take Saul's life but showed mercy to Saul as a gesture of good faith. The mercy of David softened Saul's heart, and the two men were temporarily reconciled.



Saul and David in the Cave of En-Gedi by Willem de Poorter (1637)

### Teaching/Sermon Notes

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### Group Discussion

1. Icebreaker: When you have encountered a bug or pest in your home, do you tend to respond with wrath or mercy?
2. What in this story do you find challenging, interesting, or encouraging?
3. Where do you see evidence of sin and brokenness in this story? Of God's grace?
4. David's men urged him to kill Saul when he had the chance. Why did David refuse to do it? What do you think would have happened to David if he had listened to them?
5. Has there been a time when you were shown mercy even though you didn't deserve it? How did it change you? How did it impact your relationship with the person who showed you mercy?
6. Jesus taught that the merciful will receive mercy (Matthew 5:7). How does this teaching affect your view of life and relationships?

## Prayer Time

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*Spend time sharing thanksgivings/burdens and pray together as a group. If your group is large, consider splitting into smaller groups of 3-4. End your prayer time by praying Psalm 57:1-3, 9-11 together:*

<sup>1</sup> Have mercy on me, my God, have mercy on me,  
for in you I take refuge.

I will take refuge in the shadow of your wings  
until the disaster has passed.

<sup>2</sup> I cry out to God Most High,  
to God, who vindicates me.

<sup>3</sup> He sends from heaven and saves me,  
rebuking those who hotly pursue me—  
God sends forth his love and his faithfulness.

<sup>9</sup> I will praise you, Lord, among the nations;  
I will sing of you among the peoples.

<sup>10</sup> For great is your love, reaching to the heavens;  
your faithfulness reaches to the skies.

<sup>11</sup> Be exalted, O God, above the heavens;  
let your glory be over all the earth.

## WEEK 5: David and Abigail

### Scripture

1 Samuel 25:1b-3, 21-35

### Overview

David requested hospitality from Nabal, a wealthy shepherd that they'd defended from thieves. When Nabal insulted David and his men, David was angry and set out to take by force what Nabal should have given freely. Abigail, Nabal's wife, quickly intervened on her husband's behalf and as a result, Nabal is spared from David's wrath.



The Meeting of David and Abigail by Correggio (1489–1534)

### Teaching/Sermon Notes

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### Group Discussion

1. Icebreaker: What are some characteristics of a great host?
2. What in this story do you find challenging, interesting, or encouraging?
3. Where do you see evidence of sin and brokenness in this story? Of God's grace?
4. At first David wants to take matters into his own hands when Nabal repays him evil for good (v. 21-22). Why is he thankful that Abigail changes his mind (v. 31-34)? How do you imagine David and Abigail felt during and after this interaction?
5. Has someone ever tried to stop you from doing something you'd later regret? What feelings did you experience throughout the process?
6. In Romans 2:4 the Apostle Paul writes that God's kindness leads us to repentance. Have you seen this played out in your own life, either in your relationship with God or with someone else?

## Prayer Time

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*Spend time sharing thanksgivings/burdens and pray together as a group. If your group is large, consider splitting into smaller groups of 3-4. End your prayer time by praying Psalm 37:1-4 together:*

<sup>1</sup> Do not fret because of those who are evil  
or be envious of those who do wrong;

<sup>2</sup> for like the grass they will soon wither,  
like green plants they will soon die away.

<sup>3</sup> Trust in the LORD and do good;  
dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture.

<sup>4</sup> Take delight in the LORD,  
and he will give you the desires of your heart.

## WEEK 6: David and His Men

### Scripture

1 Samuel 30:1-6, 9-10, 16-25

### Overview

David and his men returned from a long journey to find their homes burned, possessions stolen, and wives and children taken captive by the Amalekites. Most went with David to fight for their return, but some were too exhausted to continue. After a successful rescue, some of David's men wanted to keep the plunder for themselves, but David insisted that all would have equal share in the victory.



Battle With the Amalekites by David Martin (1639-1721)

### Teaching/Sermon Notes

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### Group Discussion

1. Icebreaker: Have you ever received a strange or unusual gift from someone?
2. What in this story do you find challenging, interesting, or encouraging?
3. Where do you see evidence of sin and brokenness in this story? Of God's grace?
4. Why do you think David chose to rebuke the men who argued that the plunder should not be shared with those who stayed back from battle (vv. 21-25)? How might that have affected the army?
5. Have you ever been the recipient of extraordinary generosity? How did that affect you?
6. In Matthew 20:1-16, Jesus tells a parable about vineyard workers who work different hours but are paid the same wage because of the generosity of their employer. Why do you think it's so hard for us to see generosity extended to others?

## Prayer Time

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*Spend time sharing thanksgivings/burdens and pray together as a group. If your group is large, consider splitting into smaller groups of 3-4. End your prayer time by praying Psalm 139:1-6, 23-24 together:*

- <sup>1</sup> You have searched me, LORD,  
and you know me.
- <sup>2</sup> You know when I sit and when I rise;  
you perceive my thoughts from afar.
- <sup>3</sup> You discern my going out and my lying down;  
you are familiar with all my ways.
- <sup>4</sup> Before a word is on my tongue  
you, LORD, know it completely.
- <sup>5</sup> You hem me in behind and before,  
and you lay your hand upon me.
- <sup>6</sup> Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,  
too lofty for me to attain.
- <sup>23</sup> Search me, God, and know my heart;  
test me and know my anxious thoughts.
- <sup>24</sup> See if there is any offensive way in me,  
and lead me in the way everlasting.

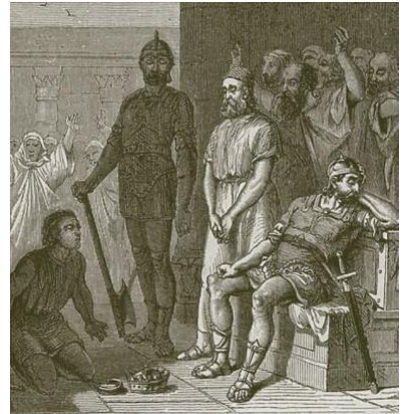
## WEEK 7: David and Grief

### Scripture

2 Samuel:1.1-12

### Overview

David received news that Saul and Jonathan died in battle with the Philistines. The Philistines publicly displayed Saul and Jonathan's bodies to humiliate them as a warning to all their enemies. David mourned the deaths of his friend Jonathan and his enemy Saul, heartbroken by their loss.



David Mourning from  
The Child's Bible (1880)

### Teaching/Sermon Notes

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### Group Discussion

1. Icebreaker: What fictional world or place would you like to visit?
2. What in this story do you find challenging, interesting, or encouraging?
3. Where do you see evidence of sin and brokenness in this story? Of God's grace?
4. David receives news of the death of Saul (an enemy) and of Jonathan (a friend) and grieves them both. What are some of the layers you imagine were present in David's grief?
5. In your own experiences of grief, what role has your faith played?
6. How does the message of Christ's death and resurrection affect our approach to grief and loss? What role does the community of faith play?



## Prayer Time

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*Spend time sharing thanksgivings/burdens and pray together as a group. If your group is large, consider splitting into smaller groups of 3-4. End your prayer time by praying Psalm 116:15-19 together:*

<sup>15</sup> Precious in the sight of the LORD  
is the death of his faithful servants.

<sup>16</sup> Truly I am your servant, LORD;  
I serve you just as my mother did;  
you have freed me from my chains.

<sup>17</sup> I will sacrifice a thank offering to you  
and call on the name of the LORD.

<sup>18</sup> I will fulfill my vows to the LORD  
in the presence of all his people,

<sup>19</sup> in the courts of the house of the LORD—  
in your midst, Jerusalem.  
Praise the LORD.

## NOTES

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King David Playing the Harp  
by Gerard van Honthorst  
(1622)



Christ Church  
ANGLICAN