

CBN EUROPE

"TO MAKE JESUS KNOWN TO EVERYONE
IN THE UK, EUROPE, AND BEYOND."

Character Study

DAVID



Summary:

Lived around 1000BC

Born in Bethlehem

Held roles of Shepherd,
musician, poet, soldier, king

Ancestor of Jesus Christ

Noted as a man after God's
own heart

Found in
1 Samuel 16 - Kings 2

Wrote many Psalms

CBN
EUROPE

DAVID

Introduction

Welcome to "Unveiling the Heart of David: A Bible Study on the Life and Character of David." This group Bible study provides us with valuable lessons on faith, courage, repentance, and steadfast devotion to God. In this study, we will dive into David's life, learning from his character, conversations, and actions, drawing insights that can impact our lives and challenge the cultural norms of today. Together, let's embark on a journey to discover the timeless wisdom of David's character.

Before we begin, take a moment to ask God to fill our hearts and minds with the truth of His Word. Invite the Holy Spirit to bring fresh revelation to our own walks with Jesus and commit to His ongoing plan of transformation and renewal as you learn from this study.

SESSION 1

David's Anointing and Early Years

Key Passages: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

Key Points:

- Saul was still King when David was anointed
- It was common that the eldest sibling receives the inheritance and priority of favour
- David was excluded from the sacrifice to God

Discussion Questions:

1. How do you think David felt at that moment?
2. Why do you think God chose David of all the brothers?
3. David didn't chase position, but he was willing to step into it if God called him. In a society that often emphasises self-promotion and instant gratification, how can we develop the character of patience and trust in God's timing?
4. It was counter-cultural for God to choose the youngest son. In what ways does the world influence our understanding of success and significance? How can we align it with God's perspective?
5. How can we remain faithful to God's calling, even when our circumstances or cultural norms seem to contradict it?
6. Are there any times in your life when God presented a role that you weren't chasing after? How did that make you feel?

SESSION 2

David and Goliath

Key Passages: 1 Samuel 17

Key Points:

- David was anointed as King, but he carried on tending sheep
- The Israelites were trained to fight from a young age
- It was common for one army to pit its strongest warrior against the other, and the winner would win the whole battle

Discussion Questions:

1. Discuss the character qualities that enabled David to face Goliath fearlessly. How can we develop similar qualities in our lives?
2. How did his past equip him for the future?
3. When others try and tear us down, what can we learn from David in this story?
4. How does the story of David and Goliath challenge our cultural tendency to rely solely on human strength and strategies?
5. In what ways do we encounter "giants" in our lives today? If you're comfortable, share some personal "giants." How can David's example inspire us to confront and overcome them?
6. How can we strike a balance between relying on God's power and utilising the gifts and talents He has given us?

SESSION 3

David's Friendship with Jonathan

Key Passages: 1 Samuel 18:1-4, 20:1-42

Key Points:

- Saul, the reigning king, became jealous of David's military success and popularity. David had gained fame for his victory over the Philistine giant, Goliath
- Jonathan's covenant with David (and before God) was made prior to Saul's desire to kill David
- After Jonathan's death, David continued to show kindness towards Jonathan's descendants

Discussion Questions:

1. Have you ever experienced a friendship like David and Jonathan's? Or have you seen it expressed elsewhere?
2. Describe the qualities of a true friend as seen in David and Jonathan's relationship. How can we apply these qualities in our friendships today?
3. Discuss the challenges and benefits of cultivating deep, authentic friendships in a culture that often promotes superficial connections, and how does social media influence this?
4. How can we provide support and encouragement to our friends, fostering a community that reflects the love of Christ?

SESSION 4

David's Failures and Repentance

Key Passages: 2 Samuel 11:1-12:23; Psalm 51

Key Points:

- Spring was a more favoured time for war, with longer days and better weather than Winter.
- The ark, symbolising God's presence, had gone with Joab and the army (11:11), whilst David stayed where he was.
- David, most, if not every time, led his army into battle. This was the first recorded instance of an irregularity in his pattern.

Discussion Questions:

1. What are some warning signs or factors that led to David's sin with Bathsheba and Uriah?
2. Discuss the consequences of David's actions and the impact they had on his family and kingdom. What does this teach us about personal responsibility, and is that something our culture thinks much about?
3. In a culture that often promotes image management and minimises the consequences of wrongdoing, how can we maintain accountability and pursue genuine repentance?
4. How can we learn from David's example of repentance, humility, and seeking God's forgiveness?
5. What do we learn about God's character/view in relation to sin and repentance?

SESSION 5

David's Worship and Psalms

Key Passages: Psalm 23, 103, 139, 1 Samuel 16:14-23

Key Points:

- A 'Psalm' is a song or poem.
- David played many songs on the 'harp', but this wasn't like one in an orchestra. It would be much closer to a 'lyre'.
- These were often expressions of how David felt at that moment, and you can sometimes see his heart change through a Psalm.

Discussion Questions:

1. Discuss the role of worship in David's life and its impact on his relationship with God. How can we prioritise and deepen our own worship experiences?
2. How did David's gift of worship ease Saul's distress? What can we learn from this for today?
3. How can we cultivate a lifestyle of worship and intimacy with God, following David's example? What other ways might we worship God?
4. Some Psalms make us feel uncomfortable. Why is this?
5. Is it healthy to be honest with God? Why do we resist this sometimes?
6. Do you have a favourite Psalm? If so, what is it and why?

SESSION 6

David's Legacy and God's Promise

Key Passages: 2 Samuel 7:8-16

Key Points:

- God assures David that even if his descendants commit wrongdoing, He will discipline them but never remove His steadfast love from them.
- It's God who establishes and blesses His Kingdom, inviting His people into His plan

Discussion Questions:

1. Discuss the impact of God's covenant with David and what it teaches us about God's faithfulness and promises.
2. In what ways can David's faithfulness, obedience, and trust in God's promises inspire us, especially in a culture that often promotes compromise and shifting values?
3. How does David's life and character foreshadow the coming of Jesus Christ?
4. On this side of the cross, we see the evidence of God's covenant. He's true to His Word, and there's proof. What confidence should it give us in our personal walks with God? What stops us from trusting Him in His many promises to us?
5. God promises to fulfil His own plans, but He deeply desires that we would also prosper within them. What one change could you make to align your life with His plans today?

DAVID

A man after God's own heart!

Through this study, we have explored the character of David, a man after God's own heart. As we reflect on his triumphs, failures, and unwavering devotion, let us seek to cultivate the character traits that made David stand out to God.

May our lives be marked by humility, faith, courage, genuine friendships, repentance, heartfelt worship, and unwavering trust in God's promises.

As we live out our faith in today's culture, may we boldly shine the light of Christ through our character and actions.

Why not take a moment to pray for one another that your character might reflect David's best and learn from his worst.

