

Nathan Buttery

David

God's True King



 6-Session Bible Study

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David: God's True King

A Good Book Guide

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Introduction

One of the Bible writers described God's word as "a lamp for my feet, a light on my path" (Psalm 119:105, NIV). God gave us the Bible to tell us about who he is and what he wants for us. He speaks through it by his Spirit and lights our way through life.

That means that we need to look carefully at the Bible and uncover its meaning—but we also need to apply what we've discovered to our lives.

Good Book Guides are designed to help you do just that. The sessions in this book are interactive and easy to lead. They're perfect for use in groups or for personal study.

Let's take a look at what is included in each session.

Talkabout: Every session starts with an ice-breaker question, designed to get people talking around a subject that links to the Bible study.

Investigate: These questions help you explore what the passage is about.

Apply: These questions are designed to get you thinking practically: what does this Bible teaching mean for you and your church?

Explore More: These optional sections help you to go deeper or to explore another part of the Bible which connects with the main passage.

Getting Personal: These sections are a chance for personal reflection. Some groups may feel comfortable discussing these, but you may prefer to look at them quietly as individuals instead—or leave them out.

Pray: Here, you're invited to pray in the light of the truths and challenges you've seen in the study.

Each session is also designed to be easily split into two! Watch out for the **Apply** section that comes halfway through, and stop there if you haven't got time to do the whole thing in one go.

In the back of the book, you'll find a **Leader's Guide**, which provides helpful notes on every question, along with everything else that group leaders need in order to facilitate a great session and help the group uncover the riches of God's light-giving word.

Why Study the Story of David?

The story of David's battle with Goliath is the stuff of legends: an unknown, unlikely-looking youth defiantly takes on the ultimate enemy weapon—an enormous and unconquered super-warrior. He sets out unprotected and alone, yet astonishingly, he slaughters the evil giant—the enemy is routed and David wins total victory for his people.

David stands out in the Old Testament history of God's people, Israel. He is a magnetic and inspiring figure.

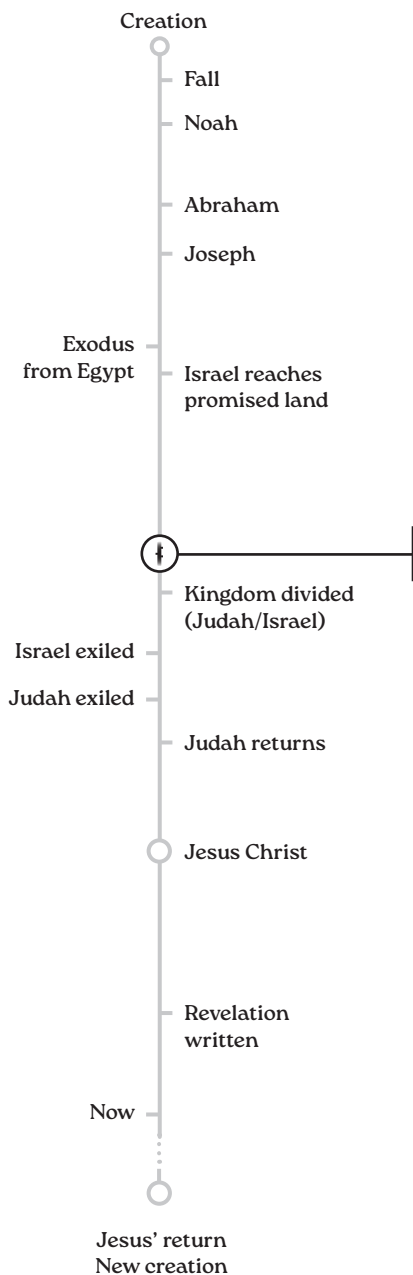
But then the stories and psalms reveal other "Davids"—the desperate outlaw and the broken sinner, as well as the magnificent king and "lover" of God. It's easy to see why the story of David and Goliath is still so popular. We love David the hero, the shepherd-boy who became king of Israel, chosen by God as a man "after his own heart". But what about David the despised "worm", the hot-tempered bully, the weak father, the lustful playboy and the coldly calculating murderer? Did God really know what he was doing when he chose David?!

God doesn't speak to us in dry, abstract propositions—he loves to use vivid pictures, and David is a fantastic illustrated lesson for us. We warm to his character, his bold defiance of God's enemies, his humility and tender heart—humans have always wanted someone like this to look up to and be inspired by. But then he lets everyone down big time; his life becomes mired in selfish greed, callous cruelty and brazen lies. Even this "man after [God's] own heart" cannot help us because he cannot help himself.

We need a greater hero.

So the story of David isn't just a lesson in the "secrets" of David's success or the reasons for his many failures. It uncovers the bigger story of that greater hero—Jesus—giving us glimpses of his complete victory over our greatest enemies, sin and death itself. Jesus' true kingship will never fail and his perfect salvation is what we all need.

In just six sessions, you will learn how this weak king, David, points to the ultimate King, Jesus—despised like the "worm" of David's psalm and killed, yet finally winning total victory for his people over sin and death.



David 1040-970 BC

- 1040 David born
- 1025 David anointed to be King Saul's successor
- 1010 David becomes king
- 991 David's son Solomon born
- 970 David dies

An Unexpected Choice

1 Samuel 16

Talkabout

1. Think about the way in which most people picture “success”. As a group, come up with a popular description of a “successful” person. By contrast, how do you think Christians would describe a successful person?

When God chose Samuel to be his prophet to the people of Israel, things were bad. There was a crisis of leadership in Israel, and no one to lead. Yet the books of Samuel teach us that God is the King and he rules his people. He will not leave them to fall into spiritual decay. 1 and 2 Samuel tell the story of Israel’s progress from chaos to order—from a land without any leadership to a land ruled by their greatest king, David.

But not only will we learn about God’s dealings with David and how David responded, we will also see how David received some amazing promises, which only found their fulfilment in “great David’s greater Son”—Jesus Christ. Despite his greatness, ultimately David was just a weak and sinful human; but he points us forward to the great King Jesus and helps us to see how God is our true King, controlling history and saving his people.

In this chapter, God chooses the king “after his own heart”.

Investigate

 Read 1 Samuel 16:1-13

DICTIONARY

Saul (v 1): the current king of Israel.

Heifer (v 2): cow.

Anoint (v 3): pour oil over, as a sign of being specially chosen by God for a particular task.

2. Why had God rejected Saul (v 1)? See 1 Samuel 13:7b-14 and 15:24-26.

3. Why was Samuel worried (v 2)? See also 1 Samuel 10:1.

4. Was there a need to be worried, do you think? Why/why not?

5. What do God's words (1 Samuel 16:1-3) show us about his plans (13:14)?

6. What did Samuel do in response to God's words?

Apply

7. In what situations will this truth—that God is in total control of his plans—be a comfort to us as Christians?

- What can Samuel's actions in verse 4 teach us about trust and obedience?
- What will it mean for us to trust and obey God in the situations we have just discussed?

Getting Personal | OPTIONAL

Think of things in your life about which you worry. What difference would it make to trust that God is in total control of that situation? What might you need to do to show obedience to God in that situation, as Samuel did?

Investigate

8. On what grounds did Samuel choose Eliab?
9. What did God say was wrong with Samuel's way of choosing the king?
10. Read 1 Samuel 13:14. Why did God choose David?

Explore More | OPTIONAL

Read 1 Corinthians 1:20-31

- What can we learn from these verses about the way in which God acts and the people he chooses?
- How can we see this in...
 - Jesus?
 - the Christian message (the gospel)?
 - Christians and the church?

Apply

11. In what ways do we make the same error as Samuel; for example, in our attitudes to others or to the gospel?

- Why are Jesus and the message of the cross often rejected by people? Should this worry us? Why/why not?

Getting Personal | OPTIONAL

In what ways are you tempted to be ashamed of the gospel because of its apparent “weakness”? Plan and pray about ways you need to change.

Investigate

 **Read 1 Samuel 16:14-23**

12. How did David conduct himself during this time?

13. What does the tragic picture of Saul here teach us about God’s character?

Apply

14. How does Saul stand as a warning for us today?

Pray

Thank God that he uses the foolish things of this world to shame the wise. Thank him that through the “folly” of the cross and the “weakness” of Christ he saves men and women like us!

Confess those times where you have not trusted that God is in total control of his plans, or where you have judged others by outward appearances rather than by looking at the heart.

Ask God to help you be like David—someone after his own heart—and not like Saul!