



HUDDLE: David

Week 7 – David and Bathsheba

Learning to love and follow Jesus—together—by His strength,
in every day life.



Overview for the Life of David

The topics we'll cover in 8 weeks are:

Previous:

1. Names: David and Samuel (1 Sam 16:1-13)
2. Imagination: David and Goliath (1 Sam 17)
3. Wilderness: David and En-Gedi (1 Sam 23-24)
4. Beauty: David and Bathsheba (1 Sam 25)
5. Grief: David in Lament (1 Sam 31, 2 Sam 1)
6. Religion: David and Uzzah (2 Sam 6)

You
Are
Here!



This week: Sin: David and Bathsheba (2 Sam 11-12)

Next week:

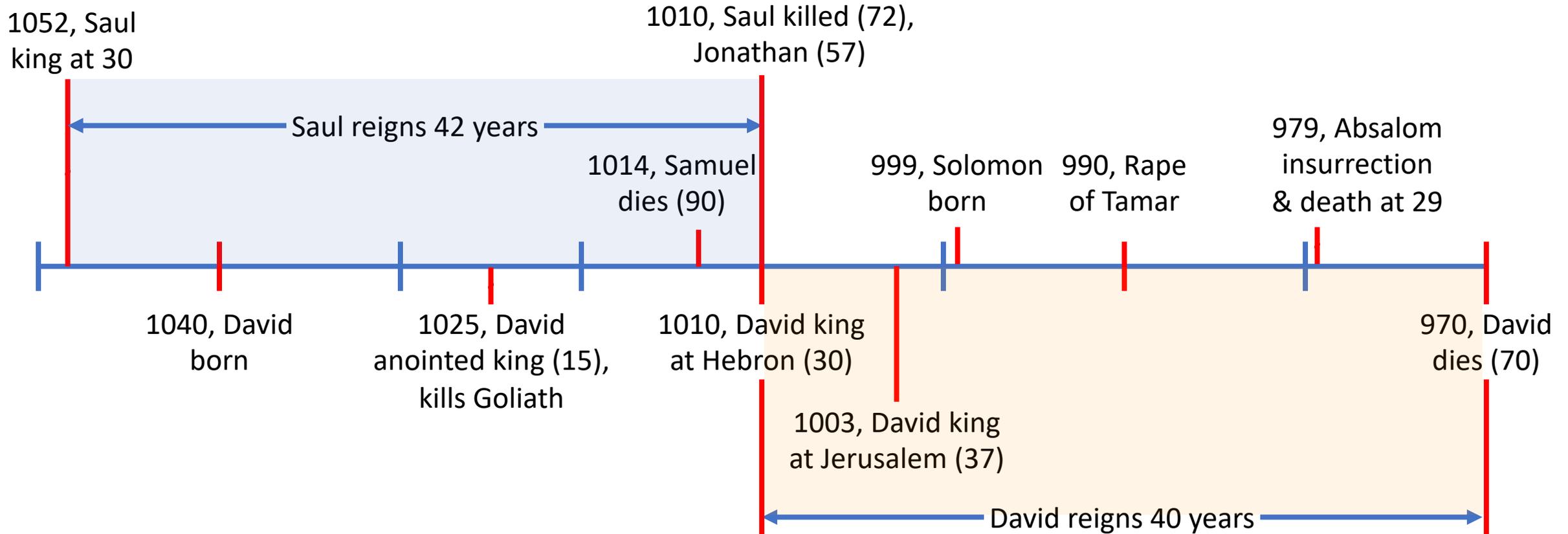
8. Suffering: David and Absalom (2 Sam 16-18)

Recommended Reading:

["Leap Over a Wall" by Eugene Peterson](#)

[Andy Stanley sermons on David \(parts 1-5\)](#)

David Timeline



Day 1: Prayer (Week 7, David & Bathsheba)



- If you are comfortable praying as a conversation with God, find some focused time to do so.
- Find a place where you can have silence and solitude and talk to God and be attentive to how He leads your thoughts and emotions.
- You may find it helpful to write down what you talked with God about and/or how He answered in a journal.



If you are new to prayer, or struggle with focus, you may want to pray aloud the following prayer from St. Augustine:

Lord Jesus, let me know myself and know you, And desire nothing, save only you.

Let me hate myself and love you. Let me do everything for the sake of you.

Let me humble myself and exalt you. Let me think of nothing except you.

Let me accept whatever happens as from you. Let me banish self and follow you,

And ever desire to follow you. Let me fly from myself and take refuge in you,

That I may deserve to be defended by you. Let me fear for myself, let me fear you,

And let me be among those who are chosen by you.

Let me be willing to obey for the sake of you.

Let me cling to nothing, save only to you,

And let me be poor because of you.

Look upon me, that I may love you.

Call me, that I may see you,

And for ever enjoy you. Amen

Day 1: Abiding in the Word (Week 7, David & Bathsheba)



Read: 2 Samuel 11:1, Psalm 51

Background for the Reading:

- Do murderers start out to murder someone? Isn't it more typical that a murder starts out doing something illegal or immoral which leads to something more egregious, then more, then finally: murder?
- Though David's life started out modestly, over time, he starts to believe his own press - especially now that he's surrounded by the trappings of being king.
- God is bringing David into a time of testing - a place of encounter that reveals David's heart.
- David's in his 50's. He wasn't supposed to be in the city at that time. He was supposed to be on the front line of the battle. He was in the wrong place at the wrong time!
- David no longer has to prove himself in battle. Besides, these aren't important wars to be fought. He was king - he could choose to stay home.
- In the culture of the time, kings accompanied their troops. Even if they weren't in the thick of the fighting, they were nearby.
- When we're board and we're not where we're supposed to be, we get into a whole lot more trouble than what we bargained for.

Questions for Reflection:

- Why wasn't David with the army?
- How do the verses in Psalm 51 point to Jesus?

Day 2: David Huddle (Week 7, David & Bathsheba)



Pray	10 min	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you are comfortable praying as a conversation with God, find some focused time to do so. • Find a place where you can have silence and solitude and talk to God and be attentive to how He leads your thoughts and emotions. • You may find it helpful to write down what you talked with God about and/or how He answered in a journal.
Time in the Word	10 min	Read: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Samuel 11:2-5 <input type="checkbox"/> Day 2 Abiding in the Word (next slide)
Silence		How is God directing your thoughts today?
Solitude		Have you intentionally gotten away to be alone (including technology/social media)?
Reflection	10 min	Be still to experience His presence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What were you thankful for today? • Where did you experience His presence today (or not)? • How did you love your “neighbor” today? • What do you want His perspective on for tomorrow?



If you are new to prayer, or struggle with focus, you may want to pray using the Lord’s Prayer as an outline for your own words to express...

- Tell God how thankful you are for the privilege of calling the King of Kings “our Father,” & that He listens and hears.
- God is worthy of honor and worship
- We should acknowledge that things on earth are not what they are supposed to be, and that we should ask God to be aware of His presence and strive to see what He wants this world to be. We should let others see His Kingdom by how we live.
- We should be thankful that He provides our basic needs.
- We should pray for forgiveness and forgive others
- We should name our weaknesses and our temptations, and for the Spirit to strengthen us. We should close with praise

Day 2: Abiding in the Word (Week 7, David & Bathsheba)



Background for the Reading:

- Why is Bathsheba bathing on the roof?! Rainwater was collected in vats on the flat roof of houses. The sun warmed the water during the day and it was a good place to bathe.
- Bathsheba wasn't a common sinner. She demonstrated that she was devoutly religious as she was obeying the law that required a ritual bath for purification.
- David sends for Bathsheba. He isn't thinking that he's going to lie or murder someone or call disgrace down on himself and Israel. He's not thinking of the consequences. He sees himself as greater than God - he's king! He makes the rules! He can because he can! Like Eve and Adam. Like us. He quits submitting to God and decides to do what he wants.
- Why was this a bad decision? Because everyone would know about the affair and that King David was a lecherous fraud, pretending to be righteous but stealing the wives of his soldiers.

Questions for Reflection:

- What was David's response when he saw her?
- Was there anything wrong in this response?
- What did David find out about her?
- What should David have done at that point? What did he do?
- Why do you think he did this? Didn't he know it was wrong? What factors do you think went into this bad decision?
- Do you think Bathsheba has culpability in the series of sinful decisions? Why or why not?

Day 3: David Huddle (Week 7, David & Bathsheba)



Pray	10 min	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you are comfortable praying as a conversation with God, find some focused time to do so. • Find a place where you can have silence and solitude and talk to God and be attentive to how He leads your thoughts and emotions. • You may find it helpful to write down what you talked with God about and/or how He answered in a journal.
Time in the Word	10 min	<p>Read:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Samuel 11:6-13 <input type="checkbox"/> Day 3 Abiding in the Word (next slide)
Silence		How is God directing your thoughts today?
Solitude		Have you intentionally gotten away to be alone (including technology/social media)?
Reflection	10 min	<p>Be still to experience His presence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What were you thankful for today? • Where did you experience His presence today (or not)? • How did you love your “neighbor” today? • What do you want His perspective on for tomorrow?



If you are new to prayer, or struggle with focus, you may want to pray using the ACTS method as an outline for your own words to express...

- **A**doration (a time of worship): don't be afraid of “artistic expressions” here, or to use Psalms or hymns or other forms of praise.
- **C**onfession: We all fall short and miss the mark. Confession of sin helps us our relationship to God.
- **T**hanksgiving: Simply tell God what you're thankful for.
- **S**upplication: Asking God for needs of the world, our country & leaders, our church, and anything and everything else. God wants to hear from you.

Day 3: Abiding in the Word (Week 7, David & Bathsheba)



Background for the Reading:

- When Bathsheba tells David she's pregnant, David cooks up this elaborate scheme to call Uriah back home and have him sleep with his wife, thereby claiming that the baby is his! Amazing! Where's the David we know?! What's going on?! David descends from love and obedience into calculation and cruelty!
- Uriah is a Hittite - a foreigner. But he's proven himself as a mighty warrior (see 1 Chronicles 11:41). He's the 'special ops' of his day.
- Uriah is faithful and righteous, reflecting the character that David possessed his whole life - to this point anyway.
- David's Plan A doesn't work. He moves to Plan B - without ever considering the incredible moral catastrophe he's implementing. He even gives Uriah's death warrant (the letter) for Uriah to carry to Joab!
- After Uriah's death (and David's notification of such), David takes Bathsheba as his wife. This might have been seen publicly as a great act of loyalty to one of his most capable soldiers. But it was the height of hypocrisy!

Questions for Reflection:

- How did David try to fix the problem?
- Why did David's plan not work? What's David's Plan B?

Day 4: David Huddle (Week 7, David & Bathsheba)



Pray	10 min	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you are comfortable praying as a conversation with God, find some focused time to do so. • Find a place where you can have silence and solitude and talk to God and be attentive to how He leads your thoughts and emotions. • You may find it helpful to write down what you talked with God about and/or how He answered in a journal.
Time in the Word	10 min	<p>Read:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Samuel 11:14-28 <input type="checkbox"/> Day 4 Abiding in the Word (next slide)
Silence		How is God directing your thoughts today?
Solitude		Have you intentionally gotten away to be alone (including technology/social media)?
Reflection	10 min	<p>Be still to experience His presence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What were you thankful for today? • Where did you experience His presence today (or not)? • How did you love your “neighbor” today? • What do you want His perspective on for tomorrow?



If you are new to prayer, or struggle with focus, you may want to pray using the breath method to pray:

- Simply take a Psalm and breathe in as you read the first line, and then exhale on the second.
- Take deep, long, slow breaths.
- Good examples are Psalm 46 & 47, but almost every Psalm can be done this way. Try to focus on the ones that focus on God and/or resonate with where you are at the moment.

Day 4: Abiding in the Word (Week 7, David & Bathsheba)



Background for the Reading:

- David goes from boredom to lust to adultery to treachery to murder. Imagine the self-justification he used at each step. Little-by-little, he's into horrible, unimaginable actions.
- David used people: Bathsheba for his sexual pleasure. Uriah to fix his sin problem. Joab to kill Uriah. The he focused on covering up his sin rather than confessing.
- Now David has broken the heart of God. He's hurt other people. He scarred his own reputation. He's brought shame to Israel.
- Suddenly, David is no longer a perfect example for us. Only Jesus is that wholly, holy example for us.
- But David IS an example for us. We sometimes take sin lightly and, little-by-little, we get sucked into to a puddle that turns into a pool that sucks us in and drowns us.
 - 1 Corinthians 10:12-13 "Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it."
- David could have avoided getting his name written in the journal of shame by getting on his horse and riding out to the battle when he was first tempted. We need to take care not to sin even the small sins, as they often grown into our worst nightmares.

Questions for Reflection:

- What should David have done after his first rendezvous with Bathsheba?

Day 5: David Huddle (Week 7, David & Bathsheba)



Pray	10 min	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you are comfortable praying as a conversation with God, find some focused time to do so. • Find a place where you can have silence and solitude and talk to God and be attentive to how He leads your thoughts and emotions. • You may find it helpful to write down what you talked with God about and/or how He answered in a journal.
Time in the Word	10 min	Read: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Samuel 12:1-15 <input type="checkbox"/> Day 5 Abiding in the Word (next slide)
Silence		How is God directing your thoughts today?
Solitude		Have you intentionally gotten away to be alone (including technology/social media)?
Reflection	10 min	Be still to experience His presence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What were you thankful for today? • Where did you experience His presence today (or not)? • How did you love your “neighbor” today? • What do you want His perspective on for tomorrow?



If you are new to prayer, or struggle with focus, you may want to simply pray using a Psalm...they are really great prayers! Find one that you resonate with, and pray it aloud:

- Simply take a Psalm, such as Psalm 23 or 51
- Pray aloud, even if in a whisper, slowly and with concentration on the words.
- Try to be attentive to the thoughts that come to mind and discern if those may be something God is trying to tell you.

Day 5: Abiding in the Word (Week 7, David & Bathsheba)



Background for the Reading:

- Every sin comes prepackaged with consequences and penalties.
- David broke God's law, but then allowed God's law to brake him.
- Finally, God's sovereignty comes into play. And that's the end of David 'playing god' with people's lives. Only God is God!
- David listens to Nathan's parable and thinks it's about someone else. He gets worked up about this someone else's sin. "It's the religion of moral judgmentalism, self-righteous finger-pointing, accusation and sin."
- Nathan pronounces: "You are the man" (2 Samuel 12:7). This is the gospel focus. The gospel is never about somebody else - it's always about you and me. The gospel is never a truth in general. It's always about a specific truth and a specific sin.
- David realizes that he's the gospel focus and recognizes that he's a sinner before God. He needs God.
- Peterson: "In the Christian life our primary task isn't to avoid sin, which is impossible anyway, but to recognize sin." Sin is enormously self-deceptive. With the gospel, condemnation gives way to the realization of grace, mercy and forgiveness.
- Peterson: "The subtlety of sin is that it doesn't feel like sin when we're doing it; it feels godlike, it feels religious, it feels fulfilling and satisfying".
- Peterson: "It's always a mistake to concentrate attention on our sins; it's God's work on our sins that's the main event."
- Nathan says that God has taken away David's sin, but that there will be consequences.

Questions for Reflection:

- Until Nathan gets involved, is there any evidence that David is troubled by what he's done? What "God moments" along the way could have changed David's course?
- What does Nathan accomplish by telling David a story rather than accusing him of sin straight out?
- How is David's response to the realization of his sinfulness different from a typical response?
- Where else in the Bible are the words "You are the man" echoed?



Day 6: Prayer, A Time for Reflection

This is a version of the five-step Daily Examen that St. Ignatius practiced.

Traditional time of Examen	A Few Thoughts on This Method
1. Become aware of God's presence	1. Breathe & slow down. Ask God to make you aware of His presence and to bring to mind moments of your day to focus on.
2. Review the day with gratitude	2. Walk through your day and give thanks for areas where you saw God "show up" and for His blessings.
3. Pay attention to your emotions	3. The things you feel when you review often highlight areas where God wants you to focus and what he wants to teach you. Often this results in confession when you see your emotions out of line with walking in the Spirit.
4. Choose one feature of the day and pray from it	4. Ask God to show you moments where you loved others well (or, conversely, He may bring to mind an area you didn't). Give thanks or ask forgiveness as warranted.
5. Look toward tomorrow	5. Think through your day tomorrow and ask God what He may be calling you to do or be in the upcoming day.

Day 6: Abiding in the Word (Week 7, David & Bathsheba)



Read: 2 Samuel 11:16-23

Background for the Reading:

- None of us has any difficulty finding ourselves in David's story. After a while, all sinning sounds pretty much alike: we want to be gods ourselves, taking charge of our own lives and often the lives of others. We know better.
- David's consequences:
 1. David's child dies
 2. Ten years later, David's dreams will not come true. David's oldest son Amnon rapes his half-sister Tamar. David finds out. And what does he do? Nothing! Who is David to talk high-and-mighty about the sin of lust?!
 3. Absalom is David's next son in line. Absalom orders the murder of his half-brother Amnon. And David does nothing. What can David do? How will he punish his son for murder when David was guilty of the same?!
- With all of David's flaws, he never lost his confidence in God.
- 2 Samuel 15:25-26 "Then the king said to Zadok, "Carry the ark of God back into the city. If I find favor in the eyes of the Lord, he will bring me back and let me see both it and his dwelling place. But if he says, 'I have no pleasure in you,' behold, here I am, let him do to me what seems good to him.'" In other words, not my will but your will O God, be done!

Questions for Reflection:

- What should be our response when we recognize sin? Is David's response a good guideline for us? Why?
- How important do you think it is for you to spend time with people who know you as a sinner and recognize God's love for you in spite of that fact?



HUDDLE Check-In (1st Half-hour)

10 min	General Check-in	<p>Describe this week's:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sleep habits • Dietary habits • Exercise habits • Intellectual curiosity development (keeping up with current events, artistic endeavors, learning new skills, hobbies, etc.)
10 min	Emotional Check-In	<p>Using the <i>SACHET</i> wheel, describe how you're doing emotionally right now. You may want to write down some of these to pray for your huddle during the week.</p>
10 min	Rhythms Check-In	<p>Describe your experience with the individual and corporate rhythms this week.</p> <p>How can the huddle encourage you this week in these areas? How can you encourage the huddle this week in these areas?</p>



Huddle Meeting: Discussion for Growth



10 Minutes:

What is something you feel God truly taught you this week?

20 Minutes (based on 2 Samuel 11 & 12, Psalm 51):

- What is supposed to be our response when we recognize sin? Is David's response a good guideline for us? Why?
- How important do you think it is for you to spend time with people who know you as a sinner and recognize God's love for you in spite of that fact?
- What are your key take-aways from this 'episode' of David's life?

Key Takeaways (Week 7, David & Bathsheba)



Background for the Reading:

- We can all find ourselves in David's story. After a while, all sinning sounds pretty much alike: we want to be gods ourselves, taking charge of our own lives and often the lives of others. We know better.
- The story of David reminds us that God isn't calling us to be famous. He's calling us to be faithful. God wants to use ordinary people to do extraordinary things.
- The foundation of our faith is not answered prayer or happily-ever-after endings. It's always a mistake to wrap our faith and/or confidence in God around the fulfillment of our dreams or answers to our prayer. Because dreams that don't come true or prayers that we think go unanswered say nothing about the presence of God in our lives. David would be the first to tell us that, when we feel forsaken, we're mistaken.