



HUDDLE: David

Week 8 – David and Absalom

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 Absalom (1 Sam 25)
5. Grief: David in Lament (1 Sam 31, 2 Sam 1)
6. Religion: David and Uzzah (2 Sam 6)
7. David and Bathsheba (2 Sam 11-12)

You
Are
Here!

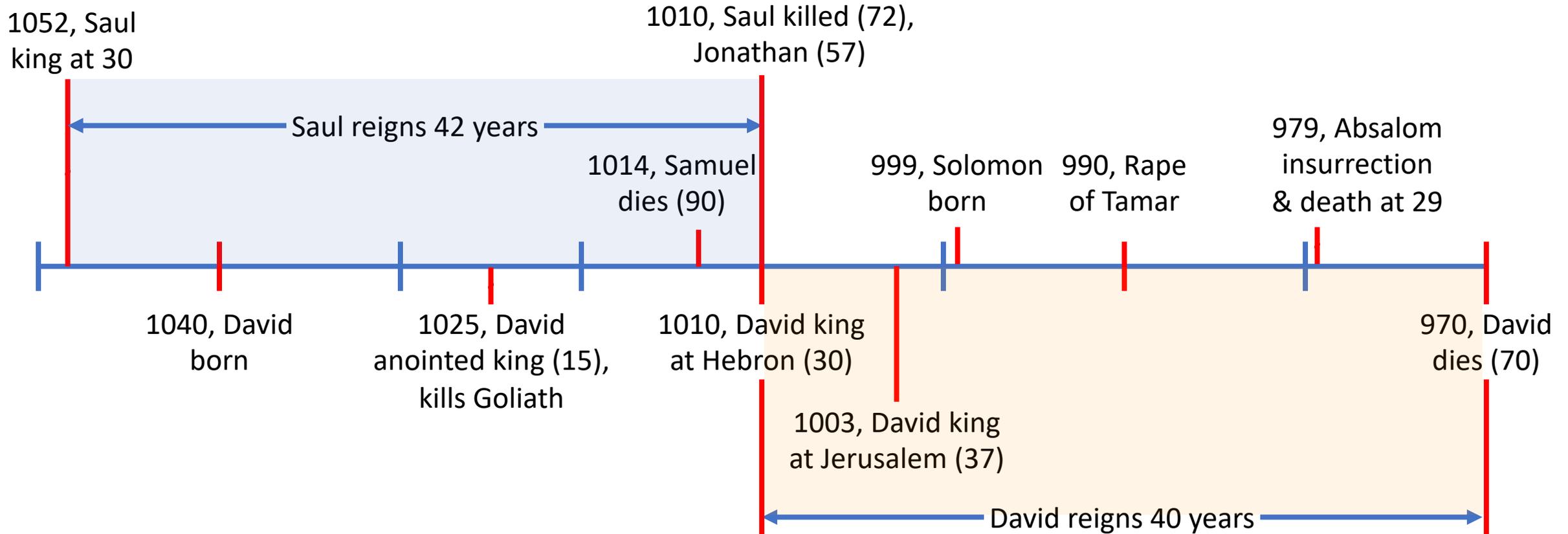


This week: Suffering: David and Absalom (2 Sam 16-18)

Recommended Reading:

["Leap Over a Wall" by Eugene Peterson](#)
[Andy Stanley sermons on David \(parts 1-5\)](#)

David Timeline



Day 1: Prayer (Week 8, David & Absalom)



- 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 Ephesians 3:

For this reason, I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

Day 1: Abiding in the Word (Week 8, David & Absalom)



Read: 2 Samuel 13

Background for the Reading:

- Amnon was David's first-born son and grew up during David's rise to fame and rise to power as king. Life was easy for Amnon with too much idle time on his hands and too little control over his thoughts.
- Raping Tamar (his half-sister) was a heinous crime! But sending her away in shame was equally bad (or worse) as 1) Amnon made it look as if Tamar propositioned him and 2) since she was no longer a virgin, Tamar could not be given in marriage. She was destined to be a spinster.
- The scriptures don't reflect even a hint of remorse from Amnon for what he did to Tamar.
- God had accurately predicted that David's family would suffer because of his sin against Bathsheba and Uriah. The tragic story involving Amnon, Tamar and Absalom was a resulting consequence.
- David was an ineffective father as he failed to train or discipline his children. David was angry with Amnon for raping Tamar, but did not punish him, probably because 1) David could see his sin in Amnon and recognize his own hypocrisy for punishing Amnon and 2) David didn't want to cross Amnon as he was the first in line for the throne.
- Absalom wanted Amnon dead, but wasn't man enough to kill him himself - he ordered his servants to strike him. Sound familiar?
- By killing the first born, Absalom avenged his sister Tamar, but also removed the first-born, thereby making himself as next in line for the throne.

Questions for Reflection:

- How can Amnon say he's in love with Tamar in v4, then say he hates her in v15?
- How could Amnon have avoided this whole wicked train wreck and still got what he wanted?
- How would you describe David's parental discipline method?

Day 2: David Huddle (Week 8, David & Absalom)



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 14 <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 8, David & Absalom)



Background for the Reading:

- Absalom was handsome and charismatic, like David. But he lacked the inner character and control to be a good leader. Absalom was David's favorite son as concluded by the way he grieved for his son after Absalom was killed - more than he grieved for Amnon.
- When David sinned, he repented which brought him back to God. Amnon and Absalom sinned and kept sinning.
- Absalom fled to Geshur because their king was his grandfather (safe haven).
- Although Absalom relied on the counsel of others, he was not wise enough to evaluate the advice he received.
- In bringing Absalom back to Jerusalem, David essentially 'pardons' him (legal absolution). David hangs on to his bitterness over Amnon's murder. This story rings counter to the Prodigal Son parable Jesus told. The father of the parable was eager to forgive and embrace his wayward son, restoring him to full sonship. David wasn't feeling it! However David was rationalizing his actions, he refused to forgive, withheld grace and denied Absalom mercy. He refused to share with his son what God has so abundantly shared with him.
- It takes two years, along with the intervention of Absalom, Joab and the woman to get David to forgive him.

Questions for Reflection:

- Why does chapter 14 start out saying that David longed for his son Absalom, but David eventually decides to allow Absalom back in Jerusalem, but not want to see his face?
- Joab engages a woman to tell a tale (a parable) to David to get him to pay attention and change his mind regarding his treatment of his son. Who does this remind you of?
- Absalom was a conniver! What method did he use to get Joab's attention to get him to engage the king?
- Even though David was, at heart, a warrior and had much more experience than his son in battle, David decided to leave (flee) Jerusalem likely to preserve the city from destruction and keep innocent people (including his family) from being killed or injured. David expected to return quickly as he left his concubines to take care of the palace.

Day 3: David Huddle (Week 8, David & Absalom)



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 15 <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	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 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 8, David & Absalom)



Background for the Reading:

- Absalom decides that he'll do to his father what his father did to him: exclude him from his presence. And even more - the kingdom itself.
- True-to-form, Absalom employs ruthless cunning to rend the throne from his father. His strategy: manipulate the peoples' emotions to appear more caring and just than his father, thereby ingratiating himself with them. Absalom was playing the long game: he took four years to work his plan.
- Absalom went to Hebron because it was David's first capital and Absalom's home town. He expected to find many friends that would be loyal to him there.
- David is suddenly thrown back into the wilderness. God isn't done with David. He's still drawing David to Himself.
- David is now being hunted down by his son just as years back he was hunted by Saul.
- David's instructions to his men, "Deal gently for my sake with the young man Absalom." David's recovery is almost complete.
- David's old military skills were brought out of storage and put to use, making short order of Absalom's army. Absalom got the rebellion part right, but he didn't think through the conquering part.

Questions for Reflection:

- Why was David surprised by his son's treachery - his designs to take over as king?
- Did David really believe that Absalom wanted to go to Hebron to "fulfill a vow"?
- How does David's eventual lament for Absalom echo David's lament for Saul and Jonathan?

Day 4: David Huddle (Week 8, David & Absalom)



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 16:1-14 <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	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 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 8, David & Absalom)



Background for the Reading:

- Shimei son of Gera, was a part of King Saul's clan and blamed David for King Saul's death during a battle with the Philistines.
- Shimei was a thoroughly despicable man and persisted in his opposition to David.
- When David returned to Jerusalem, Shimei knew that he was now on shaky ground, so he gathered with him over a thousand Benjamites and went to meet David. Falling on his face, Shimei apologized for his past behavior and begged the king not to hold it against him.
- David gave Shimei his oath that he would not kill him. But on his deathbed, David charged Solomon with the task of executing Shimei, which he eventually did.

Questions for Reflection:

- How did Shimei's cursing David confirm the principle stated in Romans 8:28 "And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose."?



Day 5: David Huddle (Week 8, David & Absalom)

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: <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Samuel 16:15-23, 17 <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 8, David & Absalom)



Background for the Reading:

- Ahithophel had the reputation of being a wise man and a trusted advisor to David. He wasn't a terrible person, but he did a terrible thing. When David needed him most, Ahithophel betrayed him.
- Ahithophel was an opportunist, siding with Absalom as he believed that David's reign was finished.
- Ahithophel's alliance with Absalom validated Absalom's position as king.
- David again seeks counsel with God vs. counsel with man. He recovers his life of prayer that served him so well over the years.
- Suffering can provide the motivation and stimulus for recovering a life of prayer.
- In suffering and prayer, David recovered compassion for his son.
- God made Ahithophel's advice seem foolish, just as David had prayed.

Questions for Reflection:

- What do you think of Ahithophel's advice to Absalom? Why might it not have worked (what key fact did it assume – likely incorrectly)?
- Why did Absalom consider Hushai's advice to be better than Ahithophel's?



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 8, David & Absalom)



Read: Psalm 3, Psalm 55

Background for the Reading:

- Romans 5:3-5 “we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.”
- Psalm 119:67 (ESV) Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I keep Your word.
- Psalm 119:71 (ESV) It is good for me that I was afflicted, that I might learn your statutes.
- James 1:2-4 “Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.”

Questions for Reflection:

- What are the verses in Psalm 3 that you'd directly ascribe to David fleeing from Absalom?
- What are the verses in Psalm 55 that you'd directly ascribe to the betrayal of David by Ahithophel?



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 16 - 18, Psalm 3 & 55):

- Why does Peterson call this chapter in David's life "suffering"?
- What good has come out of suffering for you? What lessons have you learned in the wilderness times that you know you would have never learned anywhere else?
- In the breakdown of the father-son relationship, both parties have a part they played, but which party has the greater duty of the first move to reconciliation? How does the prodigal son parable illustrate this?

Key Takeaways (Week 8, David & Absalom)



Background for the Reading:

- Hardship brought out the best in David. Suffering can make us better, if we let it. It's a choice.
- Suffering could have made David worse. He could have become bitter and lonely. Instead, it brought him back to being characteristically David: humble, prayerful and compassionate.