

The Story Adult Study Guide
For the Week of November 17, 2019
Chapter 11: "From Shepherd to King"



Key Events: David anointed as king, David and Goliath, Saul tries to kill David, the death of Saul, David becomes king of Israel

Key Characters: Samuel, Saul, David, Nathan (see pages 489-490 for descriptions)

Bible Reference for this Chapter: 1 Samuel 16-18, 24, 31; 2 Samuel 6-7, 22; 1 Chronicles 17; Psalm 59

1. On pages 145-146, what was the Lord showing Samuel through the process of anointing David as king? How was David like Jesus when He was anointed? (Matt 3:16)

2. On the top of page 147, the Bible provides details about Goliath and his equipment. What is the significance of this information being included in the account of this famous battle?
Note: Goliath's height = 9-plus feet; coat of armor = 125 lbs.; iron point on his spear = 15 lbs.

3. As the youngest son and a mere shepherd, David appears to be an unlikely candidate destined for greatness. From the account of David and Goliath (pages 147-150), what were David's qualifications from being a shepherd and his spiritual qualifications?

4. Describe the causes and effects of Saul's psychological breakdown described on pages 151-154. In what situations do we struggle with jealousy and resentment?

5. David's prayer on page 152 is found in Psalm 59. It is a prayer that shows the humble confidence that David had. That doesn't happen when someone is living a life of ease, but people are humbled when they have difficult challenges. Discuss how God has used challenges or problems to give us humble attitudes that we have called on God.

6. One might expect David would have assumed a "kill-or-be-killed" mentality when Saul tried to take his life. What did David do on page 153, and why did he react this way?

7. Read the words of David's song on pages 154-155. What spiritual comfort and encouragement does this song provide? Note: The section of David's song on pages 154-155 is found in 2 Samuel 22:2-7, 47 and in Psalm 18:2-6, 46.

8. Compare the covenant/promise God made with David on page 159 (first two full paragraphs "Now then . . .") with the covenant God made with Abraham on page 17 (second paragraph "Abram fell . . ."). Explore the meaning of key phrases of the Davidic Covenant on page 159.
Abraham – father of many nations, kings would come from him, everlasting covenant for him and his descendants, and Canaan would become his possession

9. David was far from perfect (see chapter 12 "The Trials of a King"), yet God instilled in him some noble qualities. What do you admire about David?

10. Other thoughts and comments? Please share messages of personal comfort, hope, and encouragement you received from chapter 11.

Prayer Suggestions

Ask God to teach me to look beyond outward appearances (in myself and in others).

Invite God to do what it takes to refine me for his purpose; ask for wisdom to grasp it.

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**SCHEDULE REMINDER: There will be a Bible study next weekend (November 24)
There will not be a Bible study the Sunday after Thanksgiving: (Dec. 1.)**

Study Guide Helps for Chapter 11, November 17, 2019

1. The Lord was showing Samuel that he could not assume whom God wanted as king simply by outward appearance. David's heart (faith) led him to serve the Lord faithfully. Jesus also looked like anyone else in a crowd and yet the Lord saw in His heart the perfect love and trust that guided Him to accomplish our salvation.
2. The details about Goliath and his equipment accentuate the amazing feat that God achieved through David. The giant dwarfed David, and Goliath was a trained and seasoned soldier. Humanly speaking, David had no chance. The events of the battle and David's proclamation that "this day the Lord will deliver you into my hands" (page 149) clearly demonstrated the power of the Almighty. By the Lord's plan, David's victory set him on a course that eventually led God's anointed shepherd to the throne.
3. Occupational qualifications: Shepherding may seem to require minimal skill and fortitude; however, this job required expertise and courage to faithfully protect and care for the flock. Using simple weapons like a staff/rod and a sling, David fought and killed formidable predators like the lion and bear (page 148). Shepherding was a 24-7 job that required mental and physical alertness, determination and stamina. Spiritual qualifications: By his own statements about the Lord (pages 148-149), it's evident that the Holy Spirit implanted a strong faith in David. His fearlessness was not based on human fortitude, but on a Spirit-filled conviction in God and his promises. David bravely took on challenges knowing that he was God's appointed king-to-be.
4. Saul's breakdown began when he disobeyed and rejected God, then "I (God) have rejected him (Saul) as king" (page 145), and "the Spirit of the Lord had departed from Saul" (1 Samuel 16:14). Saul no longer had the power and wisdom of the Lord working for him. In this spiritual void, God allowed an evil spirit to torment him (1 Samuel 16:14). As David ascended with success and popularity, Saul spiritually and psychologically spiraled downward and out of control. He became obsessed with jealousy, hatred, rage, and vengeance. Share situations when we struggle with jealousy and resentment in our lives. For Christians, these feelings/attitudes are spiritual issues; repentance and a change of heart come from the Spirit working through Word and Sacrament.
5. David's life was filled with hardships and threats from Saul for 14 years. As he daily called on God to save him, he was amazed and humbled how God heard his cries for mercy and answered him. His humility was seen in his actions and in his writing for the rest of his life.
6. Not only did David spare Saul's life when he easily could have taken it, David felt guilty when he cut off a piece of Saul's robe. David had to overcome the pressure of his comrades who thought the Lord was handing the enemy over to him. David loved and honored God so much that he continued to respect the royal office Saul held, and he refused to be the agent to end the reign of God's anointed one. David trusted in God's timing to bring about the end of Saul's rule, even though it meant living as a fugitive for him.
7. The Story inserts selections from David's psalms, which brings us into the heart and mind of David during this difficult time. Share expressions of hope in David's words. In troubles great and small, God can lift us up 1) God is like a rock, fortress, deliverer, refuge, shield, horn of salvation, stronghold, and savior; 2) when we mention our concerns to the Lord: "the waves of death overwhelmed me; the torrents of destruction overwhelmed me" 3) by praising God for who he is and what he's done: "I . . . have been saved from my enemies, the Lord, who is worthy of praise, heard my voice, the Lord lives, and exalted be my God."

8. Read the two covenants on page 159 (2 Samuel 7:8-16) and page 17 (Genesis 17:3-8). Comparison of the two covenants: The land component of God's covenant with Abraham saw its fulfillment in David and his son Solomon. God's promise to David "I will provide a place for my people Israel" (page 159) fulfilled his promise to Abraham – a possession, a home, and a place of rest in Canaan. This land covenant was contingent on their obedience/faithfulness to God. Davidic Covenant: David wanted to build God a house/ temple, but God wanted to build David's house/dynasty. There's a temporal and an eternal component to this covenant, both were unconditional. "Raise up your offspring to succeed you . . . He is the one who will build a house for me" = David's royal line will continue after his death by dynastic succession, and David's son Solomon will build the temple. "I will establish his throne forever" = the promise of an everlasting throne of David refers to a spiritual kingdom that would ultimately be fulfilled in the God/man Jesus, David's descendant and the anointed Messiah/Savior of the world. This gospel promise is the same one given to Abraham: "all peoples on earth will be blessed through you" on page 13. (Genesis 12:3)

9. Share David's Spirit-filled qualities: (God-fearing, honest, loyal, respectful, determined, etc.) and how he demonstrated them.

10. Answers will vary. Consider/discuss elements of chapter 11 that relate to our daily walk of faith.