

A MATTER OF THE HEART

**A 7 WEEK STUDY OF THE
LIFE OF KING DAVID**

“The LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.”

(1 Samuel 16:7b)

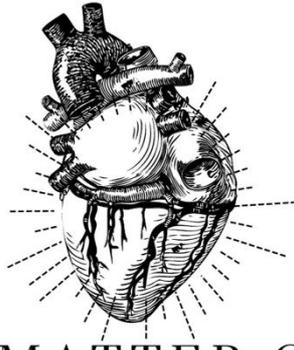
A Matter of The Heart

When we think of David, we tend to think of a shepherd, poet, giant-killer, king, ancestor of Jesus, one of the greatest men in the Old Testament. We tend not to think of a betrayer, liar, adulterer, or murderer. Yet David was all these qualities. The Bible makes no effort to hide David's failures. Yet he is remembered and respected for his heart for God.

David had an unchangeable belief in the faithful and forgiving nature of God. He was a man who lived with great zest. He sinned many times, but he was quick to confess his sins. His confessions were from the heart and his repentance was genuine. David never took God's forgiveness lightly or his blessing for granted. In return, God never held back his forgiveness or the consequences for David's actions. David experienced the joy of God's forgiveness even when he had to suffer the consequences of his sins.

As we journey through the series looking at *'David: A Matter of The Heart'*, we may discover that we have more in common with David than we might think. We should also be curious to find out why, despite all of David's fallings, God refers to David as "a man after my own heart" (Acts 13:22).

Rev'd Chris Bate
All Saints Booval



A MATTER OF THE HEART

WEEK 1

Warming Up

What are some indicators the world looks for in a leader? What do you value as evidence of a godly leader, whether in the church or the world?

Read: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

1. What is Samuel mourning at the start of this passage?
2. Why did God reject Saul? (Read 1 Samuel 13:8-14 and 15:10-11)
3. Why do you think Samuel originally thought Eliab was God's choice?
4. How do you think 1 Samuel 9:2 might explain why God cautions Samuel in v.7?
5. What does v.7 suggest about the qualities God counts as most important for His servants?
6. What do you think it means that God 'looks at the heart'?
7. Look up the following verses: Matt. 23:27, John 7:24, 2 Cor. 10:7. What do they have to say about 'outward appearance'?
8. How important did David seem to his own family?
9. Why do you think the Lord said 'this the one' when David walked in?
10. In what ways do you see similarities between David and Jesus in this story?

Rubber hits the road

In v.12, God had His own reason for choosing David that had nothing to do with human ability or quality. Ephesians Ch.1 tells us we also have been chosen by God in Christ. What is your reaction to knowing that God has chosen you? How should it impact the way you live your life? What has God anointed you to do? Do you need to act on a prompting from God – to listen and obey?

Family Time

Watch: 'David Was Anointed' (I Share)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AWi9qbtL4wQ>

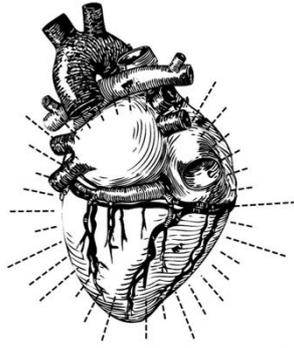
Talk: Why did God choose another King? Where did he go to find the new King? Why were David's other brothers not chosen? Why was David chosen as King?

Do: 'Find the King'

You will need: a pack of playing cards.

Find the King! Take a pack of ordinary playing cards. Lay the deck of cards out on the floor face down. Take turns choosing one card. If your card is a king, you win! If your card isn't a king, then it's someone else's turn. Go round the circle until someone wins. Play a couple of rounds and discuss what it would have been like for David to be chosen King and why God chose him?

Pray: God of wonders, thank you so much for your grace and love. Thank you that you chose David to be King of your people and that you have chosen me to be part of your family. Thank you that you don't look at outward appearances but look at the heart instead. Thank you that Jesus is the true King of all the world, please purify my heart and help me to become more and more like him. AMEN.



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WEEK 2

Warming up

Share a time in your life when you faced overwhelming obstacles and tried to solve it on your own.

Read: 1 Samuel 17:1-6,32-50

1. What was the difference in focus between Saul and David as to David's ability to fight Goliath? (Vv.33-37)
2. Read vv.32-39. What can we learn about David and his character in this section?
3. In vv.45-47, David 'enlightens' Goliath as to why he will be victorious. What gave David this extreme confidence?
4. How did Goliath react to David? Where did Goliath place his trust? (Vv.41-44)
5. Consider that David represented the whole army of Israel – if he lost, they would become the servants of the Philistines. How do you think Israel's army felt as they watched him walk out to face Goliath?
6. Often in this story, David is said to represent us as we fight our 'Goliaths' in life. Others see David as more of a Christ-like figure fighting our battles while we watch on the sidelines trusting God to defeat the enemy. How do you see yourself represented in this story?
7. David's experience as a shepherd gave him confidence that God would win the battle against Goliath. Read John 10:14-18. What are some of his claims about the 'good shepherd' that give us confidence that He will protect us?

Rubber hits the road

What are some struggles in your life that you have tried to fight on your own and left God out of the equation? If God is with you, who can be against you?

Family Time

Watch: *'Slapstick Theatre (David and Goliath)'* (Saddleback Kids)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NuedVFB8-7Y>

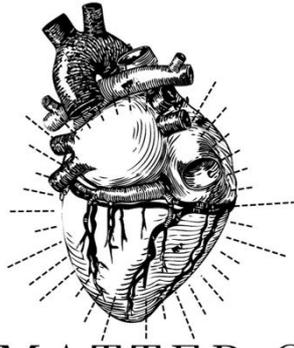
Talk: Why was Goliath so scary? Why did David want to fight Goliath? How did David defeat Goliath? What does the story of David and Goliath tell us about God being in control?

Do: 'Re-enactment'

You will need: props, e.g., Lego, sling shots, or costumes! (Be as inventive as you like)

Re-enact the story of David and Goliath in any way you like. You can use Lego, or teddies, or you can dress up as characters from David and Goliath and re-enact the story. After the re-enactment discuss what the story teaches us about ourselves and about God?

Pray: Almighty God, you are in control of everything. Thank you for the story of David and Goliath. You are in control of everything, and you are stronger, wiser, and better than anyone in this world. Help us to always face the challenges in our lives with confidence in you. AMEN.



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WEEK 3

Warming up

Describe a time in your life when you were jealous of someone else. What does it feel like to be jealous? What were the consequences of your jealousy?

Read: 1 Samuel 19:1-18

1. Why do you think Saul became so jealous of David? (See 1 Samuel 18.1-12)
2. How did Saul's jealousy manifest itself in his actions?
3. Why do you think Jonathan was willing to risk his life and his inheritance to protect David?
4. What do you think it means that '...an evil spirit from the LORD came upon Saul...'? What was God accomplishing in doing this?
5. How did David respond to Saul's jealousy and anger towards him?
6. What does this passage show us about David's character?
7. In this passage, God is working in the lives of both Saul and David. In Saul, God has removed His presence from him and in David, he is preparing him to ascend the throne. What does it tell you about how God accomplishes his sovereign plan?

Rubber hits the road

What are the areas in your life in which you can easily become jealous? How can you guard against jealousy in those areas?

Why might serving at our church or in the community help to guard against jealousy?

Family Time

Watch: 'God's story – David and Saul' (Crossroads Kids Club)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OnNXbj6udy4>

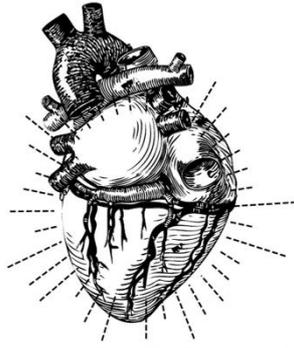
Talk: What made Saul a bad king? Why did Saul get jealous of David? Why is jealousy something we need to watch out for? How can we avoid becoming jealous of others in our lives?

Do: 'Saul vs. David vs. Jesus'

You will: paper and drawing pencils.

Draw a picture of King Saul, King David, and Jesus (we don't know exactly what they looked like today so have fun using your imagination). Write down the things (good and bad) that you know about Saul next to the picture of Saul. Write down the things (good and bad) that you know about David. Write down the things you know about Jesus. Discuss, starting with Saul and ending with Jesus, why each of these people would make a good king and which one is the best.

Pray: King Jesus, thank you that you are strong and kind. Thank you that no matter what happens in my life, I can always trust in you. Help me not become jealous of others, but to appreciate all the blessings and gifts you've given me and help me to use those things to glorify you and help others. Thank you that where all other kings have failed you succeed. Amen.



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WEEK 4

Warming up

What does it mean to be a friend to someone? How do you support your friends?

Read: 1 Samuel 20:16-23, 30-42

1. Look up 1 Samuel 14:1-14, 1 Samuel 18:1-4, and 1 Samuel 19:1-7. What do each of these passages say about the character of Jonathan?
2. What is Jonathan giving up so to remain faithful to David?
3. In hurling the javelin at his own son, what do you think Saul proved to Jonathan?
4. What is the foundation of David and Jonathan's loyalty to one another?
5. What can we learn from a friendship like David and Jonathan's?
6. What can we learn from this passage about David's character?
7. Just as Jonathan and David make an oath to each other to show their commitment to their friendship. How do we show our friendship with Christ? (Read Matthew 10:32-33)

Rubber hits the road

What could you do this week to take a moment to tell a friend how much you appreciate your friendship? How can you encourage a friend in their walk with God?

Family Time

Watch: *'Slapstick Theatre (David and Jonathan)* (Saddleback Kids)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pZ2hRq-ei0U>

Talk: What made David and Jonathan such good friends? How were Saul's feelings about David different to Jonathan's? Why would it have been difficult for Jonathan to be friends with David? How did they show support and loyalty to each other? How does God show loyalty to us?

Do: 'Friends of God Hi-5'

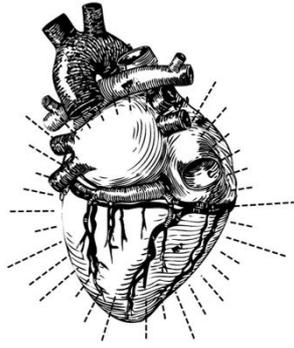
You will need: paper and drawing pencils.

Hands are a great way of showing friendship! We can shake hands, give hi-5s, help each other and use our hands (actions) to point others to God.

Draw an outline of your hand on a piece of paper. Brainstorm 5 ways (one for each finger/thumb) that you can show your friends that you aren't just an ordinary friend – you are a friend of God! What does a friend of God do, say, think?

Cut out the hand outline and put it in a visible place. Check in over a family meal and ask – how am I going at being a friend of God to others? You may like to draw more hands and add more hi-5s over the coming weeks.

Pray: God of friendship, thank you that you never forget us or ignore us. We are sorry for the times that we have not been friends with you, or godly friends to other people. Thank you for the example of friendship between Jonathan and David. Help us to be a good friend – send us a friend in the Holy Spirit to teach us to think, talk and act as friends of God. AMEN.



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WEEK 5

Warming up

What songs help you feel better when you're worried?

Read: Psalm 23

1. Who wrote this Psalm and why do you think they wrote it?
2. If you had to divide this Psalm into three parts, how would you divide it up?
3. What do the first two verses tell us about God's provision?
4. Psalm 23 is often read at funerals. Why do you think that's the case?
5. What do v.1-3 tell us about God?
6. When was a time you felt like you were walking through a dark valley?
7. What does the Psalmist tell us about how God will help us through the dark times in our lives?
8. What do v.5-6 tell us about God's provision and our future hope?
9. How can we share the comfort and hope found in the Psalm with the people in our lives?

Rubber hits the road

In what ways do you doubt God's goodness in your lives? How much appreciating and knowing God as your shepherd change your hopes and aspirations for your life?

Family Time

Watch: 'Psalm 23 for Kids' (iCharacter)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2FK6NIUQbDo>

Talk: How does the psalm describe God? What does it mean that God is our shepherd? How does God protect us when times are tough? How does God show his promises to us and love for us?

Do: 'Goodness and Mercy – God's Sheep'

You will need: scissors, colouring pencils, white paper doily or white paper bags, white paper, printable sheep cut outs – see

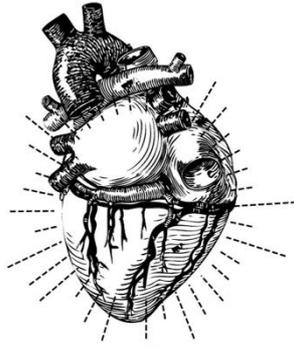
<https://www.pinterest.com.au/pin/605171268667613381/>

Psalm 23 tells us that God is our Shepherd, and we are like the sheep he cares for. Using the above craft utensils (you can follow the outlines or draw your own!), create some sheep who want to sit in God's pasture under his protection.

Think about what it is like for those sheep – how contented and safe do they feel? What's the best thing about being a sheep in God's pasture?

Remind yourself that when we look for God, he will always welcome us into His pasture – there are no limits or exclusions. How good is that?!?

Pray: Dear God our Shepherd, thank you that you call us your own and care for us so tenderly. Forgive us for when we wander away from your sight. Protect us when times are tough, encourage us by your promises, and help us to remember that you are the Good Shepherd who loves us deeply. AMEN.



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WEEK 6

Warming up

Have you ever met someone who struggled with a disability? What challenges did they face and how did they overcome them?

Read: 2 Samuel 9

1. Why did David want to show kindness to someone in Saul's family? What does this show us about David's character?
2. Who is Mephibosheth and where did his disability come from?
3. How does Mephibosheth see himself? (Hint: see v.8)
4. How does David show kindness to Mephibosheth?
5. What would it have been like for someone like Mephibosheth to receive this sort of kindness?
6. How do things change for Mephibosheth and his family?
7. What does this part of David's life show us about David? What does it show us about God?
8. How can we appreciate and support people with disabilities in our community?

Rubber hits the road

In 2 Samuel 9, David actively looks for an opportunity to show kindness to someone. Challenge the people in your group to think of someone you can show kindness to this week and think of practical ways you can go about it.

Family Time

Watch: 'David and Mephibosheth' (The Holy Tales: Bible)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IDTYvpoU1Nk>

Talk: What promise did David make to Jonathan? How did he show that he kept this promise? What impact did David's kindness have on Mephibosheth? How is David's kindness an example of godly kindness?

Do: 'Acts of Kindness'

You will need: paper, writing pencils; tools for showing acts of kindness.

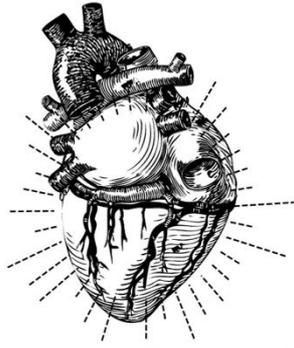
Brainstorm some simple ways you can show acts of kindness to people around you.

Suggestions include:

- Hold the door open for someone
- Do a job or chore for someone without them knowing
- Let someone go ahead of you at the groceries line
- Cook a meal or dessert for your neighbour

These acts don't need to be extravagant, public, or even cost much money. Consider who could most benefit from an act of kindness and being shown God's love. During a meal, share with your family how you showed kindness today. Encourage and support each other.

Pray: Gracious God, your loving kindness is forever. Thank you that you love us so much, you showed us the greatest kindness by sending your Son Jesus to live and die for us. We are sorry when we ignore your kindness and love, and when we don't show it to others. Thank you for the example of David and Mephibosheth. Help us by your Holy Spirit to show kindness to others so they might know your love! Let us never take our eyes off Jesus. AMEN.



A MATTER OF THE HEART

WEEK 7

Warming up

Have you ever had one of your heroes fall from grace by doing something morally wrong? How did that make you feel?

Read: 2 Samuel 11

1. Why did David not go out to battle with his army? Was this a good move?
2. How did David fall in love with Bathsheba? How did he take advantage of his position of power and of Bathsheba in particular?
3. What is the contrast between David and Uriah? Where do their hearts and loyalties lie?
4. In what ways does David try to take advantage of Uriah? How does he get what he wants?
5. How does David respond to the news of Uriah's death? How does Bathsheba respond to Uriah's death and what does this tell us about her heart?
6. David takes Bathsheba and her child into his family. Is this a cruel or a kind thing to do?
7. Read 2 Samuel 12. How does David get caught out by Nathan?
8. How does David react to his exposure? Who suffers most on account of his sin?
9. How does David respond to the news of his son's death and why are his servants perplexed?
10. What does this episode in the story of David teach us about his heart?

Rubber hits the road

How should we react when our heroes turn out to be human after all? How should we use the moral lapse of King David to guide us in our own lives?

Family Time

Watch: *'5 Minute Family Devotion - Day 51 - David and Bathsheba'* (Engadine Heathcote Kids)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N4L0ogXpnwk>

Talk: How was David a good king? How was David a bad king? How is Jesus a better King than king David?

Do: 'Doing the right thing'

Think of some situations where you can choose to do the wrong thing or the right thing. Talk through the situations and discuss the best ways you could respond in this situation. Here are some examples to get you started:

- You find a set of keys in the street. What do you do with them?
- A friend of yours leaves their chocolate muffin on the table but then falls and hurts themselves and must go home. What do you do with the muffin?
- A group of boys are throwing rocks at a bird in the park. What do you do for the bird?
- You and your friends are eating at a fast-food restaurant. You spill food and make a big mess with your cups and boxes. Your friends get up to leave the mess behind. What do you do with the mess?
- While paying for an item at the supermarket you realise that the checkout person has charged you \$40 too little. What do you do?

Pray: Majesty of heaven, please help me to live with honesty and integrity. Forgive me for when I fail you and help me to treat the people in my life with respect and honour. Thank you that when I am weak, you are strong, and when I struggle to show integrity, your Spirit inspires me to love you and serve others. Please be with me always. AMEN.

Notes

Notes

Daily Prayer

*Just as we eat, sleep and work every day,
prayer has a place in our daily routine.*

*Find a place in your home – inside or outside –
that you can make your ‘prayer space’.*

Include all the members of your family – partners, children, animals – in this space.

Feel free to also include music in this time.

PRAISE

God is love. Since God loves us, we should love one another.

SENTENCE OF SCRIPTURE

Create in me a clean heart, o God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Do not cast me from your presence, or take your Holy Spirit from me.

Restore me to the joy of your salvation, and grant me a willing spirit to sustain me.

(Psalm 51:10-12)

BIBLE READING

At the end of the reading:

Hear the Word of the Lord,

Thanks be to God

PRAYERS

Loving God, thank you for this day.

Thank you for your love and care for us.

Thank you for making each of us special.

Help us today to be kind to each other. **Amen.**

God of mercy, we are sorry that we have not always done what you wanted us to do.

We have not loved you with all our heart, and we have not cared enough for other people. Forgive us, for Jesus' sake. **Amen.**

Lord Jesus, at Nazareth you shared in the life of your family. Help us to live together in our family with love and respect for each other. Make our home a place of blessing, peace and joy for everyone, to the glory of God the Father. **Amen.**

A COLLECT

In darkness and in light,
in trouble and in joy,
help us, heavenly Father,
to trust your love,
to serve your purpose,
and to praise your name,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A PRAYER FOR GOD'S LIGHT

Eternal God, shed your light on us who watch for you,
that our lips may praise you,
our hearts bless you,
and our lives glorify you,
through Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

Include your own personal prayers.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE GRACE

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with us all. **Amen.**

'Bible in Two Years' Reading Plan

Judges – Psalm 101 (Days 158 – 278)

158. Judges 1	204. 2 Samuel 7-8	250. Psalms 25-27
159. Judges 2	205. 2 Samuel 9-10	251. Psalms 28-30
160. Judges 3	206. 2 Samuel 11-12	252. Psalms 31-32
161. Judges 5	207. 2 Samuel 13	253. Psalms 33-34
162. Judges 6	208. 2 Samuel 14	254. Psalms 35-36
163. Judges 7	209. 2 Samuel 15	255. Psalms 37-38
164. Judges 8	210. 2 Samuel 16-17	256. Psalms 39-40
165. Judges 9	211. 2 Samuel 18	257. Psalms 41-43
166. Judges 10-11	212. 2 Samuel 19	258. Psalms 44-46
167. Judges 12	213. 2 Samuel 20-21	259. Psalms 47-49
168. Judges 13	214. 2 Samuel 22	260. Psalms 50-52
169. Judges 14-15	215. 2 Samuel 23	261. Psalms 53-56
170. Judges 16	216. 2 Samuel 24	262. Psalms 57-59
171. Judges 17-18	217. 1 Chronicles 1	263. Psalms 60-64
172. Judges 19	218. 1 Chronicles 2	264. Psalms 65-67
173. Judges 20	219. 1 Chronicles 3	265. Psalm 68
174. Judges 21	220. 1 Chronicles 4	266. Psalm 69
175. Ruth 1-2	221. 1 Chronicles 5	267. Psalms 70-71
176. Ruth 3-4	222. 1 Chronicles 6	268. Psalms 72-73
177. 1 Samuel 1	223. 1 Chronicles 7	269. Psalms 74-75
178. 1 Samuel 2	224. 1 Chronicles 8	270. Psalms 76-77
179. 1 Samuel 3-4	225. 1 Chronicles 9	271. Psalm 78
180. 1 Samuel 4-5	226. 1 Chronicles 10	272. Psalm 79-81
181. 1 Samuel 6-7	227. 1 Chronicles 11	273. Psalms 82-85
182. 1 Samuel 8-9	228. 1 Chronicles 12	274. Psalms 86-88
183. 1 Samuel 10	229. 1 Chronicles 13-14	275. Psalm 89
184. 1 Samuel 11-12	230. 1 Chronicles 15	276. Psalms 90-92
185. 1 Samuel 13	231. 1 Chronicles 16	277. Psalms 93-96
186. 1 Samuel 14	232. 1 Chronicles 17	278. Psalms 97-101
187. 1 Samuel 15	233. 1 Chronicles 18-20	
188. 1 Samuel 16	234. 1 Chronicles 21	
189. 1 Samuel 17	235. 1 Chronicles 22-23	
190. 1 Samuel 18	236. 1 Chronicles 24	
191. 1 Samuel 19	237. 1 Chronicles 25	
192. 1 Samuel 20	238. 1 Chronicles 26	
193. 1 Samuel 21-22	239. 1 Chronicles 27	
194. 1 Samuel 23-24	240. 1 Chronicles 28	
195. 1 Samuel 25	241. 1 Chronicles 29	
196. 1 Samuel 26-27	242. Psalms 1-4	
197. 1 Samuel 28-29	243. Psalms 5-7	
198. 1 Samuel 30-31	244. Psalms 8-10	
199. 2 Samuel 1	245. Psalms 11-14	
200. 2 Samuel 2	246. Psalms 15-17	
201. 2 Samuel 3	247. Psalm 18	
202. 2 Samuel 4-5	248. Psalms 19-21	
203. 2 Samuel 6	249. Psalms 22-24	

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