



SMALL**GROUPS**

# DAVID

AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART



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## A STUDY RESOURCE ON DAVID

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King David stands as one of the most well-loved and studied people within the Bible. In fact, more was written about David in the Scriptures than any other biblical character.<sup>1</sup> As a "man after God's own heart," we have elevated him to a status that is almost angelic, despite the flawed and fractured nature of his story.<sup>2</sup> In looking at the whole story of David, we can learn what it means to live in relationship with God and with others. We can learn lessons about how God truly looks at the heart and not the outer appearance, we can see how God elevates an unlikely person to a role of great stature, and we can see how significantly one can mess up and still be offered grace along the way.

This sermon series attempts to focus on many aspects of the character of David. Each week we will focus on one aspect and see how we can learn from this man's life. We can all find ourselves in this story at some point.



# SET APART

## 1 SAMUEL 16:6-13

### WEEK ONE

*<sup>6</sup> When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, “Surely the Lord’s anointed is now before the Lord.” <sup>7</sup> But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.” <sup>8</sup> Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, “Neither has the Lord chosen this one.” <sup>9</sup> Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the Lord chosen this one.” <sup>10</sup> Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, “The Lord has not chosen any of these.” <sup>11</sup> Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here.” <sup>12</sup> He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The Lord said, “Rise and anoint him; for this is the one.” <sup>13</sup> Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.*

**David was not Hercules. He did not look like a king or a hero. He was handsome, but it seems that he was not tall or muscular. In contrast to King Saul, who the people had chosen and was described as wealthy, handsome,<sup>3</sup> and tall, David apparently wasn’t an obvious choice for a leader, let alone a king.**

*<sup>7</sup> But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.”*

**Verse 7 is always a good word for us – attend to the heart more than the outward appearance. The full measure of a person is so much more than what the eyes can see. Our culture is appearance-obsessed; we curate our Instagram profiles to obtain a certain look, and we meticulously craft the aesthetics of our spaces (including our worship spaces) to achieve a certain vibe and attract a particular kind of person.**

In the midst of this kind of culture, how do we see as the Lord sees? How do we learn to look beyond the surface when we interact with people? Forbes magazine says that all generations alive today long for authenticity, but millennials more than any other group want to get rid of the masks.<sup>4</sup> What if the church was a place that encouraged just that instead of being a community who often do the opposite?<sup>5</sup>

This part of David's story reminds us that we are set apart and called by God without reference to our appearance, our social standing, our zip code, or our income level. By virtue of our baptism, we are anointed for good work. We are set apart before we were beautiful or skinny or muscular or well-read or powerful or accomplished or talented. We are set apart by virtue of what God sees in us – his beloved child.

## QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- What do you think God sees when he looks into your heart?
- Do you spend as much time nurturing and growing your heart and interior life as you do cultivating your outer life (body, home, social media pages, etc.)? Why or why not?
- How might you grow the depth of your interior life? Is there a time when you can set aside space for your heart just like you set aside time for the gym? 1 Timothy 4:8 tells us that *“while physical training is of some value, godliness is valuable in every way, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.”* Find a way to practice training your heart this coming week. Share what you tried with your small group or Sunday School class.
- David was set apart for the work of leading and governing. 1 Corinthians 12 reveals to us that all members of the body of Christ are gifted and set apart for various types of ministry and leadership roles. What do you believe that you are set apart for? If you are unsure, invite trusted friends and mentors to join you in prayer about this before the Lord.

<sup>3</sup>1 Samuel 9:1–2, NRSV

<sup>4</sup>Karl Moore, “Authenticity: The Way to the Millennials’ Heart”: <https://www.forbes.com/sites/karlmoore/2014/08/14/authenticity-the-way-to-the-millennials-heart/#227015db4531>

<sup>5</sup>Brené Brown would be a helpful conversation partner here. *The Beauty Myth* talks about how societal pressures have shaped our understanding of women.

# GIANT KILLER

1 SAMUEL 17:38-50

WEEK TWO

<sup>38</sup> Saul clothed David with his armor; he put a bronze helmet on his head and clothed him with a coat of mail. <sup>39</sup> David strapped Saul's sword over the armor, and he tried in vain to walk, for he was not used to them. Then David said to Saul, "I cannot walk with these; for I am not used to them." So David removed them. <sup>40</sup> Then he took his staff in his hand, and chose five smooth stones from the wadi, and put them in his shepherd's bag, in the pouch; his sling was in his hand, and he drew near to the Philistine. <sup>41</sup> The Philistine came on and drew near to David, with his shield-bearer in front of him. <sup>42</sup> When the Philistine looked and saw David, he disdained him, for he was only a youth, ruddy and handsome in appearance. <sup>43</sup> The Philistine said to David, "Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?" And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. <sup>44</sup> The Philistine said to David, "Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and to the wild animals of the field." <sup>45</sup> But David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with sword and spear and javelin; but I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. <sup>46</sup> This very day the Lord will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you down and cut off your head; and I will give the dead bodies of the Philistine army this very day to the birds of the air and to the wild animals of the earth, so that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel, <sup>47</sup> and that all this assembly may know that the Lord does not save by sword and spear; for the battle is the Lord's and he will give you into our hand." <sup>48</sup> When the Philistine drew nearer to meet David, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet the Philistine. <sup>49</sup> David put his hand in his bag, took out a stone, slung it, and struck the Philistine on his forehead; the stone sank into his forehead, and he fell face down on the ground. <sup>50</sup> So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone, striking down the Philistine and killing him; there was no sword in David's hand.

Who doesn't love a good underdog story? Goliath is painted as a booming, fear-inducing giant. He's huge. He seems undefeatable. It probably added to their fear that the Israelites saw the Philistine come forward in the morning and evening every day for 40 days straight.<sup>6</sup> Staring at the enemy in the eyes for that extended period of time would make anybody quake in fear.

I wonder what giants we are up against that we are too afraid to fight. I wonder what giants we fix our gaze on every morning as we wake up and every evening as we try to fall asleep. We often forget that God is on the side of the underdog. God loves all people, but God is especially near to the downcast, the broken-hearted, the forgotten, the meek and the lowly. Over and over again in Scripture, we hear that God cares for the widow, the orphan, and the foreigner. God seems to pay special attention to those whom the world casts aside most easily. We hesitate to say that God takes sides, but what if it's true – and it's not with the rich and the powerful and the giants and the fear-mongers? Who or what do we need to stand up to, "so that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel"? We can only hope that the church and its people do not forget that we have always been giant killers.

## QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- What giants in your life capture your attention and your fear most days? How do you deal with these giants?
- What giants capture the attention of our church community? What giants do you think we struggle against together?
- If God cares so much about the widow, the orphan, and the foreigner, how do you think we are to respond as individuals and as a church? Do you think we are adequately responding currently? What could your small group or Sunday School class do to make a difference? (See footnote 7 for specific verses to ponder on this topic)

Close your time today by praying for the giants that threaten your individual life and the life of our community. We must not be afraid to ask the Lord for the help we need!

**In our traditional FMH services today we will sing a song inspired by Psalm 121. We invite you to revisit this Psalm during your personal prayer and worship time this coming week:**

<sup>1</sup> *I lift up my eyes to the hills—from where will my help come?*

<sup>2</sup> *My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.*

<sup>3</sup> *He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber.*

<sup>4</sup> *He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.*

<sup>5</sup> *The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade at your right hand.*

<sup>6</sup> *The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.*

<sup>7</sup> *The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.*

<sup>8</sup> *The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore.*

<sup>6</sup>1 Samuel 17:1-16

<sup>7</sup>Here are a few references to God's concern for the widow, orphan, and the foreigner: Exodus 22:21-24; Deuteronomy 10:18; 27:19; Psalm 68:5; 146:9; Isaiah 1:17; James 1:27. There are many more within the Bible.



# FRIEND

1 SAMUEL 18:1-9

WEEK THREE

*When David had finished speaking to Saul, the soul of Jonathan was bound to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul. <sup>2</sup> Saul took him that day and would not let him return to his father's house. <sup>3</sup> Then Jonathan made a covenant with David, because he loved him as his own soul. <sup>4</sup> Jonathan stripped himself of the robe that he was wearing, and gave it to David, and his armor, and even his sword and his bow and his belt. <sup>5</sup> David went out and was successful wherever Saul sent him; as a result, Saul set him over the army. And all the people, even the servants of Saul, approved. <sup>6</sup> As they were coming home, when David returned from killing the Philistine, the women came out of all the towns of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet King Saul, with tambourines, with songs of joy, and with musical instruments. <sup>7</sup> And the women sang to one another as they made merry, "Saul has killed his thousands, and David his ten thousands." <sup>8</sup> Saul was very angry, for this saying displeased him. He said, "They have ascribed to David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed thousands; what more can he have but the kingdom?" <sup>9</sup> So Saul eyed David from that day on.*

The friendship of Jonathan and David cannot be summed up in a single moment, but if the above verses are any indication, we can see that there was a deep love and intimacy in this friendship. What a gift to receive in the midst of a series of life-altering events! God knew that David would need a friend with all of the opposition he was going to receive from Saul - it is quite interesting to me that God chose to provide this friendship from within Saul's own house.

I love the description Charles Swindoll has of intimate friendships in his writings on David and Jonathan. He describes four characteristics of intimate friendship:<sup>8</sup>

<sup>8</sup>Charles Swindoll, *David: A Man of Passion & Destiny*, 53-54.

**1.** An intimate friend is willing to sacrifice and Jonathan stripped himself of the robe that was on him and gave it to David, with his armor, including his sword and his bow and his belt. - 1 Samuel 18:4

**2.** An intimate friend is a loyal defense before others. Jonathan... said to him [Saul], "Do not let the king sin against his servant David, since he has not sinned against you, and since his deeds have been very beneficial to you. For he took his life in his hand and struck the Philistine, and the LORD brought about a great deliverance for all Israel; you saw it and rejoiced. Why then will you sin against innocent blood, by putting David to death without a cause?" - 1 Samuel 19:4-5

**3.** Intimate friends give each other complete freedom to be themselves. David rose from the south side and fell on his face to the ground, and bowed three times. And they kissed each other and wept together, but David more. - 1 Samuel 20:41

**4.** An intimate friend is a constant source of encouragement. Now David became aware that Saul had come out to seek his life while David was in the wilderness of Ziph at Horesh. And Jonathan, Saul's son, arose and went to David at Horesh, and encouraged him in God. - 1 Samuel 23:15-16

In our current epidemic of loneliness, it is hard for many people to imagine friendships this deep. What does it mean to have a friend (not a spouse) that is bound to you in this way? What could that even look like? I believe that if we do not know how to be friends with other people, we will not know how to be friends with Jesus. Jesus calls us his friends in John 15:15. Developing the skills to be a good friend are necessary to holistic living and vibrant faith. In fact, research has pointed to the quality of connection in a person's life being as significant a predictor of longevity as blood pressure and obesity.<sup>9</sup> It seems that we have truly been designed for meaningful and deep connections with each other.

<sup>9</sup>Shawn Achor, "The Life Altering Power of a Positive Mind" heard on Super Soul Conversations Podcast from April 10, 2019.

## QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- What are the qualities of the friendships in your life? If you have received the gift of this kind of intimate friendship like Jonathan and David, take some time to express gratitude to God for this, and consider sending a note to your friend to let them know how much of a gift they are to you. If this is something you have not yet experienced, express your desire for this honestly before God in prayer.
- If you desire to have a more positive and deeper quality of friendship in your life, spend some time praying and reflecting about how you could practice being a better friend to the people in your life this coming week. Often we focus on what we don't have or what's missing, without realizing that there may be patterns of behavior and thought that get in the way of the kinds of relationships we truly hope to have. Practice being the kind of friend you want to receive this week.
- What holds you back from growing deeper in friendships? Do you have past hurts that have been left unresolved and unforgiven? Do you have fears of rejection that keep you guarded? Spend some time lifting up your hurts before the Lord and ask for His healing to pour through you as you seek to be transformed by the Spirit.
- Investing Time: If you have some extra time this week consider reading about a study that talks about the amount of time it takes to become a good friend from the University of Kansas: <https://news.ku.edu/2018/03/06/study-reveals-number-hours-it-takes-make-friend>

**This week in our traditional FMH services we will be singing a song inspired by Psalm 23. We invite you to revisit this Psalm during your personal prayer and worship time this week:**

*<sup>1</sup> The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. <sup>2</sup> He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; <sup>3</sup> he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.*

*<sup>4</sup> Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff—they comfort me.*

*<sup>5</sup> You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.*

*<sup>6</sup> Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.*

# MERCIFUL

1 SAMUEL 24:16-22

WEEK FOUR

*<sup>16</sup>When David had finished speaking these words to Saul, Saul said, "Is this your voice, my son David?" Saul lifted up his voice and wept. <sup>17</sup>He said to David, "You are more righteous than I; for you have repaid me good, whereas I have repaid you evil. <sup>18</sup>Today you have explained how you have dealt well with me, in that you did not kill me when the Lord put me into your hands. <sup>19</sup>For who has ever found an enemy, and sent the enemy safely away? So may the Lord reward you with good for what you have done to me this day. <sup>20</sup>Now I know that you shall surely be king, and that the kingdom of Israel shall be established in your hand. <sup>21</sup>Swear to me therefore by the Lord that you will not cut off my descendants after me, and that you will not wipe out my name from my father's house." <sup>22</sup>So David swore this to Saul. Then Saul went home; but David and his men went up to the stronghold.*

Saul has been after David. In fact, Saul is in that cave while on the way to take David out, but David does not harm him. Verse 5 says that David is "stricken to the heart" after he cuts a corner off of Saul's robe. David's heart won't allow him to repay Saul's evil with evil. This act of mercy is a reflection of the mercy that God gives to us. In our interactions with other people, we cannot always mirror the way that others treat us, regardless of how much we may want to or feel the other person deserves it. Sometimes we have to repay evil with good -- this is exactly what Jesus commands in Matthew 5:38-40

*<sup>38</sup>"You have heard that it was said, 'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.'*

*<sup>39</sup>But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also. <sup>40</sup>And if anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, hand over your coat as well.*

This feels so unnatural, but this is the model Jesus has laid out for us and is also a character trait that ends up serving David well. The podcast *Invisibilia* has an episode about this challenge called "Flipping the Script."<sup>10</sup> In this episode, they talk about how this kind of behavior can help our relationships by disarming intense situations. Our faith is always calling us to flip the script, to change the conversation, and to upend violence with good and hostility with kindness.

<sup>10</sup>"Flipping the Script", *Invisibilia*. Episode from July 15, 2016: <https://www.npr.org/programs/invisibilia/485603559/flip-the-script>

## QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- Is there a relationship or situation where you have felt someone treat you like an enemy? How have you handled this relationship in the past?
- Have you ever practiced disarming an enemy with kindness, grace, and mercy? If so, how did it work out? If not, why have you resisted this teaching from Jesus?
- We have a great model for being merciful when it wasn't required in Jesus. While this is challenging, imitation is an important part of following after Jesus. Spend time praying over a certain relationship or situation where you feel that God is inviting you to develop this character trait of mercy. Ask for guidance, wisdom, discernment, and strength to be faithful as you seek to be merciful.

This week in our traditional FMH services we will be singing a song inspired by Psalm 150. We invite you to revisit this Psalm during your personal prayer and worship time this week:

*<sup>1</sup> Praise the Lord!*

*Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty firmament!*

*<sup>2</sup> Praise him for his mighty deeds;*

*praise him according to his surpassing greatness!*

*<sup>3</sup> Praise him with trumpet sound;*

*praise him with lute and harp!*

*<sup>4</sup> Praise him with tambourine and dance;*

*praise him with strings and pipe!*

*<sup>5</sup> Praise him with clanging cymbals;*

*praise him with loud clashing cymbals!*

*<sup>6</sup> Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!*

*Praise the Lord!*

# WORSHIPPER

1 SAMUEL 6:16-23

WEEK FIVE

<sup>16</sup> As the ark of the Lord came into the city of David, Michal daughter of Saul looked out of the window, and saw King David leaping and dancing before the Lord; and she despised him in her heart.

<sup>17</sup> They brought in the ark of the Lord, and set it in its place, inside the tent that David had pitched for it; and David offered burnt offerings and offerings of well-being before the Lord. <sup>18</sup> When David had finished offering the burnt offerings and the offerings of well-being, he blessed the people in the name of the Lord of hosts, <sup>19</sup> and distributed food among all the people, the whole multitude of Israel, both men and women, to each a cake of bread, a portion of meat, and a cake of raisins. Then all the people went back to their homes.

<sup>20</sup> David returned to bless his household. But Michal the daughter of Saul came out to meet David, and said, "How the king of Israel honored himself today, uncovering himself today before the eyes of his servants' maids, as any vulgar fellow might shamelessly uncover himself!" <sup>21</sup> David said to Michal, "It was before the Lord, who chose me in place of your father and all his household, to appoint me as prince over Israel, the people of the Lord, that I have danced before the Lord. <sup>22</sup> I will make myself yet more contemptible than this, and I will be abased in my own eyes; but by the maids of whom you have spoken, by them I shall be held in honor." <sup>23</sup> And Michal the daughter of Saul had no child to the day of her death.

David successfully returns the ark of the covenant to Jerusalem. The ark of the Lord is a big deal in the Old Testament - this is the presence of the living God. This is cause for much celebration and rejoicing, and David exhibits what seems to be an appropriate response of worship.

How often do we worship with this much abandon and this much joy? I'm guessing not very often even though God is constantly doing amazing things in our midst! Perhaps this is an invitation to let go a little bit, to stop thinking about

everybody watching, to clap, to dance, to worship freely!  
Surely the goodness, provision, and love of our gracious God is worth worship of reckless abandon; if we could only let go of our pride and desire to be composed.

David's worship annoys and disturbs his wife, but it's not for her. David's worship is for the Lord Almighty and not even his wife's embarrassment can sway him from this response.

## QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- Do you feel comfortable being expressive and passionate when you worship? Why or why not? What might be holding you back?
- How do you feel when you see others worship passionately? Do you feel embarrassment like Michal felt about David? What do these feelings reveal to you about what is going on in your heart?
- In my personal experience, the more passionately I worship God privately and in solitude, the easier it is to be expressive of my worship in community. Do you spend any time privately worshipping? If you have never tried this, search for your favorite worship song on youtube, find a quiet place of solitude, and worship on your own.

After: How was that experience? How might adding this practice to your life enhance your expression and experience in communal worship?



In our traditional services at FMH today, we will be singing "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing" in worship. We invite you to meditate on the words to this well-known hymn a second time this week. What blessings are you thankful for? When was the last time you expressed this gratitude in worship to your heavenly Father?

(For a contemporary version of this song by Kings Kaleidoscope follow this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q0wRw-dbmy8>)

*Come, thou Fount of every blessing,  
tune my heart to sing thy grace;  
streams of mercy, never ceasing,  
call for songs of loudest praise.  
Teach me some melodious sonnet,  
sung by flaming tongues above.  
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,  
mount of thy redeeming love.*

*Here I raise mine Ebenezer;  
hither by thy help I'm come;  
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,  
safely to arrive at home.  
Jesus sought me when a stranger,  
wandering from the fold of God;  
he, to rescue me from danger,  
interposed his precious blood.*

*O to grace how great a debtor  
daily I'm constrained to be!  
Let thy goodness, like a fetter,  
bind my wandering heart to thee.  
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,  
prone to leave the God I love;  
here's my heart, O take and seal it,  
seal it for thy courts above.*

# SINNER

## 2 SAMUEL 11 & 12 WEEK SIX

<sup>7</sup> Nathan said to David, "You are the man! Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: I anointed you king over Israel, and I rescued you from the hand of Saul; <sup>8</sup> I gave you your master's house, and your master's wives into your bosom, and gave you the house of Israel and of Judah; and if that had been too little, I would have added as much more.

<sup>9</sup> Why have you despised the word of the Lord, to do what is evil in his sight? You have struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword, and have taken his wife to be your wife, and have killed him with the sword of the Ammonites. <sup>10</sup> Now therefore the sword shall never depart from your house, for you have despised me, and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife."

*\*For the full story, please read 2 Samuel chapters 11 and 12.*

It took us five weeks to get to this infamous moment in David's life. The indiscretions of adultery, murder, and cover-up are some of the most famous stories about David. There are many memorable moments in the tale, but perhaps the one that resonates most deeply with me is Nathan's exclamation, "YOU are the man!" You can almost see the frustration, the disbelief at David's density in not realizing that he was the man in the parable. Nathan's words are also powerful because we have all felt them and maybe even heard them. When we realized that we were part of the toxicity of the office, when we noticed that we had fallen victim to the lure of greed and stinginess, when we recognized that we are part of the problem of systemic injustice -- we feel the shock, the dismay, the pain, and the uncertainty of how to proceed with David. This story reminds us that there are consequences when we reject wisdom and the direction of the Lord. Real pain is felt by those wronged by David and he knows real loss too. But if you keep reading, it is a reminder that God doesn't punish us forever. God's mercy is always far greater than his discipline.

## QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- Where do you identify with David in chapters 11 and 12 of 2 Samuel? You may not have had an affair or murdered someone, but all of us have fallen short. All of us have chosen our own selfish desires and impulses over doing what is best and right. What resonates with you in David's impulses and choices here?
- Do you have someone in your life who can tell you the truth? I mean the hard truth, the things that take courage to name to your face? This person can be a family member, a mentor, a counselor, a friend — even though the moment of confrontation is deeply painful and uncomfortable, it is a gift when someone loves us enough to tell us the truth we can't yet see. If you don't have someone like this in your life, how might you open yourself up to this kind of accountability relationship? We all need help along the way to stay faithful.
- How do you deal with hearing hard truth about yourself? Are you open to receiving the correction of a friend, partner, family member, or co-worker, or do you get defensive? We will struggle to grow if we aren't open to correction. The next time someone confronts you with something difficult, how might you respond with curiosity to understand instead of resistance?

*The prescript for Psalm 51 says that David wrote it in response to his visit from the prophet Nathan. We invite you to use this psalm in your prayer life this week. God takes repentance seriously and we need to practice this type of prayer throughout our lives.*

*<sup>1</sup> Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions.*

*<sup>2</sup> Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.*

*<sup>3</sup> For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.*

*<sup>4</sup> Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are right in your verdict and justified when you judge.*

*<sup>5</sup> Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.*

*<sup>6</sup> Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb; you taught me wisdom in that secret place.*

*<sup>7</sup> Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.*

*<sup>8</sup> Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice.*

*<sup>9</sup> Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity.*

*<sup>10</sup> Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.*

*<sup>11</sup> Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me.*

*<sup>12</sup> Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.*

*<sup>13</sup> Then I will teach transgressors your ways, so that sinners will turn back to you.*

*<sup>14</sup> Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God, you who are God my Savior, and my tongue will sing of your righteousness.*

*<sup>15</sup> Open my lips, Lord, and my mouth will declare your praise.*

*<sup>16</sup> You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.*

*<sup>17</sup> My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise.*

*<sup>18</sup> May it please you to prosper Zion, to build up the walls of Jerusalem.*

*<sup>19</sup> Then you will delight in the sacrifices of the righteous, in burnt offerings offered whole; then bulls will be offered on your altar.*

# LEGACY

1 KINGS 2:1-4

WEEK SEVEN

*<sup>1</sup> When David's time to die drew near, he charged his son Solomon, saying: <sup>2</sup> "I am about to go the way of all the earth. Be strong, be courageous, <sup>3</sup> and keep the charge of the Lord your God, walking in his ways and keeping his statutes, his commandments, his ordinances, and his testimonies, as it is written in the law of Moses, so that you may prosper in all that you do and wherever you turn. <sup>4</sup> Then the Lord will establish his word that he spoke concerning me: 'If your heirs take heed to their way, to walk before me in faithfulness with all their heart and with all their soul, there shall not fail you a successor on the throne of Israel.'"*

**David's final message to his son Solomon is the final message that we all want to leave: be strong and courageous, keep following the Lord. We often think of leaving a legacy as leaving an inheritance or something permanent. Strength, faith, and courage are not tangible legacies, but some of the most important people in my life are the ones who shared their intangible gifts with me. Perhaps the best way for each of us to leave a legacy is to share our intangible gifts, specifically our faith, with those we love.**

## QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- Who in your family needs to follow in your footsteps of faith? Who in your family needs to hear the words “Be strong and be courageous”? How can you start leaving a legacy even now?
- We spend our lives building something — career, family, wealth, property, reputation, etc. Every choice we make is in effort to build something, even if we aren’t aware of that fact. Spend some time evaluating how you’ve used the time, resources, and talents you’ve been entrusted with. What have you been building? Is this what you want to pass on to those who come behind you? How will you pass this on with intentionality?
- We leave a legacy not just in our families but also within the church family. We are the beneficiaries of the previous generation’s faithfulness and sin. Can we be honest with ourselves about what legacy we are leaving to the generation of the church that is coming behind us? What might we develop now to enhance the kind of legacy of faith, strength, and courage we leave to the next generation?

This week in our DT 11 am traditional FMH service we will be experiencing a special performance inspired by Psalms 108:2; 100; 23; 2:1-4; 131, and 133. We invite you to revisit any of these Psalms during your personal prayer and worship time this week.



