

portraits of a king

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1 & 2 SAMUEL BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1 and 2 Samuel cover almost 150 years of Israel's history (approximately 1100 BC to 970 BC). The books are named after Samuel, the primary prophet in Israel under whose leadership the people of Israel progressed from being a loose confederation of tribes to a single unified nation. Samuel anointed the first two kings of Israel, and his influence paralleled that of Moses, an earlier leader of the nation (Psalm 99:1, Jeremiah 15:1). Samuel, Saul, and David are highlighted as the primary characters in the books. Throughout the narrative, the reader encounters the repeated themes of God exalting humility, opposing pride, and promising a future king who would rule perfectly.



Important Locations in Israel:

Ashdod, Ashkelon, Ekron, Gath, Gaza: Five city-states ruled by

five Philistine lords

Bethlehem: David's hometown

En Gedi: Oasis where David hid from Saul

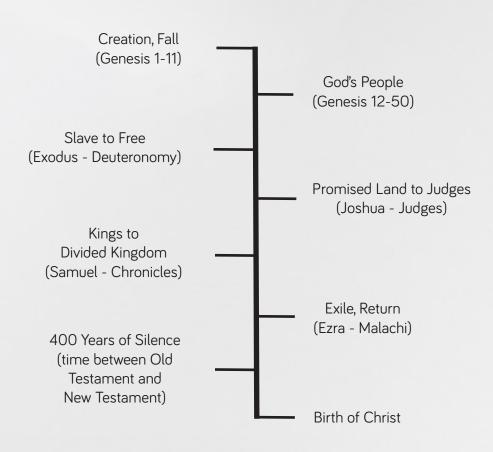
Gath: Goliath's hometownGibeah: Saul's hometown

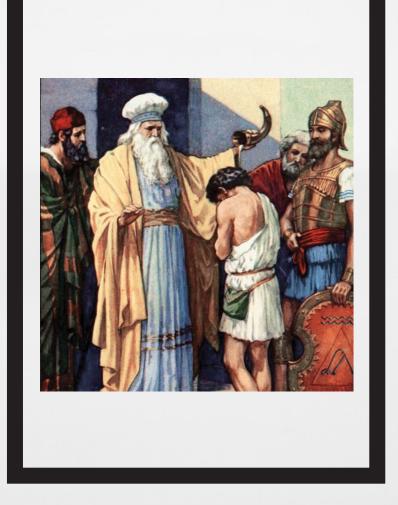
Jerusalem: Known as the "City of David" and location of his palace

Rabbah: Ammonite city, David attacked

Ramah: Samuel's hometown, David's hiding place
Vally of Elah: Site of the battle of David and Goliath

OLD TESTAMENT STORYLINE





The Chosen One

Have you ever been overlooked? Maybe you even underestimate yourself. Perhaps you have been beaten down so much that you wonder what you could ever accomplish. So many of us have been there, but what is amazing about God is that He often chooses the most overlooked to fulfill His mission. Maybe what other people don't see in you is what God is going to use the most.

DAVID & SAMUEL

BACKGROUND INFO

Samuel was the primary spiritual leader of Israel for almost 60 years from the time of the Judges in various tribes, to a unified nation under a king. Samuel was the first prophet under the monarch, and in that role was called by God to act as an intermediary between God and His people.

Samuel was the son of Elkanah and Hannah, a miracle child his mother Hannah had prayed for. Because God answered Hannah's prayer, she gave her son the name Samuel (which means "God has heard") and dedicated him to God's service.

As a prophet, Samuel led Israel to a restoration of God's blessing, subduing the Philistines and rescuing the Ark of the Covenant.

Samuel anointed David as the future king of Israel. David was selected as a young boy (between 10-15 years old) and waited at least 15 years for the promise to be fulfilled. David was 30 years old when he officially assumed the throne (2 Samuel 5:4).

David, son of Jesse,

and youngest of Served as shepherd in the fields eight boys (1 Samuel 16:10-11) (1 Samuel 16:11) (1 Samuel 17:34-35) (1 Samuel 16:13)

Defeated lion and bear

Anointed by Samuel

ANDINTING IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

To anoint with oil symbolized being chosen and set apart for a specific purpose. Throughout the Old Testament, people and objects were anointed with oil: kings (Saul, David, Solomon), priests who served in the tabernacle (Exodus 40:13-15), and vessels used in worship in the tabernacle (Exodus 30:26-30). A ram's horn or wineskin flask was typically used in the anointing ceremony.

God values the _____ more than the _____. Your heart _____ your ____. What _____ see is _____ from what ____sees. What are you _____ in the ____? God may choose to _____ what we tend to Living it Out _____ always trumps _____.

notes

Focus more on _____ you are rather than ____ you do.

God _____ and ____ to use you despite your

COMMUNITY GROUP

Q U E S T I O N S

- I. What is something people might be surprised to learn about you if they don't know you well?
- 2. As you reflect on Sunday's sermon, what Bible verse, question, statement, story, or idea most challenged or encouraged you?
- 3. What are some ways our culture, or even Christian culture, falls into the trap of focusing on the outward rather than of the inward?
- 4. Read 1 Samuel 16:1-13.

What do you find most challenging or encouraging when you read this passage?

5. Read 1 Samuel 16:6-7.

How do we know if we care too little or too much about our outward appearance?

6. Read Proverbs 4:23.

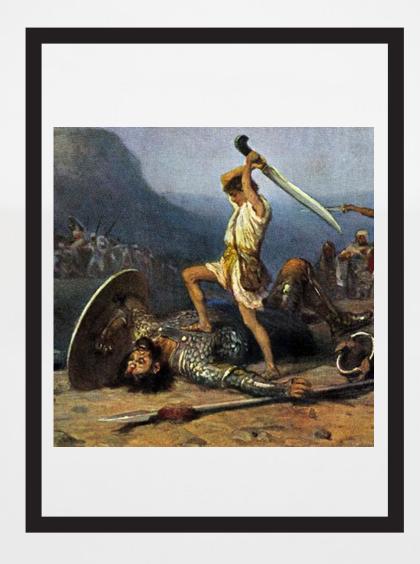
How might we go about guarding our heart?

7. *What aspect of your character might need to change to grow in influence for God?

Tips for Facilitating Group Discussion:

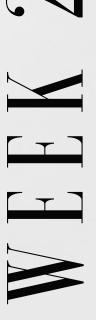
- Get comfortable with silence
- Ask follow-up questions
- Give affirmation whenever you can
- Try to involve everyone
- Begin and end on time
- Don't focus on getting through all of the material
- Get feedback

For more info go to NorthridgeLeaders.com



How to Kill a Giant

Many of us want to be a giant-slayer. We want to be David in the battle against Goliath. However most of us aren't willing to watch sheep to prepare for the battle. The truth is, most battles we face are not won on the battlefield, they are won long before the battle begins. David teaches us how we can prepare for the battle so we are ready to face the giants in life.



DAVID & GOLIATH

BACKGROUND INFO

Goliath was the champion warrior of the Philistines, one of the foremost enemies of Israel for decades. The Philistines lived in the southeastern coastal region of the Mediterranean Sea and were governed by five kings in five principal cities: Ashdod, Ashkelon, Ekron, Gath, and Gaza. They were a technologically advanced people with iron weapons and chariots, and were ruthless in battle.

Israel and Philistia were constantly at war because of land disputes. During their exodus from Egypt, the Israelites were promised the Philistine land (Exodus 23:31).

However, they were unsuccessful in fully conquering those lands in the time of Joshua and the Judges, and the Philistines remained an enemy. Throughout the Old Testament, there are repeated battles between the two nations.

The most well-known of these battles occurs between David and Goliath in 2 Samuel 17. In a duel format, champions were chosen as representatives from each country to avoid devastating losses on both sides. The winner would receive the spoils and the surrender of the defeated.

David comissioned David became an by King Saul to play armor-bearer to music in his court (1 Samuel 16:7)

the king (1 Samuel 16:21)

Israel at war with Philistines (1 Samuel 17:1)

Brought supplies to brothers on the battlefield

Goliath mocked Israel and was defeated by David (1 Samuel 17:17-19) (1 Samuel 17:41-50) David's estimated height as a "young man" 5'2"



Former NBA All-Star Shaquille O'Neil 7'1"



Goliath's height according to the Masoretic Text

9'6"



HEIGHT COMPARISON

Goliath was a soldier from Gath, a city with a history of producing giants among men (Deut. 1:28, 2:10-11, 2:21, 9:2, Joshua 11:22).

The average height for a male in ancient Israel was around 5 feet, 5 inches.

David, probably a teenager at the time of battle, could have been slightly shorter than the average height. Goliath was considered a giant in the range of 6 ½ feet to perhaps over 9 feet tall. His armor weighed 125 lbs and he carried a spear that weighed 15 lbs.

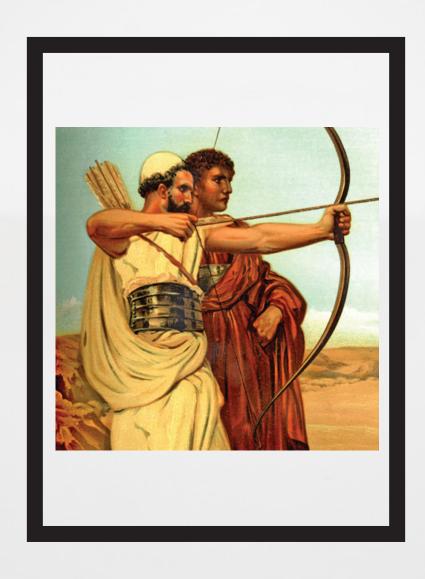
The
Most of us want to experience but aren't willing to endure the
God uses the to prepare us for the
The
The of God can be the greatest to the mission of God.
Don't let someone's keep you from listening to God's
Obedience to God: - often doesn't people won't it.
Fear can either or your faith.

sermon notes

Overcoming fear involves outcome.	the
Living it Out	
the mund	dane.
God uses	as an opportunity.
the op	oposition.
Don't allow the	_ to keep you from your

Q UESTIONS

- I. When you were a child, what did you want to do when you grew up?
- 2. Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, what one thing most resonated with or challenged you?
- 3. Read 1 Samuel 17:20-37.
 What can we learn from how David responded to opposition?
- 4. Do you find yourself more often in David's shoes fighting opposition, or in David's brothers' or Saul's shoes, raising objections?
- 5. What would you attempt to do if you knew God wouldn't let you fail?
- Orew shared that "God uses the mundane to prepare us for the mission."
 How have you seen this in your own life?
- 7. *What is currently hindering you from following God's plan for your life?



Best Friends Forever

Unfortunately, in a culture dependent upon electronic communication like email, texting and social media, many of us have lost the value of true community. We only get so close to people because we don't like being vulnerable and putting ourselves out there. David puts his life on the line and in the end, he discovers the value of true friendship - something that has gone missing in many of our lives.

DAVID & JONATHAN BACKGROUND INFO

Jonathan, the son of King Saul and heir to his throne, was known throughout the Israelite army as someone who was faithful, brave, and loving. Jonathan is first introduced in 1 Samuel 13 where just he and his armor-bearer defeated a group of twenty Philistine soldiers.

Jonathan's story is interwoven with David's after David defeated Goliath and was invited to become a member of King Saul's house. 1 Samuel 18 describes David's and Jonathan's souls being "knit together", a term depicting deep friendship. Jonathan and David made a covenant together before the Lord to establish their friendship. Setting aside personal ambition and desire for power, Jonathan recognized and honored God's choosing of David as the next king (1 Samuel 18). This attitude enraged Saul and further fueled his multiple attempts to kill David (1 Samuel 20:30,31).

Jonathan was a faithful friend to David throughout his life and helped him escape from Saul. Jonathan died in battle, and David mourned and wept for his friend (2 Samuel 1:11-12).

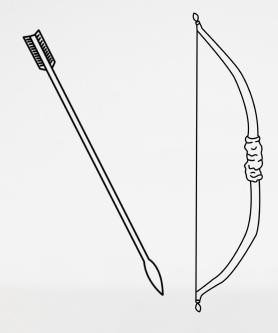
David returned from

battle and became

close friends with David promoted in David's success

Jonathan Saul's Army increased anger burned of Saul

(1 Samuel 18:1) (1 Samuel 18:5) (1 Samuel 18:14) (1 Samuel 18:15) (1 Samuel 18:27)



BOW AND ARROW

The bow and arrow was a dominant weapon in the ancient world because of its power and range. Made of flexible wood, sinew, or bone, the bow was glued together or wrapped tightly with cord and used in hunting (Genesis 27:3) and war (1 Chronicles 12:2). Arrows were constructed of wood shafts and tipped with metal or stone. The best ancient bows had a range of 300-400 yards.

While David was fleeing from Saul, many skilled archers joined his ranks (1 Chronicles 12:2). Later kings of Israel expanded their armies to include numerous soldiers trained as archers (2 Chronicles 17:17).

In 1 Samuel 20, Jonathan used his bow and arrow to send a secret message to David about Saul's intentions to harm him.

The _____ of biblical _____. You won't grow _____ unless you are connected ______. Friendship begins with _____ and This knowledge shared in friendship builds _ which leads to _____. We aren't _____ until we _____. We don't _____ until we _____. When you _____ someone you're willing to _____ for them. Friendship built on the _____ things can withstand the _____ things.

notes

Living it Out	
do life	<u> </u>
Doing life alone	your spiritua

Q UESTIONS

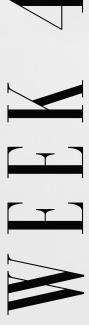
- I. Who is one of the closest friends you've had in your life?
- 2. Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time, or something that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?
- 3. What are your greatest hindrances to developing healthy friendships?
- 4. Drew shared that "Friendship begins with knowing and sharing." What are some practical ways our group can get better at knowing and sharing with each other?
- 5. Read 1 Samuel 18:1-4.

 Do you have a 'Jonathan' in your life? If so, what are the characteristics of this person's life that make him or her your Jonathan?
- 6. How might a friend who is less mature in their faith help a more mature friend to grow?
- 7. *What step can you take this week to develop or deepen a friendship?



No Cutting Corners

Leadership is one of the most active conversations in our world today. Many of us strive to lead in our homes, businesses, jobs, schools and the places we go. But do we truly understand the character traits a leader needs? In one of the most pivotal decisions in David's life he shows us the marks of a true leader.



DAVID & SAUL

BACKGROUNDINFO

God's desire was to personally rule over Israel (Exodus 19:3-6), but Israel rejected Him (1 Samuel 8:7). The nation wanted a human king to lead them into battle and fight for them. Their desire to be ruled like the nations around them revealed a lack of trust in God. Though God warned Israel of the consequences of a human king (1 Samuel 8), He granted their desire and chose Saul.

Tall, handsome, and from a prominent family of the tribe of Benjamin, Saul reigned over Israel for 42 years. However, his heart did not remain fully devoted to the Lord. He consistently disobeyed the Lord's commands (1 Samuel 13 and 15).

Because of this, God rejected Saul as king and chose David to replace him.

Instead of repenting and turning to God, Saul became jealous and tried to kill David. Saul hunted David for almost a decade while David hid in the wilderness and fled to various cities. David traveled over 250 miles through the wilderness as he fled from Saul's murderous intentions. During this time, David penned many Psalms of trust in God (7, 52, 54, 57, 59, 63, 142).

David returned. Michal and David at war with Saul tried to Jonathan helped David spared Saul's David fled from Saul life in the cave the Philistines kill him David escape (1 Samuel 19:8) (1 Samuel 19:10) (1 Samuel 19:18) (1 Samuel 20-23) (1 Samuel 24)



DAVID FLEES

- 1. David fled from Saul at Gibeah to Ramah (1 Samuel 19:18)
- 2. Then to the city of Nob, where he collected food and Goliath's sword (1 Samuel 20:1, 21:1)
- 3. Went to the Philistine city of Gath (1 Samuel 21:10)
- 4. And then to the cave of Adulam (1 Samuel 22:1)
- 5. Brought his parents to Mizpah in Moab (1 Samuel 22:3)
- 6. Went to the "stronghold" (Masada?) (1 Samuel 22:4)
- 7. After a while, traveled to the Forest of Hereth (1 Samuel 22:5)
- 8. And then rescued the city of Keilah (1 Samuel 23:2)

- When Saul heard David was in Keilah, David fled to the Desert of Ziph (1 Samuel 23:14)
- 10. The people of Ziph betrayed David, and he fled to the Desert of Maon (1 Samuel 23:24-25)
- 11. Saul pursued him there, but David escaped to En Gedi (1 Samuel 23:29)
- 12. David spared Saul's life in the cave, and then David returned to the "stronghold" (Masada?) (1 Samuel 24:22)
- 13. Afterwards, he went to Desert of Paran (1 Samuel 25:1)
- 14. He was betrayed again by the people of Ziph, and David fled to Achish king

Knowing which _____ to ____ to. It's never the _____ time to do the _____ thing. You'll never learn to _____ until you first learn to _____. _____ God without _____ the outcome. Good _____in ___ situations.

notes

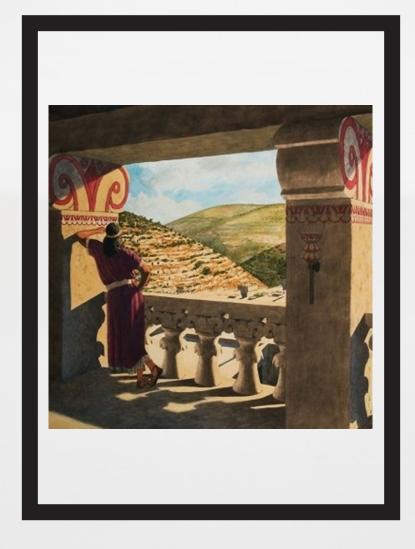
Living it Out

What _____ traits ____ your life?

COMMUNITY GROUP

QUESTIONS

- I. When was a time you rushed a decision that you later regretted?
- 2. As you reflect on Sunday's sermon what Bible verse, question, statement, story, or idea most challenged or encouraged you?
- 3. Read 1 Samuel 24:1-22. What thoughts or questions does this passage raise for you?
- 4. Read the 5 character traits from David's life that Drew shared in this passage:
 - Discernment: Knowing which voice to listen to. (vs. 1-5)
 - Integrity: It is never the right time to do the wrong thing. (vs. 6-7)
 - Submission: You'll never learn to lead until you first learn to follow. (vs. 6, 1 Samuel 10:17)
 - Faith: Trusting God without knowing the outcome. (vs. 8-15)
 - Wisdom: Good judgement in difficult situations. (vs. 16-22) Which one stood out to you most?
- 5. Where in your life are you most tempted to cut corners? Why might that be?
- 6. *Which of the above 5 character traits from David's life do you most need to work on? How can you start working on that?



The Fallen

Even the greatest leaders can make terrible choices. In this portrait of David, he makes one of the most costly decisions of his life. No matter what position you hold or how great your life is, you are only one choice away from losing it all. Sin is powerful and it can cost you greatly. David found this out the hard way.

DAVID & BATHSHEBA BACKGROUND INFO

In 2 Samuel 11, David made a decision to stay in Jerusalem and not go to war with his men. This decision proved costly. As his army besieged Rabbah some fifty miles away (present-day Jordan), David was safe at home strolling the walls of his palace.

The text introduces Bathsheba as "very beautiful...the daughter of Eliam and the wife of Uriah the Hittite." Bathsheba's grandfather was an advisor to King David and Uriah was a mighty warrior in David's army. He was part of a select group of soldiers known as "The Thirty," decorated battle heroes whose military accomplishments set them in elite standing (2 Samuel 23).

Uriah's name means "Yahweh is my Light" and throughout the story is portrayed as a noble and honorable man.

Because of Uriah's position in
David's army, it is likely that his
home was located close to the
palace. From his palace vantage
point, David looked directly to the
flat roof and open courtyard of
where Bathsheba was bathing.

David's lust led him to one of the darkest moments in his kingship and resulted in lying, murder, death, and family conflict.

Saul and Jonathan are killed in battle with the Philistines (2 Samuel 1)

David is anointed David conquered king over Israel Jerusalem (2 Samuel 2) (2 Samuel 5)

More military
victories:
Philistines, David stayed home
Moabites, and slept with
Ammonites, Syrians Bathsheba
(2 Samuel 8) (2 Samuel 11)

ONE BAD DECISION

Leader

Man after God's own heart

Shepherd

Warrior

Killed lions and bears

Psalmist

King

Loyal friend to Jonathan

Poet

Musiciar

Defeated Goliath

Anointed by Samuel

United the Kingdom of Israel

One _____ can change the _____ of your life. The _____ _____time is the devil's ______. Our sin is often ______. The _____ God _____ provides a _____. The _____ When we cover up our sin, the _____ person you _____ to is you. Living it Out The _____ We can choose our _____, but we can't choose our _____. The _____ consequence to our sin is a _____ relationship with God.

notes

Q UESTIONS

- I. If you could eat your favorite unhealthy snack with no consequences, what would you choose?
- 2. As you reflect on Sunday's sermon, what Bible verse, question, statement, story, or idea most challenged or encouraged you?
- 3. As you look back at your life, what is a decision you made, little or big, that you regret?
- 4. Read 2 Samuel 11:1-27.
 What part of this story of David and Bathsheba most surprises you?
- 5. Read 1 Corinthians 10:12-13.
 What can we learn from this passage and David's example about resisting temptation?
- 6. *What temptations are you currently struggling with?
- 7. *What choices do you need to make to resist those temptations?



MEEK 6

Redemption at a Cost

Sin can be fun, exciting, and promises the thrill that we desire; that is why we often choose it. Yet sin can give us tunnel vision where we see the thrill, but miss the pain and cost that always follow. David didn't understand that until Nathan called him out, and David had to deal with the cost of his decisions. David realized sin is never worth the price we must pay for it.

DAVID & NATHAN

BACKGROUND INFO

The prophet Nathan was a trusted adviser and spiritual counselor to King David. His role included making records for the king (1 Chronicles 29:29) and setting up the instruments in the temple (1 Chronicles 29:25). He appears in at least three significant moments in David's life.

First, when David desired to build a permanent temple for the Lord, Nathan met with him (2 Samuel 7). In Nathan's second appearance he confronted David about his sin with Bathsheba and the consequences (2 Samuel 12). Lastly, near the end of David's life, Nathan was involved with establishing the reign of Solomon (1 Kings 1).

Interestingly, David named one of his sons Nathan, perhaps because of the respect and appreciation he had for Nathan's influential role.

Nathan's role in the story of David and Bathsheba is filled with confrontation, consequences, repentance, and mercy. As a punishment for David's sin, his son dies. But through God's grace, David and Bathsheba's next son Solomon reigns as king in Israel and his line continued toward a future Savior, Jesus Christ.

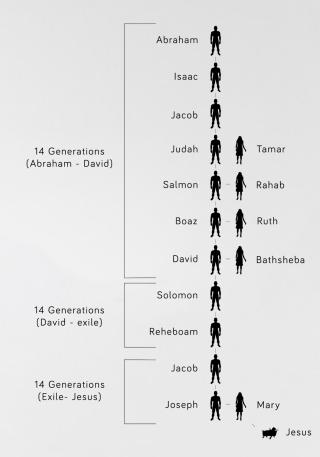
David conspired against Uriah and had him killed in battle (2 Samuel 11:14-15) (2 Samuel 11:27)

David married Bathsheba and she bore a son

Nathan confronted David and he repented (2 Samuel 12:1-13)

David's son died (2 Samuel 12:15)

Solomon was born (2 Samuel 12:24)



REDEMPTIVE LINE OF CHRIST

The Gospel of Matthew (the first book in the New Testament) begins with Jesus' family tree: "This is the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham" (Matthew 1:1). The genealogy of Jesus is a picture of God's grace and faithfulness to preserve His people and bring His Messiah to the world.

God chooses kings, shepherds, the wealthy, the outcast, a prostitute, and the foreigner to be included in this redemptive line. Setting aside cultural norms of excluding women's names from genealogies, Matthew includes five extraordinary women, each with an incredible story of faith.

God pursues even when we don't pursue		
must be		
What sin have you become to?		
Sin darkness, because it the light.		
doesn't void		
We can't choose and our sin		
Living it Out		
: Giving others permission to call out our blind spots.		
: Admitting our sin.		

notes

: Bringing it into the light.
: Turning from our sin.

Q U E S T I O N S

- I. When was a time you got caught doing something wrong, little or big? How did you respond?
- 2. As you reflect on Sunday's message, what one principle or insight stands out as being particularly helpful, insightful, or difficult to grasp?
- 3. In the past, when you have been confronted, what about the way the person confronted you made you want, or not want, to listen to what they had to say?
- 4. Read 2 Samuel 12:1-18.

What can we learn from how David responded to confrontation?

- 5. Who do you have in your life who is willing to call out your sin? (Vs. 7-10)
- 6. Read James 5:16.

What can we do differently as a group to make it easier for us to confess our sins with each other?

- 7. *What sin in your life do you need to confess to God and share with others?
- 8. *What is one step you can take this week to turn from your sin and follow God?

READING PLAN

WEEK 1

- □ Day 1: 1 Samuel 1-2
- □ Day 2: 1 Samuel 3-4
- □ Day 3: 1 Samuel 5-6
- □ Day 4: 1 Samuel 7-8
- □ Day 5: 1 Samuel 9-10

WEEK 4

- □ Day 16: 1 Samuel 26-27
- □ Day 17: 1 Samuel 28-29
- ☐ Day 18: 1 Samuel 30-31
- ☐ Day 19: 2 Samuel 1-2
- ☐ Day 20: Psalm 18

WEEK 2

- □ Day 6: 1 Samuel 11-12
- □ Day 7: 1 Samuel 13-14
- □ Day 8: 1 Samuel 15-16
- □ Day 9: 1 Samuel 17
- □ Day 10: Psalm 27, 37

WEEK 5

- □ Day 21: 2 Samuel 3-4
- □ Day 22: 2 Samuel 5-6
- □ Day 23: 2 Samuel 7-8
- □ Day 24: 2 Samuel 9-10
- □ Day 25: 2 Samuel 11, Psalm 32, 51

WEEK 3

- □ Day 11: 1 Samuel 18-19
- □ Day 12: 1 Samuel 20-21
- □ Day 13: 1 Samuel 22-23
- □ Day 14: 1 Samuel 24-25
- □ Day 15: Psalm 34, 63

WEEK 6

- □ Day 26: 2 Samuel 12-14
- ☐ Day 27: 2 Samuel 15-17
- □ Day 28: 2 Samuel 18-20
- □ Day 29: 2 Samuel 21-22
- □ Day 30: 2 Samuel 23-24

