



2 Samuel

EARLY CHILDHOOD LESSON TEACHER'S GUIDE



PASSAGE

2 Samuel 1:1 – 5:25



MEMORY VERSE

"David knew that the Lord had established him king over Israel, and that he had exalted his kingdom for the sake of his people Israel" (2 Samuel 5:12).



HYMN

"The Church's One Foundation," Rafiki Hymnal



DOCTRINE

David's actions upon becoming king of Israel model true spiritual leadership and show how God blesses Christ-like servant leadership.



CATECHISM

Question: What offices has Christ?
Answer: Christ has three offices.
Question: What are they?
Answer: The offices of a prophet, of a priest, and of a king.

LESSON 1: DAVID UNITES ISRAEL UNDER HIS KINGSHIP



OUTLINE FOR THE WEEK

Day One

David mourned the deaths of Saul and Jonathan.

Scripture: 2 Samuel 1:1-27

Day Two

David was anointed king of Judah.

Scripture: 2 Samuel 2:1-11

Day Three

There was war between the armies of David and Ish-bosheth.

Scripture: 2 Samuel 2:12-32; 3:1-39

Day Four

David became king over all Israel.

Scripture: 2 Samuel 4:1-12; 5:1-5

Day Five

David captured the city of Jerusalem.

Scripture: 2 Samuel 5:6-13

DAY ONE

David mourned the deaths of Saul and Jonathan.

SCRIPTURE

2 Samuel 1:1-27

DISCUSSION AND QUESTIONS

David was sad. David was so sad that he tore his clothes and began to cry. All day long David ate no food. Tears rolled down David's cheeks and he made sad, mournful cries. This was the way that David's men behaved, too. All the men in David's camp were mourning because very sad news had come to them.

A man from King Saul's camp had come running into David's camp with the news. He told David, "Many of King Saul's men are dead. Others have run away. King Saul is dead. His son Jonathan is dead, too."

What dreadful news! What sad news! King Saul was the man God had made king over His people. Now the king was dead.

Jonathan was David's dearest friend. David loved Jonathan and Jonathan loved David. Now Jonathan was dead and David was very sad. After David cried and mourned, he wrote a song to honor King Saul and Jonathan. David's song was a sad and beautiful song. David's song remembered Saul and Jonathan. Over and over David sang, "How the mighty have fallen." David wanted to remember Saul and Jonathan. David wanted all the people to remember and love King Saul as a mighty king.

1. Was David sad or happy? (David was sad.)
2. What made David so sad? (King Saul and Jonathan had died.)
3. Who was David's dearest friend? (Jonathan was David's dear friend.)

FOR KINDERGARTEN

1. Who else was sad? (David's men were sad.)
2. What did David do to show that he was sad? (David cried, tore his clothes, and ate no food.)
3. What did David write? (David wrote a song.)
4. Did David want the people to remember or forget King Saul? (David wanted them to remember King Saul.)

ACTIVITY

Make sad face masks. Use paper plates or paper circles. Draw eyes and mouths. Put tears on the faces.

DAY TWO

David was anointed king of Judah.

SCRIPTURE

2 Samuel 2:1-11

DISCUSSION AND QUESTIONS

King Saul was dead. Now there was no king. The people of Israel needed a new king. Some of the people wanted David to be king. The men of the tribe of Judah came to David. The men of Judah said to David, "We want you to be our king." The men of Judah anointed David to be their king. So David became king over all the families of Judah.

But not all of the people wanted David to be their king. Some of the people wanted Saul's son Ish-bosheth to be the king [pronounce and practice saying 'Ish-bo-sheth' aloud with the children]. All the people who had served King Saul and all the men who had fought in King Saul's army gathered together and made Saul's son their king. Ish-bosheth became their king. Now Israel had two kings instead of just one king.

David knew that God had chosen him to be the one new king of Israel. David knew that not all of the people knew that God had chosen David. David was a patient man. He waited. David knew that one day God would make him the only king of Israel. David was willing to wait to become the only king in Israel.

1. What did the people of Israel need? (The people needed a new king.)
2. Who did the men of Judah make their king? (The men of Judah made David their king.)
3. Who did the servants and army of Saul make their king? (They chose Ish-bosheth as king.)

FOR KINDERGARTEN

1. Why did the people of Israel need a new king? (They needed a new king because King Saul had died.)
2. Who did God choose to be the one new king of Israel? (God chose David.)
3. How many kings did Israel have? (Israel had two kings.)
4. Who was waiting to become the only king of Israel? (David was waiting to be the only king of Israel.)

ACTIVITY

Make crowns to wear. Decorate them with glitter, stickers, fabric scraps or other interesting items.

DAY THREE

There was war between the armies of David and Ish-bosheth.

SCRIPTURE

2 Samuel 2:12-32; 3:1-39

DISCUSSION AND QUESTIONS

David was king over the families of Judah. Ish-bosheth was king over all the other families in Israel. There were two kings—King David and King Ish-bosheth. Because there were two kings, the country of Israel was like two countries. Some day there would be only one king and one country, but not yet [use your fingers often throughout these stories to show “1” and “2” as you refer to numbers].

A year passed. Another year passed. As the years went by, the men who followed King Ish-bosheth fought against the men who followed King David. The men fought in battles against each other. There was war between David's men and the men of Ish-bosheth. They fought again and again. The war lasted a long time. One day all the people would want only David to be their king, but not yet.

The war continued. Many times the men fought each other. David and his men grew stronger and stronger. The armies of Ish-bosheth got weaker and weaker.

The time of war was a difficult time for King David. King David loved the people of Israel and wanted there to be one country with one king. David had to pray to God and trust God to help him do what was right all the time. David waited for God to make the country one country with one king.

1. How many kings were there? (There were two kings.)
2. Who were the two kings? (The two kings were King David and King Ish-bosheth.)
3. Did the men of David fight with the men of Ish-bosheth or did they get along with them? (The men fought.)

FOR KINDERGARTEN

1. Whose army grew stronger and stronger? (David's army grew stronger.)
2. To whom did David trust and pray? (David trusted God and prayed to Him.)

DAY FOUR

David became king over all of Israel.

SCRIPTURE

2 Samuel 4:1-12; 5:1-5

DISCUSSION AND QUESTIONS

Important news came to King David. The news was that King Ish-bosheth was dead. This news did not make King David glad. King David knew that God would one day make him the only king of all God's people, but King David was not glad that King Ish-bosheth was dead.

Soon all the tribes of Israel came to David. The men who had chosen King Saul's son Ish-bosheth to be their king stood in front of David. The men said, "We are all the same family. We used to have King Saul. At that time you were the one to lead us into battle. We know that the Lord said you would be like a shepherd to the people. You would be their leader." The men remembered that God had said David would be their king.

Now was the time that God was going to make David king over all the people. The older men spoke to David and they made an agreement with him. The men wanted David to be king over all of the people. Now there would be one king, not two kings. This was the good plan that God had for David and for His people. It was time for David to be the king. So the older men poured oil on David's head to anoint him king of all God's people.

David had been king over the tribe of Judah for seven years and six months. Now King David would be the king of all of Israel for many, many years, just as God had planned.

1. What was the news that came to King David? (The news was that King Ish-bosheth was dead.)
2. Did the news make David glad or sad? (The news did not make David glad.)
3. Who became the only king after Ish-bosheth died? (David was the only king.)

FOR KINDERGARTEN

1. What did the men of Israel remember that God had said about David? (They remembered that God had said that David would be their king.)
2. What did the older men do to show that David was their only king? (They poured oil on David's head to anoint David the king.)
3. For how many years had David been king of the tribe of Judah? (He had been their king for seven years and six months.)

DAY FIVE

King David captured the city of Jerusalem.

SCRIPTURE

2 Samuel 5:6-25

DISCUSSION AND QUESTIONS

King David led his troops. They marched toward the city of Jerusalem to fight the Jebusites. Jerusalem was a strong city with strong walls. The strong walls protected the people who lived in Jerusalem. The Jebusites lived in Jerusalem and they said, "David will never get into our city. David and his men are too weak to get in here." The Jebusites thought that the strong walls would keep out David and his men.

But David did get into the city. David's men did not go over the strong walls. David's men did not break down the strong walls. David's men marched through the water tunnel underneath the walls. God helped David's men to capture the city. David's men defeated the Jebusites and made Jerusalem their own city. They gave Jerusalem a second name. Now Jerusalem became David's home. So Jerusalem was called the City of David. David made Jerusalem a strong city. And God made David a mighty king. David became more and more powerful because the Lord God was with him.

1. What city did David and his army fight to get? (David and his army fought for Jerusalem.)
2. Was Jerusalem a strong city or a weak city to enter? (Jerusalem was a strong city.)
3. Who helped David and his men capture the city? (God helped them.)

FOR KINDERGARTEN

1. Who was living in Jerusalem when David and his army came to capture it? (The Jebusites were living in Jerusalem.)
2. How did David's men enter the city? (David's men marched under the walls through the water tunnel.)
3. What second name did David's men give to the city of Jerusalem? (They called it the City of David.)
4. Was David a weak king or a mighty king? (David was a mighty king.)

ACTIVITY

Build a play wall around a make-believe city. Do it outside. Use rocks for the wall. Dig a tunnel under a part of the rocks and pour water to show how the water ran into the city under the wall.

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2 Samuel

PRIMARY 1-3 LESSON TEACHER'S GUIDE



PASSAGE

2 Samuel 1:1 – 5:25



MEMORY VERSE

“David knew that the Lord had established him king over Israel, and that he had exalted his kingdom for the sake of his people Israel” (2 Samuel 5:12).



HYMN

“The Church’s One Foundation,” Rafiki Hymnal



DOCTRINE

David’s actions upon becoming king of Israel model true spiritual leadership and show how God blesses Christ-like servant leadership.



CATECHISM

Question: How does Christ execute the office of a king?

Answer: Christ executes the office of a king, in subduing us to himself, in ruling and defending us, and in restraining and conquering all his and our enemies.

LESSON 1: DAVID UNITES ISRAEL UNDER HIS KINGSHIP



OUTLINE FOR THE WEEK

Day One

David heard of Saul’s death and mourned for him.

Scripture: 2 Samuel 1:1-16

Day Two

David treated Saul and Jonathan with respect and honored the men of Jabesh-gilead.

Scripture: 2 Samuel 1:17 – 2:7

Day Three

Abner tried to join David.

Scripture: 2 Samuel 2:8 – 3:30

Day Four

David responded to Joab’s actions and Ish-bosheth’s murder with justice and fairness.

Scripture: 2 Samuel 3:31 – 4:12

Day Five

God blessed David’s servant-leadership, and he was anointed king over a united Israel.

Scripture: 2 Samuel 5:1-25

SUGGESTED OR OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

Ask the students to brainstorm a list of David’s leadership qualities (love, compassion, justice, faithfulness, God-honoring behavior). Then, ask students to brainstorm times in their lives when they have had an opportunity to be a leader (in the classroom, on the playground, at the dinner table, around the house, etc.). Give each student a piece of drawing paper and some crayons. Ask them to draw a picture of how they might demonstrate one of David’s servant-leader qualities in one of these places where they have an opportunity to lead. Give the students an opportunity to present their picture and idea to the class.

DAY ONE

David heard of Saul's death and mourned for him.

SCRIPTURE

2 Samuel 1:1-16

Today we are beginning our study of the Book of 2 Samuel. The Book of 2 Samuel continues right where 1 Samuel ended. Do you remember that when we ended 1 Samuel, King Saul and his son Jonathan had died during a battle with the Philistines? David had been struggling for quite some time against Saul's attacks. Now that Saul was dead, the Israelites looked to David as their new king. 2 Samuel tells the story of David's reign as king over Israel. The tribes of Israel were not united and David had the difficult job before him of uniting the tribes. Our lesson this week will show us the decisions that David made before he was anointed king that brought the Israelites together.

The Book of 2 Samuel begins with David hearing the news that Saul was dead. A man arrived from Saul's camp with torn clothes and dirt on his head. These were signs to show that someone was mourning because something sad had happened. The messenger told David that he had been at the camp of Israel. The messenger, an Amalekite, told David that Saul and Jonathan were both dead. Remember that Saul was David's enemy, even though David had never done Saul any wrong. You might think that David would be happy to hear that Saul was dead. However, when David heard this Amalekite claim to have a part in the death of Saul, he became very angry. David knew that Israel's king was God's holy and anointed servant and no one—much less an Amalekite—should ever lay a hand on him. David tore his clothes and went into mourning for Saul. He ordered that the Amalekite be put to death because he claimed to have killed Saul.

David was more concerned for God's honor than for his own. Saul's death actually helped David, but he was not concerned for himself. He was concerned for his duty to God, which meant that he must respect even a king like Saul (who was David's enemy) because Saul was the Lord's anointed. His actions showed his followers that they must always look at people and events from God's perspective. God put all rulers into power, so Christians should follow David's example of showing them respect—even when they are bad. David put God's honor first and God blessed his decision.

QUESTIONS

1. Why did the Amalekite messenger arrive from Saul's camp with torn clothes and dirt on his head? (The Amalekite messenger arrived with torn clothes and dirt on his head because he was coming from the camp of Israel with the sad news that Saul and Jonathan were dead.)
2. Why was David angry with the Amalekite messenger when he claimed to have had a part in the death of Saul? (David was angry because he knew that Saul was God's holy and anointed servant and that no one—much less an Amalekite—should ever lay a hand on him. He knew that even a wicked king like Saul should be respected because he was God's anointed.)
3. What did David do when he heard that Saul and Jonathan were dead? (Refer students to 2 Samuel 1:11-12; David took hold of his clothes, tore them, and he mourned and wept for Saul and Jonathan.)
4. Was David more concerned for his own honor or for God's? (David was more concerned for God's honor than his own.)
5. What does David's action toward King Saul teach us? (We should respect others, especially those God has put over us [teachers, parents, church leaders], even if they are not always good.)

DAY TWO

David treated Saul and Jonathan with respect and honored the men of Jabesh-gilead.

SCRIPTURE

2 Samuel 1:17 – 2:7

David was very sad that Saul and his son Jonathan were dead. Jonathan had been David's best friend. His poem in 2 Samuel 1:17-27 shows how much he loved both of them. David was not thinking of himself. He was not thinking that his enemy who was trying to kill him was dead. Instead, he says that the glory of Israel had been slain (2 Samuel 1:1) because Saul and Jonathan were slain. He says that Saul and Jonathan were "*beloved and lovely*" and several times he called them "*mighty*" (2 Samuel 1:23, 19, 21, 22, 25, 27). David loved Saul and Jonathan. David loved Saul and Jonathan even though Saul was his enemy. He treated them with respect and compassion because he knew that they were precious to the Lord. Christians who would seek to be leaders should show this kind of love for individual people.

When David was told, "*It was the men of Jabesh-gilead who buried Saul,*" he went out of his way to praise and thank these people (2 Samuel 2:4). Do you remember that when Saul was first king, he rescued the town of Jabesh-gilead from Nahash the Ammonite who was invading Jabesh-gilead? When Saul found out what the Ammonite was doing he came to their rescue and saved them

(1 Samuel 11:1-11). The people of Jabesh-gilead did not forget what Saul had done. They traveled all night and then entered the camp of the enemy to get the bodies. In honor of Saul and Jonathan, they also fasted seven days. They risked their lives to recover Saul's dead body from the Philistines and give him a proper burial in Israel. When David learned of this, he praised and thanked these people. He declared, "*May you be blessed by the Lord, because you showed this loyalty to Saul your lord and buried him. Now may the Lord show steadfast love and faithfulness to you. And I will do good to you because you have done this thing*" (2 Samuel 2:5-6).

What was David doing? He was rewarding those who showed faithfulness and love for God's people. In this way, David encouraged the kind of behavior that would be needed to unify Israel. David was quick to praise and reward godly behavior in his followers. Good leaders recognize and praise qualities like loyalty, faithfulness, and love because these are godly qualities.

QUESTIONS

1. What lesson can we learn from how David treated Saul and Jonathan? (David treated Saul and Jonathan with respect and compassion because they were precious to the Lord. He loved them individually.)
2. Who risked their lives to recover Saul's body and give him a proper burial in Israel? (The men of Jabesh-gilead recovered Saul's body and buried it in Israel [1 Samuel 31:11-13; 2 Samuel 2:4].)
3. What did David do when he found out about what the men of Jabesh-gilead had done? (He praised and thanked the people of Jabesh-gilead for their faithfulness and love for God's people [2 Samuel 2:5-7].)
4. Good leaders praise good qualities in others. Who can you encourage for their good qualities? Have the children write a note or tell their parents "thank you" for their parents'/or teachers' faithfulness in caring for them.
5. For class 3, have the students read the poem written by David in 2 Samuel 1:17-27. They may read it out loud as a class, perhaps do alternate readings; boys read one line then the girls the next line.

DAY THREE

Abner tried to join David.

SCRIPTURE

2 Samuel 2:8 – 3:30

When David was made king over his own tribe of Judah, the tribes that had followed Saul made war against David. Abner, Saul's former general, put Saul's weak son, Ish-bosheth, on a throne. (2 Samuel 2:8-11). That meant that Ish-bosheth was king over a large part of Israel. David knew that if the people of Israel had two different kings, they would never be united. He knew that Israel needed only one king and there was likely going to be a war with Ish-bosheth if he wanted to unite Israel. However, he would have to fight in a way that would not make the Israelites who followed Ish-bosheth hate both him and his followers. He did not want the battles to stir up even more hatred between fellow Israelites, but he did have to protect his forces from this new enemy army. What a difficult situation David faced! It is easy to imagine that a man who was faithful to God's Word, as David was, would also be faithful to talk to God in prayer. David needed to pray to ask for God's wisdom and help for this difficult situation. He must surely have spent time reading God's Word to know what to do and to ask God in prayer to give him strength to do it.

2 Samuel 3:1 tells us, *"There was a long war between the house of Saul and the house of David."* The war began with a battle between Abner and Joab. Joab was David's general. During this battle, which David's men won, Abner killed Joab's brother. Joab was very angry and hatred grew between the two men and their armies. After a while, Abner was tired of fighting the war and he sent messengers to David to ask for peace. All Abner wanted was for David to promise to treat him well. Abner was ready to lead his army in surrender to David. This surrender was good news for David because Ish-bosheth and Abner were standing in the way of a peaceful relationship between David and Israel. David wanted to accept this offer, because he did not want there to be more Israelites to die in the battle. He wanted to avoid further bloodshed and hatred among the Israelites.

But Joab was angry when he heard that David and Abner were trying to reach an agreement to stop the fighting. Joab was so angry that he went after Abner and killed his enemy. David was very upset with Joab. David was upset because not only had Joab sinned, but he had also harmed David's attempts to bring unity to Israel. Once again, David faced a very difficult situation. David needed wisdom from God in order to face this new problem created by Joab's murder of Abner. He must certainly have turned to God's Word and prayer in order to decide what to do.

QUESTIONS

1. Who did Abner make king over Israel? (Ish-bosheth, son of Saul, was made king over Israel [2 Samuel 2:8].)
2. Why was it such a difficult situation for David to fight against Ish-bosheth and Abner? (David knew that it would mean fighting against fellow Israelites. He did not want to stir up even more hatred between fellow Israelites.)
3. What was the name of David's general? (Joab was his name [2 Samuel 2:13].)
4. Why was Joab so angry with Abner? (Joab was angry with Abner because he had killed his brother [2 Samuel 2:23].)
5. What did David need as he faced difficult situations in leading Israel? (David needed wisdom from God, which he found in His Word and in prayer.)
6. What should you do when you face a difficult situation? (Answers will vary.)
7. David worked hard to create unity—to make peace in Israel. Where do you need to work hard

to make peace in your home or Village? (Answers will vary.)

DAY FOUR

David responded to Joab's actions and Ish-bosheth's murder with justice and fairness.

SCRIPTURE

2 Samuel 3:31 – 4:12

Do you remember that David faced a very difficult situation? His general Joab had killed Ish-bosheth's general Abner. Abner had been ready to surrender to David and his army. Peace and unity seemed to be within sight, but Joab's angry actions harmed David's plan to unite Israel. How did David overcome this great problem? First, it was important that David did not participate in the battles against his fellow Israelites. That meant that his future subjects would not have any reason to be unhappy with him personally.

Second, David punished Joab for murdering Abner. David did this even though Abner was David's enemy and Joab was his relative and his chief general (2 Samuel 3:28-30). The Bible says that he spoke his words of punishment, *"to Joab and to all the people who were with him"* (2 Samuel 3:31). Joab's punishment was public. When David's former enemies saw his willingness to punish a family member and the leader of his army, they knew that he could be trusted. They knew that following God's Law was most important to David.

Third, David gave Abner a public funeral. He wept for his former enemy along with all of the people. He commanded Joab to mourn for Abner as well (2 Samuel 3:31-39). The Israelites noticed David's sadness and they knew that David had not wanted for Abner to be put to death by Joab. David's faithfulness and compassion caused the hearts of Abner's followers to be open toward him.

Finally, when Ish-bosheth was left defenseless without Abner, some of his own men came and killed him. They brought his head to David. They thought David would be happy and reward them. However, David told them that they had sinned against the Lord by committing murder. David once again showed that he was just and fair by having these men hanged for killing Ish-bosheth (2 Samuel 4:1-12). David proved himself to his fellow Israelites to be a trustworthy, fair, faithful, and compassionate leader.

QUESTIONS

1. What did David do to Joab as a result of his killing Abner? (He punished Joab publicly [2 Samuel 3:31].)
2. What did David's public punishment of Joab show his fellow Israelites? (It showed the Israelites that he was willing to punish even a family member and a leader in his army. David did not play favorites. It showed that God's Word was more important to David than anything else.)

DAY FIVE

God blessed David's servant-leadership, and he was anointed king over a united Israel.

SCRIPTURE

2 Samuel 5:1-25

Because of God's will and David's good leadership, the people wanted him as king. They knew that the Lord had said he would be king. David and the people made a covenant—an agreement together before the Lord. They also anointed David king over Israel.

The people of Israel came together as one. What a blessing is Christian unity (Psalm 133:1)! David then led his army in victory over the Jebusites and established a strong fortress (2 Samuel 5:1-9). Even though this was a difficult and dangerous battle, the people of Israel were willing to do it because they trusted David's God-honoring leadership.

We see three things that David did in these first chapters of the Book of 2 Samuel.

First, David put God's honor and God's will first. Where do we learn God's will? We learn it in the Bible. We are saved only through faith in Jesus Christ. Once we are Christians, we honor God by obeying His Word. When David did this, people respected him and God blessed him.

Second, David was fair, honest, and just. He did not have different rules for different people. He treated even his family members and closest servants exactly as he treated everyone—with fairness, honesty, and justice. Therefore, people could trust David as a ruler.

Third, David treated people with love and kindness. Isn't this what God has done for us in Jesus Christ? He has shown us His love and kindness so, we too, we should show love and kindness to others. David shows Christian leaders how they are to lead. When they lead with love and kindness, people respond with trust and loyalty.

Do you ever have a chance to lead God's people? Even children have chances to be leaders in their schools, with their friends, or in their families. David's actions give us a model of what it means to be a servant-leader. When we serve others in this way, God is pleased and He gives His blessing to our work. David experienced this blessing when he fought against the Jebusites and then later when he went against the Philistines (2 Samuel 5:17-25). 2 Samuel 5:10 says, "*David became greater and greater, for the Lord, the God of hosts, was with him.*" David's heart was pleasing to the Lord and his actions honored God's Word. God's blessing was on David. We need to pray for Christian leaders who, like David, are God-honoring.

QUESTIONS

1. How old was David when he began to reign and for how long did he reign? Cite the chapter and verses. (2 Samuel 5:4-5; he was thirty years old and he reigned forty years in total. He reigned over Judah seven years and six months, then over a united kingdom of Israel and Judah thirty-three years, thus making a total of forty years.)
2. Why Name the three things David did as a good leader. (David put God's honor and God's will first. David was fair, honest, and just. David treated individual people with love and compassion.)
3. Where do we learn God's will? (We learn God's will in the Bible.)
4. What was the result of David's good leadership? (God blessed David's leadership. The people of Israel came together as one. God was with David.)
5. Tell about a way that you can be a leader like David. (Answers will vary.)

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2 Samuel

PRIMARY 4-6 LESSON TEACHER'S GUIDE



PASSAGE

2 Samuel 1:1 – 5:25



MEMORY VERSE

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HYMN

“The Church’s One Foundation,” Rafiki Hymnal



DOCTRINE

David’s actions upon becoming king of Israel model true spiritual leadership and show how God blesses Christ-like servant leadership.



CATECHISM

Question: How does Christ execute the office of a king?

Answer: Christ executes the office of a king, in subduing us to himself, in ruling and defending us, and in restraining and conquering all his and our enemies.

LESSON 1: DAVID UNITES ISRAEL UNDER HIS KINGSHIP



OUTLINE FOR THE WEEK

Day One

David mourned the deaths of Saul and Jonathan.

Scripture: 2 Samuel 1:1-27

Day Two

David became king of Judah.

Scripture: 2 Samuel 2:1-32

Day Three

Abner tried to join David.

Scripture: 2 Samuel 3:1-39

Day Four

Ish-bosheth was murdered and Saul’s kingdom ended.

Scripture: 2 Samuel 4:1-12

Day Five

David was anointed king over all Israel.

Scripture: 2 Samuel 5:1-25

SUGGESTED OR OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

1. Using the chart given earlier, add David to the timeline of Kings.
2. Have the students make a list of the qualities of a good leader that David showed in this lesson. (The list should include such things as: David did not join in the battle against his fellow Israelites, he tried not to encourage hatred, but love; David showed that he could be trusted and that he would uphold God’s Law in punishing even his own general; he listened to God’s Word and prayed to God for wisdom and power to do as God asked; he did not have different rules for different people including his own family members and servants; he treated individuals with love and compassion.)
3. Have the students play follow the leader. Have the students take turns being the leader and talk about being a good leader and taking your followers in the right direction.

DAY ONE

David mourned the deaths of Saul and Jonathan.

SCRIPTURE

2 Samuel 1:1-27

1 Samuel ended with the deaths of Saul and Jonathan. David had returned to his place in Ziklag, part of the Philistine territory. As he waited there, an Amalekite came from Saul's camp to give a message to David. Since Saul had been chasing David for a very long time and had threatened his life many times, you might think that David would be happy with the news that Saul, his enemy, had died. David had never done Saul any wrong and even though Saul was his enemy, David was not happy at the news of his death. The Amalekite who brought the news actually told David that he had ended Saul's life. The man thought David would reward him. But instead of rewarding him, David ordered the man killed for lifting his hand against the king of Israel. Israel's king was God's holy and anointed servant and no one—much less an unbelieving Amalekite—should lift his hand against the Lord's anointed. David tore his clothes as a sign of grief and went into mourning for Saul.

David's action showed his followers that they must always look at people and things that happen from God's perspective. The killing of Saul actually helped David, but David cared more about God's honor than his own. David kept in the front of his mind his duty to God which included respecting even a wicked king like Saul when he was the Lord's anointed. David knew what Christians today need to remember. Governments are put in place by God. *"Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and . . . whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed"* (Romans 13:1-2). Even wicked rulers who harm Christians were put in place by our sovereign God who rules and controls everything. Christians should follow David's example of showing them respect. If that is true of even wicked and ungodly rulers, how much more should Christians show respect and honor to godly leaders, especially leaders in the church?

David was angry about the killing of Saul. But he was also very sad about the death of Saul and his son Jonathan. Jonathan had been David's best friend. David, you remember, had been a shepherd and poet when he lived in the fields taking care of his father's sheep. He poured out the thoughts and feelings of his heart to God in many of the Psalms. So here, when he is so sad about the deaths of Saul and Jonathan, David poured out his thoughts and feelings in a lament, or sad poem. *"Your glory, O Israel, is slain on your high places! How the mighty have fallen!"* (2 Samuel 1:19). His poem showed that he loved and cared about Saul and Jonathan as people. Again, David showed that his concern was not for himself, but for God's people. Saul and Jonathan had been mighty, so David was upset and unhappy about their deaths. David also showed his followers the love of God, even for his enemies. The Bible says that *"God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us"* (Romans 5:8). As David got ready to rule Israel, he showed personal kindness and consideration for people and urged others to do the same because of the grace of God. Christians today need to do the same thing, to show love and respect for individual people because they are precious to the Lord. *"By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another"* (John 13:35).

QUESTIONS

1. Why did the Amalekite think David would be happy when he heard the news of Saul's death? (Saul was David's enemy and had been chasing David to kill him.)
2. Why was David so upset? (The Amalekite had lifted his hand to kill God's anointed.)
3. What does David's response teach us about how we should treat our leaders? (Governments

are put in place by God. "Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and . . . whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed" (Romans 13:1-2.)

4. How did David show his sadness? (David sang a lament, or sad poem, about the deaths of Saul and Jonathan.)
5. What did David say should be done with this lament (cite the verse)? Have the students summarize the main points of the lament. (The lament should be taught to the people of Judah, 2 Samuel 1:18; Saul's death should not be published in Philistia, among Israel's enemies; the mountains of Gilboa should have no rain because Saul died there; Saul and Jonathan were mighty warriors; they were united and swift; Israel's people should mourn Saul who provided for them; David loved Jonathan and was distressed at his death.)
6. Have the students read David's lament (2 Samuel 1:17-27) out loud, perhaps antiphonally, for example have the boys read one line and the girls read the next.

DAY TWO

David became king of Judah.

SCRIPTURE

2 Samuel 2:1-32

After asking for guidance from the Lord, David and his family went back to the land of Israel, to Hebron, in Judah. *"And David brought up his men who were with him, everyone with his household, and they lived in the towns of Hebron. And the men of Judah came, and there they anointed David king over the house of Judah"* (2 Samuel 2:3-4). God had promised that David would be king over Israel. Now David was king over the tribe of Judah which was part of Israel, but not all of Israel. God's promise was beginning to be fulfilled.

David heard about the men of Jabesh-gilead who had bravely gone to get the bodies of Saul and his sons from the Philistines. Forty years before, Saul had rescued the town from Ammonite raiders and now the men of the town had risked their lives to recover Saul's body from the Philistines to give him a proper burial in Israel. When David learned about that, he went out of his way to praise and thank these people in public. What was David doing? He was rewarding those who showed faithfulness and love for God's people. In that way, David encouraged the kind of behavior that would be needed to bring unity in Israel. As king, David would need his people to work together and show faithfulness to the rest of God's people. Good leaders know what they are looking for in others and are quick to praise and reward godly behavior in their followers.

When David was made king over his own tribe of Judah, the other tribes that had followed Saul made war against David. Abner, Saul's former general, put Saul's weak son, Ish-bosheth, on a throne and made him king over a large part of Israel. It was pretty clear that this was Abner's idea. He wanted Ish-bosheth to be king so he just put him on the throne. This son of Saul was not anointed. This was a very big threat to David and his plans for bringing the nation together under his leadership. He had to protect his forces from this new enemy army (made up of fellow Israelites). But he also had to fight in a way that would not stir up even more hatred among his fellow Israelites in their battles against one another. If these people were to become a united nation under his leadership, they ought not to have bitter and angry feelings toward each other later. It is not hard to imagine David spending long amounts of time in prayer. He needed God's wisdom in this very difficult situation. Having shown his faithfulness to God's Word, David's life also showed him as a man who was faithful to talk to God in prayer. As one faithful student of God's Word put it, "Prayer is our talking to God; the Scriptures are God's talking to us, and the two always go together." David asked God what to do and listened when God told him, but he also

spent time in prayer asking God to give him power to do what He said.

QUESTIONS

1. What was the first thing David did after mourning Saul's death? Have students find the verse. (David inquired of the Lord, that is, he prayed to ask God for guidance [2 Samuel 2:1].)
2. Is prayer the first thing you think about when needing direction? How can you make prayer the first thing you think about? (Answers will vary.)
3. Why did David give praise to the men of Jabesh-gilead? (He was rewarding those who showed faithfulness and love for God's people.)
4. What can we learn about being a good leader from David's example here? (Good leaders know what they are looking for in others and are quick to praise and reward godly behavior in their followers.)
5. Whose idea was it to put Ish-bosheth, Saul's son, on a throne? Have the students find the verse in the passage. (From 2 Samuel 2:8-11, we see that this was not God's plan, Abner, Saul's general, came up with that plan.)
6. For how long was David king in Hebron? (From 2 Samuel 2:11, David was king over the house of Judah, seven years and six months.)
7. How old was Ish-bosheth when he was put on a throne and how long did he rule? (He was forty years old and ruled two years [2 Samuel 2:10].)
8. For what situations do you need to spend more time asking for God's power and wisdom and listening to God's answers from His Word? (Answers will vary.)

DAY THREE

Abner tried to join David.

SCRIPTURE

2 Samuel 3:1-39

Israel was God's nation. Israel was to be a united land. But 2 Samuel 3 begins with these very sad words, *"There was a long war between the house of Saul and the house of David"* (2 Samuel 3:1). The civil war began with a battle between Saul's general Abner and David's general Joab at Gibeon. This is found in 2 Samuel 2:12-32. David's men won the battle, but there was a hatred remaining in Joab (David's general) when Abner (Ish-bosheth, Saul's son's general) killed Joab's brother. After a while, Abner grew tired of the constant war and sent messages to David asking for peace. All Abner wanted was for David to promise to treat him well, and Abner would lead the rebel tribes to surrender to David. David was eager to accept this offer because he wanted to stay away from more bloodshed and hatred among the Israelites. *"When Abner came with twenty men to David at Hebron, David made a feast for Abner and the men who were with him"* (2 Samuel 3:20). David and Abner made a covenant of peace there and David sent Abner away in peace. David had been the one willing to reach out in peace to his former enemy in order to bring the divided country back into peace and unity.

But when Joab heard about the agreement, he was very angry. Abner had killed his brother. So secretly Joab made a plan for revenge. *"And when Abner returned to Hebron, Joab took him aside to speak with him privately, and there he struck him in the stomach, so that he died, for the blood of Asahel his brother"* (2 Samuel 3:27). David was furious. Joab had sinned in killing Abner and had also harmed the unity David was trying to get in the country.

How did David overcome this great problem? First, David had not personally taken part in the

battles against his fellow Israelites. His future people had no reason to be angry at him personally. Second, David publicly rebuked Joab for murdering Abner. Abner had been David's enemy by trying to set up a rival kingdom under Saul's son. But David wanted to show his former enemies that he could be trusted. He also wanted everyone to know that he upheld God's Law. Third, David gave Abner a public funeral. He mourned his former enemy and ordered Joab to do the same. As David was upset over Abner's death and really mourned for him, *"So all the people and all Israel understood that day that it had not been the king's will to put to death Abner"* (2 Samuel 3:38). Because of David's faithfulness and compassion, the hearts of Abner's followers were opened toward David and there was healing instead of hatred.

QUESTIONS

1. Since Saul was now dead, why was there civil war between the house of Saul and the house of David? (Saul's general Abner had put Ish-bosheth on the throne.)
2. Who finally asked for peace? (Abner asked for peace.)
3. What was David willing to do? (David brought Abner and his men to a feast and they made a covenant of peace together.)
4. What are you willing to do to make peace with those who have been your enemies? (Answers will vary.)
5. Who was not happy about this agreement and what did he do about it? (Joab was not happy because Abner had killed his brother in the battle. Joab made a plan and secretly killed Abner.)
6. How did David show that he did not know about Joab's plan? (David mourned Abner's death and publicly rebuked Joab for it.)

DAY FOUR

Ish-bosheth was murdered and Saul's kingdom ended.

SCRIPTURE

2 Samuel 4:1-12

With the death of Abner, Saul's son Ish-bosheth was left without a general or a strong voice. Naturally he was now very afraid and all Israel was afraid. Two of the army captains decided to take matters into their own hands. While Ish-bosheth was resting in the heat of the day, these two captains, pretending to get wheat, came into his room and killed him. They cut off his head, escaped, and traveled all night. They brought the head to David at Hebron. These two men thought David would be pleased and reward them greatly for what they had done. But they were wrong. The two captains said, *"Here is the head of Ish-bosheth, the son of Saul, your enemy, who sought your life. The Lord has avenged my lord the king this day on Saul and his offspring"* (2 Samuel 4:8). These men thought they were doing David, and maybe God a favor, too. God had not commanded them to kill Ish-bosheth however. By his answer, David showed that he was not willing to force himself forward as king. David had waited for God's time and God's way.

These men were wrong to murder Ish-bosheth. David had answered them by saying, *"As the Lord lives, who has redeemed my life out of every adversity. . ."* (2 Samuel 4:9). What David was telling them was that he was trusting God to continue to take care of him. God had told David that he would be king over Israel. David was willing to wait until God made him king. He did not need to go around killing his enemies secretly, as if God needed help to bring about His plan to make David king. David once again showed his justice and fairness by having these murderers hanged for the wrong they did.

The only living relative of Saul was a son of Jonathan. When the news of the death of Saul and

Jonathan came, a nurse grabbed up the child and ran away. Because she ran so quickly, the boy fell and became lame in both his feet. The boy's name was Mephibosheth. We will hear more about Mephibosheth later on in David's life.

QUESTIONS

1. What did Ish-bosheth think now that Abner was dead? (Ish-bosheth was afraid David would kill him.)
2. Who killed Ish-bosheth? (Two army captains came in while he was resting and killed him.)
3. Was David pleased by their actions as they thought he would be? (No, David was trusting God to make him king in God's own time.)
4. What did David say that showed he was trusting God? ("As the Lord lives, who has redeemed my life out of every adversity. . ." [2 Samuel 4:9].)
5. What did David do to the two men? (David had the two captains killed for murdering Ish-bosheth.)
6. What did this action show about David? (This action showed that David was more concerned with justice and fairness than in getting to the throne of Israel. It also showed that David was willing to wait on God's time for him to be made king.)

DAY FIVE

David was anointed king over all Israel.

SCRIPTURE

2 Samuel 5:1-25

There was no one left in the house of Saul who could be king over Israel. *"So all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron, and King David made a covenant with them at Hebron before the Lord, and they anointed David king over Israel"* (2 Samuel 5:3). David was determined to do things God's way. He made a decision to do three things that God blessed by uniting the nation under his rule. First, David put God's honor and God's will first. Where do we learn God's will? We learn it in the Bible. We are not saved by keeping God's Law, but only through faith in Jesus Christ. But Christians are to honor God by obeying His Word. When David honored God by obeying His Word, people respected him and God blessed him. Second, David was fair, honest, and just. He did not have different rules for different people, including his family members and closest servants. Therefore, people could trust David as a ruler. They knew David would do the right thing no matter what. Third, David treated individual people with love and compassion. Isn't this what God has done for us in Jesus Christ? Mark 1:41 says that Jesus was *"moved with pity,"* so we can trust ourselves to Him. In the same way, Christian leaders should treat people with God's compassion and love. By doing this, we can gain people's trust and loyalty in return.

In the first four chapters of 2 Samuel, David had showed that he was a true and godly leader. He was willing to wait for God's time to be put on the throne of Israel. He was not willing to take shortcuts that seemed to give him an advantage but were not according to God's Word. He showed love and compassion to Saul and Jonathan as people, reminding his followers that each person (even an enemy) is precious in God's eyes. David gave public praise to those who had risked their lives as an example of love and self-sacrifice. He tried to bring together former enemies and encourage peace and forgiveness in the land. And David showed that he would keep standards of justice and righteousness by punishing those who sinned against Saul and Ish-bosheth. Because he had done all this and showed himself to be a worthy king, the whole nation came together and joyfully made him king over all of them. *"Behold how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!"* (Psalm 133:1).

It should come as no surprise that God gave David an amazing victory over the Jebusites who were holding the strong fortress of Jerusalem. This was a very difficult and dangerous mission, but God's people responded bravely to David's trustworthy and God-honoring leadership. David's actions in these chapters give a model for all Christian leaders, whether they are leaders in the home, in the church, or in society. Most importantly, when we serve others in Christ-like servant leadership, God is pleased and He gives His blessing to our work. In both the attack on Jerusalem and the battle with the Philistines afterwards, David was successful. The reason is clearly given in Scripture. "*David became greater and greater, for the Lord, the God of hosts, was with him*" (2 Samuel 5:10). We need Christians, especially those in leadership, whose hearts are pleasing to the Lord and whose actions honor God's Word, so that God's blessing will be on us today as it was with David so long ago.

QUESTIONS

1. How old was David when he began to reign and for how long did he reign? Cite the chapter and verses. (2 Samuel 5:4-5; he was thirty years old and he reigned forty years in total. He reigned over Judah seven years and six months, then a united kingdom all Israel and Judah, thirty-three years thus making a total of forty years.)
2. What was the first thing David determined to do? (David put God's honor and God's will first. This is shown by his making a covenant with the tribes of Israel before the Lord [2 Samuel 5:3]. It shows his desire to honor God before men and to pursue His will before other things.)
3. Where do we learn God's will? (We learn God's will in the Bible.)
4. What else do we learn from these passages that David determined to do? (David was fair, honest, and just. He did not have different rules for different people, including his family members and closest servants. For example, Joab was David's nephew and he rebuked Joab for his killing of Abner.)
5. What does being fair, honest, and just mean as a leader? (David could be trusted to do the right thing as a leader.)
6. What was the third thing we learn from these passages that David determined to do? (David treated individual people with love and compassion.)
7. What kind of godly leadership did David show that we also need today? (We need leaders whose hearts are pleasing to the Lord and whose actions honor God's Word, so that God's blessing will be on us today as it was with David so long ago.)
8. Review these first five chapters of 2 Samuel with the students. Have them summarize the events that demonstrated David's godly leadership. (1) 2 Samuel 1: David mourned the death of Saul and Jonathan, showing his care and concern even for an enemy. He also demonstrated his willingness to wait on God's time for what he was promised. 2) 2 Samuel 2: In praising the leaders of Jabesh-gilead, David showed good leadership. He was rewarding those who showed faithfulness and love for God's people. In that way, David encouraged the kind of behavior that would be needed to bring unity in Israel. 3) 2 Samuel 2: David inquired of the Lord over many decisions. 4) 2 Samuel 3: David welcomed the opportunity to make peace with Abner. When Joab killed Abner, David went out of his way to show that he had no part in that. 5) 2 Samuel 4: David again showed his willingness to wait on God's time as he was unhappy with the killing of Ish-bosheth. 6) 2 Samuel 5: David again relied on God's wisdom, not just man's wisdom as demonstrated with the phrase, "David inquired of the Lord" in pursuing battles with the Philistines. David also recognized that success comes from the Lord alone as evidenced by the phrase, "*The Lord has burst through my enemies before me like a bursting flood*" [2 Samuel 5:20].)

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2 Samuel

JUNIOR HIGH LESSON TEACHER'S GUIDE



PASSAGE

2 Samuel 1:1 – 5:25



MEMORY VERSE:

“David knew that the Lord had established him king over Israel, and that he had exalted his kingdom for the sake of his people Israel” (2 Samuel 5:12).



HYMN

“The Church’s One Foundation,” Rafiki Hymnal



DOCTRINE

David’s actions upon becoming king of Israel model true spiritual leadership and show how God blesses Christ-like servant leadership.



CATECHISM (FOR MEMORIZATION)

Question: How does Christ execute the office of a king? Answer: Christ executes the office of a king, in subduing us to himself, in ruling and defending us, and in restraining and conquering all his and our enemies.

LESSON 1: DAVID UNITES ISRAEL UNDER HIS KINGSHIP



OUTLINE FOR THE WEEK

Day One

David mourned for Saul and Jonathan.

Scripture: 2 Samuel 1:1-27

Day Two

David was anointed king over Judah as Abner established Ish-bosheth over Israel.

Scripture: 2 Samuel 2:1-32

Day Three

David mourned the murder of Abner.

Scripture: 2 Samuel 3:1-39

Day Four

Ish-bosheth was murdered and Saul’s kingdom ended.

Scripture: 2 Samuel 4:1-12

Day Five

David was anointed as king over all of Israel and defeated the Philistines.

Scripture: 2 Samuel 5:1-25

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES:

Timeline of the Kings

This week we add King David to our timeline. The year is 1010 B.C. Though 2 Samuel 2:10-11 suggest two parts to our timeline, we will use only one. God’s appointed kings will be on our classroom timeline. A note should be made, however, that Abner, rather than the Lord, anointed and appointed Ish-bosheth as king of the northern portion of Israel, while God established David over Judah. His illegitimate rule should be noted. These verses also tell us this was the case for two years and suggest that the united kingdom is still seven and one-half years away.

Update the classroom timeline.

Allow a few minutes for students to make notes and update the timelines in their notebooks.

Discuss the importance of David awaiting the Lord’s timetable.

Discuss events that could be upcoming in the students’ lives which should not be hurried ahead of God’s schedule—for which they should

also wait on God's timetable. (e.g. marriage)

Discuss David's concern for minimizing upset within the nation and trying to avoid civil war between the factions.

Discuss how these principles could apply to family life.

Joab and David God provides characters, both good and bad, in the Scriptures, so that we may apply their life lessons to our own. David in particular is to be examined as the "man after God's own heart" that God specifically chose to picture in advance many qualities of Christ our King. Complete the following chart to compare and contrast the character of Joab to David.

Quality/ Event	Joab	David	Scripture
Exhibited honesty			
Showed regard for life			
Took revenge			
Murderous			
Prayerful			
Mourned			
Kept his word			
Gave glory to God			
Impulsive			
Showed regard for God's sovereignty			
Courageous			
Servant-hearted			

DAY ONE

David mourned for Saul and Jonathan.

SCRIPTURE

2 Samuel 1:1-27

The Book of 2 Samuel continues from where 1 Samuel left off by telling the story of David's reign as king over Israel. 1 Samuel ended with the deaths of King Saul and his son Jonathan. This also ended David's long period of struggle against Saul's persecutions. Now that Saul was dead, the nation looked to David, and he faced the task of uniting the divided tribes under his rule as the new king. Chapter 5 shows David's coronation as king, but it was the important work he did in chapters 1 – 4 that united the people under his rule. David's actions upon becoming king of Israel model true spiritual leadership and show how God blesses Christ-like servant leadership. These chapters are rich in teaching for leaders today, and they also point forward to the kind of saving rule that Christians enjoy under our Lord Jesus Christ.

We may organize David's actions in five points: 1) He honored King Saul and upheld the sanctity

of this God-anointed office (2 Samuel 1:1-18); 2) He showed compassion and love for Saul and Jonathan as people, reminding others that each individual (even an enemy) is precious before God (2 Samuel 1:19-27); 3) David gave public praise and support to those Israelites who set an example of faithfulness and self-sacrifice; 4) David brought peace by personally reconciling fellow Israelites who had become enemies (2 Samuel 2:8 – 3:39); and 5) David upheld standards of justice and righteousness by punishing those who had sinned against his rival, Saul's son Ish-bosheth (2 Samuel 4:1-12). It is because of the leadership shown in chapters 1 – 4 that David's rise to power in chapter 5 succeeded in bringing unity and blessing to Israel. It is this type of Spirit-driven leadership which always brings unity, even during difficult times. As a result of this unity and God's blessing on his obedience, David was able to lead the new nation in victory against its enemies.

2 Samuel begins with David's reaction to the news of King Saul's death. Remember that Saul was David's enemy, though David had never done Saul any wrong. So, we might expect David to rejoice over Saul's death. One counts on David to be heartbroken over the loss of his dearest friend, Jonathan, yet we find him equally mournful over the death of his persecutor. In fact, David was enraged that an Amalekite should strike down the king of Israel. The Amalekite anticipated a reward. Israel's king was God's holy and anointed servant and no one—much less an unholy pagan—should ever lay a hand on him. David tore his clothes and went into mourning for Saul, and he ordered the execution of the man who had so thoughtlessly killed the king.

David's action showed his followers that they must always look at people and events from God's perspective. The killing of Saul actually helped David, but David was concerned more for God's honor than for his own. David was mindful of our duty to God, which included respecting even a wicked king like Saul when he was the Lord's anointed. Christians are to have the same attitude today for lawful authorities, even when they are evil. Paul wrote, "Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and. . . whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed" (Romans 13:1-2). Even wicked rulers who harm Christians are put in power by our sovereign God, so Christians should follow David's example of showing them respect. How much more should Christians honor and obey godly leaders, especially in the church (Hebrews 13:17)!

Second, David grieved over Saul and his son Jonathan, who had been David's best friend. 2 Samuel 1:17-27 is a very moving poem that David recites, and it reveals that he honestly loved them as people. Again, David showed that his concern was not for himself but for God and His people. God's plan for Israel was more important to David than his rapid ascension to the throne. Saul and Jonathan had been mighty, so David lamented them. He cared about them as individuals, and in this way he showed his followers the love of God even for his enemies. The Bible says that "God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8). As David prepared to rule Israel, he showed personal compassion for people and encouraged others to unite with him because of the grace of God. Christian leaders today need to show the same love for individual people, treating them with respect and compassion, because they are each precious to the Lord. Leaders should set an example in obeying Jesus, who said, "By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:35).

QUESTIONS

1. Why did the Amalekite think David would be happy when he heard the news of Saul's death? (Saul was David's enemy and had been chasing David to kill him.)
2. Why was David so upset? (The Amalekite had lifted his hand to kill God's anointed.)
3. What does David's response teach us about how we should treat our leaders? (Governments are put in place by God. "Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and. . . whoever resists the authorities resists what God has

appointed" [Romans 13:1-2].)

4. How did David show his sadness? (David sang a lament, or sad poem about the deaths of Saul and Jonathan.)
5. What did David say should be done with this lament (cite the verse)? Have the students summarize the main points of the lament. (The lament should be taught to the people of Judah, 2 Samuel 1:18; Saul's death should not be published in Philistia, among Israel's enemies; the mountains of Gilboa should have no rain because Saul died there; Saul and Jonathan were mighty warriors; they were united and swift; Israel's people should mourn Saul who provided for them; David loved Jonathan and was distressed at his death.)
6. Have the students read David's lament (2 Samuel 1:17-27) out loud, perhaps antiphonally, for example have the boys read one line and the girls read the next.
7. Are you actively praying for each of your local and national leaders? Do you pray for them to have the God-honoring and unifying type of leadership that David illustrated? Have students list specific things they can pray for the leaders of their country and encourage them to pray regularly for them. (Answers will vary.)
8. In what ways can our lives show that we are more concerned with God's honor than our own? Have you ever been more concerned with God's honor than your own? (Answers will vary.)
9. Sometimes we will encounter ungodly leaders. How can you show honor to God by honoring the office-holder? (Answers will vary.)
10. David's mourning over Saul indicates most fully how he recognized that Israel's king had fallen. He mourned for his nation as well as personally for his former mentor and best friend's father. This type of thinking protected David from sin and prepared him to have a servant-heart for effective leadership later. As a citizen, over what do you mourn on a regional or national level? What struggles or sorrows in your region or nation are you willing to pray over? (Answers will vary.)

DAY TWO

David was anointed king over Judah as Abner established Ish-bosheth over Israel.

SCRIPTURE

2 Samuel 2:1-32

After asking for guidance from the Lord, David and his family went back to the land of Israel, to Hebron, in Judah. "And David brought up his men who were with him, everyone with his household, and they lived in the towns of Hebron. And the men of Judah came, and there they anointed David king over the house of Judah" (2 Samuel 2:3-4). God had promised that David would be king over Israel. Now David was king over the tribe of Judah which was part of Israel, but not all of Israel. God's promise was beginning to be fulfilled.

In chapter 2 we see the third action of David in uniting the people under his rule. David remembered the loyalty of the people of Jabesh-gilead towards King Saul. At the beginning of his kingship, Saul had rescued this town from a violent Ammonite raider (1 Samuel 11:1-11). Now, forty years later, the people from Jabesh-gilead risked their lives to recover Saul's body from the Philistines and give him a proper burial in Israel. When David learned of this, he went out of his way to praise and thank these people, and to make a public declaration about them. "May you be blessed by the LORD, because you showed this loyalty to Saul your lord and buried him. Now may the LORD show steadfast love and faithfulness to you. And I will do good to you because you have done this thing" (2 Samuel 2:5-6). What was David doing? He was rewarding those who showed faithfulness and love for God's people. In this way, David encouraged the kind of behavior

that would be needed to unify Israel. Good leaders know what they are looking for in others, and they are quick to praise and reward godly behavior in their followers. David also proclaimed the type of godly leader he wished to be by rewarding such devotion to the Lord. He led by example and established the type of character the nation should possess. By doing this, he and the people from Jabesh-gilead promoted such behavior countrywide. David's actions upon becoming king of Israel model true spiritual leadership and show how God blesses Christ-like servant leadership.

Fourth, when David was made king over his own tribe of Judah, the tribes that had previously followed Saul made war against David. Abner, Saul's former general, put Saul's weak son, Ish-bosheth, on a throne and made him king over a large part of Israel (2 Samuel 2:8-11). In placing Ish-bosheth on the throne, Abner was virtually putting himself in charge. This was a very grave threat to David's plans to unite Israel. He had to protect his forces from this new enemy army, but he also had to fight in a way that would not stir up increased hatred among fellow Israelites in their battles against one another. It is not hard to imagine David spending long periods in prayer, seeking God's wisdom and help for this difficult situation. Having shown his faithfulness to God's Word, David's life also revealed him as a man who was faithful to talk to God in prayer. There can be little doubt that David not only consulted God's Word about what he was to do, but that he also spent time in prayer asking God's power to enable him to do it. This important truth is also highlighted in the first verse of this chapter where David inquired of the Lord. Before he ever made the first step toward the throne of Israel, David asked of God concerning his actions and the timing. This kind of yielding to God is the true measure of leadership.

During this time, Abner and David's general Joab engaged in representative combat. They had the young soldiers compete before them turning the battle between brother Israelites into a war game. The fierce combat led to many deaths and much hatred. Eventually the brother of Joab, Asahel, was slain by Abner. Many of Abner's men fell that day and several of David's as well. It was the beginning of a long and bitter campaign.

QUESTIONS

1. What was the first thing David did after mourning Saul's death? Have students find the verse. (David inquired of the Lord, that is, he prayed to ask God for guidance [2 Samuel 2:1].)
2. For what have you waited patiently? How does David's example encourage you as you persevere? (Answers will vary.)
3. Is prayer the first thing you think about when seeking direction? How can you make prayer the first thing you think about? (Answers will vary.)
4. Why did David praise the men of Jabesh-gilead? (He was rewarding those who showed faithfulness and love for God's people.)
5. What can we learn about being a good leader from David's example here? (Good leaders know what they are looking for in others and are quick to praise and reward godly behavior in their followers.)
6. Whose idea was it to put Ish-bosheth, Saul's son, on a throne? Have the students find the verse in the passage. (From 2 Samuel 2:8-11, we see that this was not God's plan. Abner, Saul's general, came up with that plan.)
7. For how long was David king in Hebron? (From 2 Samuel 2:11, David was king over the house of Judah, seven years and six months.)
8. How old was Ish-bosheth when he was put on a throne and how long did he rule? (He was forty years old and ruled two years [2 Samuel 2:10].)
9. In what situations do you need to spend more time asking for God's power and wisdom and listening to God's answers from His Word? (Answers will vary.)

10. Who, like the men of Jabesh-gilead, has shown kindness and honor to you or your family that was far beyond the norm? How did you thank them? (Answers will vary.)
11. During the Battle of Gibeon, Joab was not acting for David, even though he was David's commander of forces. Who do you sometimes represent poorly or without their authority? Do you sometimes represent Christ this way—pursuing your own will without His consent or command? (Answers will vary.)
12. When have you, like Joab, continued to pursue something even though you knew it was unwise? What consequences did it bring? (Answers will vary.)
13. Is a truce ever a good option? Over what things should you be willing to yield and over what should you never yield? (Answers will vary.)

DAY THREE

David mourned over the murder of Abner.

SCRIPTURE

2 Samuel 3:1-39

Chapter 3 begins with grim words: "There was a long war between the house of Saul and the house of David" (2 Samuel 3:1). This civil war began with a battle between Abner and David's general Joab at Gibeon. David's forces won the battle, but hatred grew when Abner slew Joab's brother. After a while, Abner grew tired of the war so he sent messengers to David asking for peace. Ish-bosheth had also accused Abner of seeking the throne by taking one of Saul's concubines. Abner retaliated against this assault on his loyalty to the house of Saul by promising to hand over all of Israel to David. All Abner wanted was for David to promise to treat him well, and Abner would lead the rebel tribes in surrender to David. David was eager to accept this offer because he wanted to avoid further bloodshed and hatred among Israelites. He and Abner made a covenant agreement and feasted together before the Lord in thanksgiving for the end of bitter rivalry between brothers. But Joab was angry when he learned of this agreement. Joab's desire for revenge had so clouded his judgment that he willingly questioned the judgment of the king! "What have you done?" he asked King David. He raised his voice against the Lord's anointed and then acted behind his back to provide his own sinful measure of justice. Joab personally pursued and murdered his enemy Abner (2 Samuel 3:26-27). David was furious, for not only had Joab sinned, but he had also harmed David's attempts to bring unity to the nation.

How did David overcome this great problem? First, we should observe that David had avoided participating in the battles against his fellow Israelites, so that his future subjects would not have reason to resent him personally. Second, David publicly rebuked Joab for murdering Abner, even though Abner had been his enemy and Joab was his relative and his chief general (2 Samuel 3:28-30). David wanted to show his former enemies that he could be trusted, and he wanted everyone to know that he would uphold God's Law. Third, David gave Abner a public funeral, at which he mourned for his former enemy and he ordered Joab to do the same (2 Samuel 3:31-39). Because of David's faithfulness and compassion, the hearts of Abner's followers were opened toward David and there was healing instead of hatred. "And all the people took notice of it, and it pleased them, as everything that the king did pleased all the people" (2 Samuel 3:36).

QUESTIONS

1. Since Saul was now dead, why was there civil war between the house of Saul and the house of David? (Saul's general, Abner, had put Ish-bosheth on the throne.)
2. Who finally asked for peace? (Abner asked for peace.)

3. What was David willing to do? (David brought Abner and his men to a feast, and they made a covenant of peace together.)
4. What are you willing to do to make peace with those who were formerly your enemies? (Answers will vary.)
5. Who was not happy about this agreement and what did he do about it? (Joab was not happy because Abner had killed his brother in the battle. Joab made a plan and secretly killed Abner.)
6. How did David show that he did not know about Joab's plan? (David mourned Abner's death and publicly rebuked Joab for it.)
7. Joab killed Abner unnecessarily. He did it to avenge his brother's death. His action might have continued a war that was essentially over because Abner had made peace with David. What long war over a "defeated foe" do you continue to fight? What temptation or struggle still has a grip on you even though you have surrendered it to Christ? (Answers will vary.)
9. When have you boldly spoken out against God's chosen authority? Did it bring you a curse or a blessing? (Answers will vary.)

DAY FOUR

Ish-bosheth was murdered and Saul's kingdom ended.

SCRIPTURE

2 Samuel 4:1-12

With the death of Abner, Saul's son Ish-bosheth was left without a general or a strong voice. Naturally he was now very afraid and all Israel was afraid. "When Ish-bosheth, Saul's son, heard that Abner had died at Hebron, his courage failed, and all Israel was dismayed" (2 Samuel 4:1). If David was going to conquer by force this would be the time to attack, but he did not. Indeed, during this time his concern was for Israel and her sorrow. He was leading the mourning for Abner rather than seeking an advantage from his death. However, others were less noble. When Ish-bosheth was left defenseless, some of his soldiers killed him and brought his head to David. They expected to be rewarded, but David pointed out that they had sinned against the Lord by committing murder. "As the LORD lives, who has redeemed my life out of every adversity, when one told me, 'Behold, Saul is dead,' and thought he was bringing good news, I seized him and killed him at Ziklag, which was the reward I gave him for his news. How much more, when wicked men have killed a righteous man in his own house. . ." (2 Samuel 4:9-10). David once again showed his justice and fairness by having these murderers hanged for their offense (2 Samuel 4:1-12). David understood that God had appointed and redeemed him, that nothing good in his life had come from his own scheming or efforts. His rewards and successes had come directly through obedience to God's commands. Despite adversity, struggle, and loss, the direction of David's life was toward God and therefore blessed. David's actions upon becoming king of Israel model true spiritual leadership and show how God blesses Christ-like servant leadership.

How can we summarize David's actions? We can identify three commitments David showed, which God blessed by uniting the nation under his rule. First, David put God's honor and God's will first. Where do we learn God's will? We learn it in the Bible. While we are not saved by keeping God's Law, but only through faith in Jesus Christ, Christians are then to honor God by obeying His Word. When David did this, people respected him and God blessed him. Second, David was fair, honest, and just. He did not have different rules for different people, including his family members and closest servants. Therefore, people could trust David as a ruler. Third, David treated individual people with love and compassion. Isn't this what God has done for us in Jesus Christ? Mark 1:41 says that Jesus was "moved with pity," so we can trust ourselves to Him. Likewise, Christian leaders should treat people with God's compassion and love. By doing this, we can gain

people's trust and loyalty in return.

QUESTIONS

1. What did Ish-bosheth think now that Abner was dead? (Ish-bosheth was afraid David would kill him.)
2. Who killed Ish-bosheth? (Two army captains came in while he was resting and killed him.)
3. Was David pleased by their actions as they thought he would be? (No, David was trusting God to make him king in God's own time.)
4. What did David say that showed he was trusting God? ("As the Lord lives, who has redeemed my life out of every adversity. . ." [2 Samuel 4:9].)
5. What did David do to the two men? (David had the two captains killed for murdering Ish-bosheth.)
6. What did this action show about David? (This action showed that David was more concerned with justice and fairness than in getting to the throne of Israel. It also showed that David was willing to wait on God's timing for him to be made king.)
7. Of whose misfortune or defeat have you sought to take advantage? (Answers will vary.)
8. Review verse 9. David fully declared that the Lord alone had redeemed his life out of every adversity. Do you ever take the credit for cleverness or strength that has saved you out of some mess? (Answers will vary.)
9. Review verse 1 where it states that Ish-bosheth's courage failed. What does this mean to you? Where does it suggest his courage was grounded? Where do you find your strength and courage? (Answers will vary.)

DAY FIVE

David was anointed as king over all of Israel and defeated the Philistines.

SCRIPTURE

2 Samuel 5:1-25

Because of David's leadership in chapters 1 – 4, his coronation as king over all Israel was joyfully accepted by the whole nation and the people came together as one. What a blessing is Christian unity (Psalm 133:1)! Are we surprised that David was able to lead his new army in victory over the Jebusites and capture a strong fortress (2 Samuel 5:1-9)? This was a very difficult and dangerous undertaking, but God's people responded bravely to David's trustworthy and God-honoring leadership. All tribes participated in this battle. Judah and Benjamin had previously been unable to hold Jerusalem. United, however, it became the capital for all Israel and a symbol of their collective might under God's great leadership. Israel grew in might and so did David. "And David knew that the LORD had established him king over Israel, and that he had exalted his kingdom for the sake of his people Israel" (2 Samuel 5:12). David had a clear understanding that these good things were from God for His own glory and for His people—nothing David earned or deserved. David merely benefited as Israel's servant-king.

David's actions in these chapters provide a model for all Christian leaders, whether they are leaders in the home, in the church, or in society. Most importantly, when we serve others in Christ-like servant leadership, God is pleased and He gives His blessing to our work. This happened both in David's attack on Jerusalem and in battle with the Philistines afterwards (2 Samuel 5:17-25). In 2 Samuel 5:10 we read, "David became greater and greater, for the Lord, the God of hosts, was with him." We need Christians, especially those in leadership, whose hearts are

pleasing to the Lord and whose actions honor God's Word, so that God's blessing will be on us today it was with David so long ago.

QUESTIONS

1. How old was David when he began to reign and for how long did he reign? Cite the chapter and verses. (2 Samuel 5:4-5; he was thirty years old and he reigned forty years in total. He reigned over Judah seven years and six months, then over a united kingdom of all Israel and Judah for thirty-three years, thus making a total of forty years.)
2. What three reasons did the tribes give for wanting David to rule over them? 1) They were "your bone and flesh," they were kindred as Israelites; 2) He had previously led them in and out militarily with great victory; 3) The LORD had appointed him to rule over them.)
3. What was the first thing David determined to do? (David put God's honor and God's will first. This is shown by his making a covenant with the tribes of Israel before the Lord [2 Samuel 5:3]. It shows his desire to honor God before men and to pursue His will before other things.)
4. Where do we learn God's will? (We learn God's will in the Bible.)
5. What was the second thing we learn from these passages that David determined to do? (David was fair, honest, and just. He did not have different rules for different people, including his family members and closest servants. For example, Joab was David's nephew and he rebuked Joab for his killing of Abner.)
6. What does being fair, honest, and just mean as a leader? (David could be trusted to do the right thing as a leader.)
7. What was the third thing we learn from these passages that David determined to do? (David treated individual people with love and compassion.)
8. What kind of godly leadership did David show that we also need today? (We need leaders whose hearts are pleasing to the Lord and whose actions honor God's Word, so that God's blessing will be on us today as it was with David so long ago.)
9. Review 2 Samuel 5:12. What good thing has your servant-heartedness brought from God? (Answers will vary.)
10. Review these first five chapters of 2 Samuel with the students. Have them summarize the events that demonstrated David's godly leadership. 1) 2 Samuel 1: David mourned the death of Saul and Jonathan showing his care and concern even for an enemy. He also demonstrated his willingness to wait God's time for what he was promised. 2) 2 Samuel 2: In praising the leaders of Jabesh-gilead, David showed good leadership. He was rewarding those who showed faithfulness and love for God's people. In that way, David encouraged the kind of behavior that would be needed to bring unity in Israel. 3) 2 Samuel 2: David inquired of the Lord over many decisions. 4) 2 Samuel 3: David welcomed the opportunity to make peace with Abner. When Joab killed Abner, David went out of his way to show that he had no part in that. 5) 2 Samuel 4: David again showed his willingness to wait on God's timing as he was unhappy with the killing of Ish-bosheth. 6) 2 Samuel 5: David again relied on God's wisdom, not just man's wisdom, as demonstrated with the phrase, "David inquired of the Lord" in pursuing battles with the Philistines. David also recognized that success comes from the Lord alone, as evidenced by the phrase, "The Lord has burst through my enemies before me like a bursting flood" [2 Samuel 5:20].)
11. Have the students write a one-page essay that explains how these events in David's life illustrate Christ as our king (the catechism) and true servant leadership (the doctrine).

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2 Samuel

SENIOR HIGH LESSON TEACHER'S GUIDE



PASSAGE

2 Samuel 1:1 – 5:25



MEMORY VERSE

“David knew that the Lord had established him king over Israel, and that he had exalted his kingdom for the sake of his people Israel” (2 Samuel 5:12).



HYMN

“The Church’s One Foundation,” Rafiki Hymnal



DOCTRINE

David’s actions upon becoming king of Israel model true spiritual leadership and show how God blesses Christ-like servant leadership.



CATECHISM

Question: How does Christ execute the office of a king?

Answer: Christ executes the office of a king, in subduing us to himself, in ruling and defending us, and in restraining and conquering all his and our enemies.

LESSON 1: DAVID UNITES ISRAEL UNDER HIS KINGSHIP



OUTLINE FOR THE WEEK

Day One

David mourned for Saul and Jonathan.

Scripture: 2 Samuel 1:1-17

Day Two

David lamented in song over the death of Saul and Jonathan.

Scripture: 2 Samuel 1:17-27; 2:1-7

Day Three

David was anointed king over Judah as Abner established Ish-bosheth over Israel.

Scripture: 2 Samuel 2:8-32

Day Four

Conflict between David and Ish-bosheth ended in David’s gradual reign over all Israel.

Scripture: 2 Samuel 3:1 – 4:12

Day Five

David was anointed as king over all of Israel and defeated the Philistines.

Scripture: 2 Samuel 5:1-25

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES

Timeline of the Kings

This week we add King David to our timeline. The year is 1010 B.C. Though 2 Samuel 2:10-11 suggest two parts to our timeline, we will use only one. God’s appointed kings will be on our classroom timeline. A note should be made, however, that Abner, rather than the Lord, anointed and appointed Ish-bosheth as king of the northern portion of Israel, while God established David over Judah. His illegitimate rule should be noted. These verses also tell us this was the case for two years and suggest that the united kingdom is still seven and one-half years away.

Update the classroom timeline.

Allow a few minutes for students to make notes and update the timelines in their notebooks.

Discuss the importance of David awaiting the Lord's timetable.

Discuss events that could be upcoming in the students' lives which should not be hurried ahead of God's schedule – for which they should also wait on God's timetable. (E.g. marriage)

Discuss David's concern for minimizing upset within the nation and trying to avoid civil war between the factions.

Discuss how these principles could apply to family life.

Joab and David

God provides characters, both good and bad, in the Scriptures, so that we may apply their life lessons to our own. David in particular is to be examined as the "man after God's own heart" that God specifically chose to picture in advance many qualities of Christ our King. Complete the following chart to compare and contrast the character of Joab to David.

Quality/ Event	Joab	David	Scripture
Exhibited honesty			
Showed regard for life			
Took revenge			
Murderous			
Prayerful			
Mourned			
Kept his word			
Gave glory to God			
Impulsive			
Showed regard for God's sovereignty			
Courageous			
Servant-hearted			

DAY ONE

David mourned for Saul and Jonathan.

SCRIPTURE

2 Samuel 1:1-17

The Book of 2 Samuel continues history from where 1 Samuel left off by telling the story of David's reign as king over Israel. 1 Samuel ended with the deaths of King Saul and his son Jonathan. This also ended David's long period of struggle against Saul's persecutions. Now that Saul was dead, the nation looked to David, and he faced the task of uniting the divided tribes under his rule as the new king. Chapter 5 shows David's coronation as king, but it was the important work he had done as we learn in chapters 1 – 4, that united the people under his rule. These chapters are rich in teaching for leaders today, and they also point forward to the kind of

life that Christians enjoy under our Lord Jesus Christ.

We may organize David's actions in five points: 1) He honored King Saul and upheld the sanctity of this God-anointed office (2 Samuel 1:1-18); 2) He showed compassion for Saul and Jonathan as people, reminding others that each individual (even an enemy) is precious before God (2 Samuel 1:19-27); 3) David gave public praise and support to those Israelites who set an example of faithfulness and self-sacrifice; 4) David brought peace by personally reconciling fellow Israelites who became enemies (2 Samuel 2:8 – 3:39); and 5) David upheld standards of justice and righteousness by punishing those who had sinned against his rival, Saul's son Ish-bosheth (2 Samuel 4:1-12). It is because of the leadership shown in chapters 1 – 4 that David's rise to power in chapter 5 succeeded in bringing unity and blessing to Israel. As a result of this unity and God's blessing to his obedience, David was able to lead the new nation in victory against its enemies.

2 Samuel begins with David's reaction to the news of King Saul's death. Remember that Saul was David's enemy, though David had never done Saul any wrong. So, we might expect David to rejoice over Saul's death. Instead, David sincerely mourned his death and was angry that an Amalekite should strike down the king of Israel. Israel's king was God's holy and anointed servant and no one—much less an unholy pagan—should ever lay a hand on him. David tore his clothes and went into mourning for Saul, and he ordered the execution of the man who had so thoughtlessly killed the king. It is interesting to consider at this point the question whether the Amalekite, who was a descendant of Esau, really killed Saul or came upon his body and plundered his belongings and hoped to gain favor by saying that he was responsible for his death. The reason for this question is that his story differs considerably from the account of Saul's death in 1 Samuel 31:4-5. David carried out justice by having the man killed, much to the Amalekite's surprise since he was trying to win favor with David. This account is very similar to one later, when someone trying to win favor with David killed Ish-bosheth (2 Samuel 4:1-12).

David's actions showed his followers that they must always look at people and events from God's perspective. The killing of Saul actually helped David, but David was concerned more for God's honor than for his own. David was mindful of our duty to God which included respecting even a wicked king like Saul when he was the Lord's anointed. Christians are to have the same attitude today for lawful authorities, even when they are evil. Paul wrote, *"Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and . . . whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed"* (Romans 13:1-2). Even wicked rulers who harm Christians are put in power by our sovereign God, so Christians should follow David's example of showing respect. How much more should Christians honor and obey godly leaders, especially in the church (Hebrews 13:17)!

QUESTIONS

1. Why did the Amalekite think David would be happy when he heard the news of Saul's death? (Saul was David's enemy and had been chasing David to kill him.)
2. Why was David so upset? (The Amalekite had lifted his hand to kill God's anointed.)
3. What did David do after King Saul's death that upheld the honor and sanctity of the divinely-anointed office of king (2 Samuel 1:1-2:7)? (David was free now to be king, yet he was grieved that Saul was dead. Instead of rejoicing over his death, he mourned his death and asked that others do so as well).
4. Why was it important for David's future reign as king that he respond in the way that he did to Saul's death? (He gained the respect of the people by showing that he believed human life was important. He showed compassion and mercy to others and this also caused him to be esteemed in the eyes of the people).
5. Read Romans 13:1-7 and 1 Peter 2:13-17.

6. According to these passages, give the reason that Christians should show respect and obey government leaders. (Christians should obey and respect the governing officials because they have been placed there by God. To disobey them is to disobey God and suffer His wrath).
7. State the specific commands given in these passages. Are they applicable to godless leaders as well as godly leaders? (Be subject to governing authorities and rulers; be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, emperor or governor. Live as people who are free and do not use it as an opportunity to cover evil. Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood, and fear God. Honor the emperor. These commands are applicable to godless as well as godly leaders).
8. Are you actively praying for each of your local and national leaders? Do you pray for them to have the God-honoring and unifying type of leadership that David illustrated? Have students list specific things they can pray for the leaders of their country and encourage them to pray regularly for them. (Answers will vary.)
9. In what ways can our lives show that we are more concerned with God's honor than our own? Have you ever been more concerned with God's honor than your own? (Answers will vary.)
10. Sometimes we will encounter ungodly leaders. How can you show honor to God by honoring the office-holder? (Answers will vary.)
11. David's mourning over Saul indicates most fully how he recognized that Israel's king had fallen. He mourned for his nation as well as personally for his former mentor and best friend's father. This type of thinking protected David from sin and prepared him to have a servant-heart for effective leadership later. As a citizen, over what do you mourn on a regional or national level? What struggles or sorrows in your region or nation are you willing to pray over? (Answers will vary.)

DAY TWO

David lamented in song over the death of Saul and Jonathan.

SCRIPTURE

2 Samuel 1:17-27; 2:1-7

We looked at the first action in the previous lesson where David upheld the sanctity of the God-anointed office and mourned for Saul. Next we see David's second action in the way that he grieved over Saul and his son Jonathan, who had been David's best friend. In 2 Samuel 1:17-27, there is a very moving poem that David recited, and it reveals that he honestly loved them as people. This poem was to be taught to all of Israel as a national song of remembrance. Again, David showed that his concern was not for himself but for God and His people. David did not commend Saul or speak of goodness, but Saul and Jonathan had been mighty, so David lamented (song or poem) them. He cared about them as individuals, and in a way he showed his followers the love of God even for his enemies. The Bible says that *"God shows his love for us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us"* (Romans 5:8). Jesus, himself taught us by saying, *"But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you"* (Luke 6: 27-28).

As David prepared to rule Israel, he showed personal compassion for people and encouraged others to unite with him because of the grace of God. Christian leaders today need to show the same love for individual people, treating them with respect and compassion because they are each precious to the Lord (James 2:1-10). Leaders should set an example in obeying Jesus, who said, *"By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another"* (John 13:35).

David's rise to his kingship was gradual. Things were in place for him to begin to reign, yet the

time for him to reign completely over all Israel had not yet come. David's kingship is similar to that of our Lord Jesus Christ in that Jesus is Lord and King now, yet at this point in time all things have not been put under Him as they one day will be.

Third, chapter 2 begins with a short passage remembering the loyalty of the people of Jabesh-gilead towards King Saul. At the beginning of his kingship, Saul had rescued this town from a violent Ammonite raider (1 Samuel 11:1-11). Now, forty years later, the people from Jabesh-gilead risked their lives to recover Saul's body from the Philistines and gave him a proper burial in Israel. When David learned of this, he went out of his way to praise and thank these people, and to make public declaration about them. What was David doing? He was rewarding those who showed faithfulness and love for God's people. In this way, David encouraged the kind of behavior that would be needed to unify Israel. Good leaders know what they are looking for in others, and they are quick to praise and reward godly behavior in their followers.

QUESTIONS

1. How did David show his sadness? (David sang a lament, or sad poem about the deaths of Saul and Jonathan.)
2. What did David say should be done with this lament (cite the verse)? Have the students summarize the main points of the lament. (The lament should be taught to the people of Judah, 2 Samuel 1:18; Saul's death should not be published in Philistia, among Israel's enemies; the mountains of Gilboa should have no rain because Saul died there; Saul and Jonathan were mighty warriors; they were united and swift; Israel's people should mourn Saul who provided for them; David loved Jonathan and was distressed at his death.)
3. Have the students read David's lament (2 Samuel 1:17-27) out loud, perhaps antiphonally, for example have the boys read one line and the girls read the next.
4. What was the first thing David did after mourning Saul's death? Have students find the verse. (David inquired of the Lord, that is, he prayed to ask God for guidance [2 Samuel 2:1].)
5. For what have you waited patiently? How does David's example encourage you as you persevere? (Answers will vary.)
6. Is prayer the first thing you think about when needing direction? How can you make prayer the first thing you think about? (Answers will vary.)
7. Why did David give praise to the men of Jabesh-gilead? (He was rewarding those who showed faithfulness and love for God's people.)
8. What can we learn about being a good leader from David's example here? (Good leaders know what they are looking for in others and are quick to praise and reward godly behavior in their followers.)
9. In what ways were we enemies of God before putting our faith in Jesus? Read Romans 5:6-8. (We were sinners away from and against God). How did God show love to His enemies? (God sent His Son while we were still sinners to die for those whom God would call to bring them near to God). How does this encourage us about God's love for us now that we are no longer His enemies but His beloved children through Jesus Christ? (We now are His children by adoption and brothers and sisters in Christ. There could be no greater expression of love than God has shown through the death of His only Son).
10. Why was it important for David to honor God's Word as he prepared to become Israel's king? (If David was to have a godly rule, initiated and empowered by God, he had to prepare to reign in the same way that he would actually reign). Where do we as Christians go to know what God wants us to do? (In His Word). How do we have the power to honor and obey God? (In obedience to His Word, empowered by the Holy Spirit).

11. How does godliness make leaders more effective? How does their example help those that they lead? (Godly leaders lead more effectively because they have drawn wisdom and power from God. The example of a godly leader can be a great source of change in the lives of his followers. James 3:17 says, *"But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason. . . full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere."* These words describe David completely; this is how he led. A leader that leads by a godly example is a teacher to those who follow).

DAY THREE

David was anointed king over Judah as Abner established Ish-bosheth over Israel.

SCRIPTURE

2 Samuel 2:8-32

Fourth, David brought peace by personally reconciling fellow Israelites who had become enemies (2 Samuel 2:8 – 3:39). When David was made king over his own tribe, the tribes that had previously followed Saul made war against David. Abner, cousin of Saul and his former general, did not want to follow God's appointed leader, so he put Ish-bosheth on the throne over a large part of Israel which caused tensions between Israel and the other tribes (2 Samuel 2:8-11). This was a very grave threat to David's plans to unite Israel because this caused a natural opposition between the part of Israel that David ruled, Judah, and the rest of Israel that recognized Ish-bosheth as their leader. He had to protect his forces from this new enemy army, but he had to fight in a way that would not stir up increased hatred among fellow Israelites in their battles against one another. It is not hard to imagine David spending long periods in prayer, seeking God's wisdom and help for this difficult situation. David sought the Lord about where to begin his kingship and unlike Saul who asked the Lord and did not receive answers (1 Samuel 28:6), God directed David step-by-step. Having shown his faithfulness to God's Word, David's life also revealed him as a man who was faithful to talk to God in prayer. James M. Boice writes: "Prayer is our talking to God; the Scriptures are God's talking to us, and the two always go together" (*Acts*, p.88, 1977). There can be little doubt that David not only consulted God's Word about what he was to do, but that he also spent time in prayer asking God's power to enable him to do it.

With both men in place in their positions of rule, the stage was set for the future conflict that would take place. David's general and leader of his army was Joab, and Ish-bosheth's general was Abner. Although the kings were on their thrones, these generals wielded a great deal of power because of their leadership over the military actions of each tribe.

QUESTIONS

1. Whose idea was it to put Ish-bosheth, Saul's son, on a throne? Have the students find the verse in the passage. (From 2 Samuel 2:8-11, we see that this was not God's plan. Abner, Saul's general, came up with that plan.)
2. For how long was David king in Hebron? (From 2 Samuel 2:11, David was king over the house of Judah, seven years and six months.)
3. How old was Ish-bosheth when he was put on a throne and how long did he rule? (He was forty years old and ruled two years [2 Samuel 2:10].)
4. David sought God in prayer and in His Word. Read Proverbs 2:1-10 and James 1:5. What do you learn about wisdom from these passages? (We learn that we ask God for wisdom and He gives it. To have wisdom from God is to have knowledge and understanding. It is a shield and pleasant to the soul. It gives discretion, knowledge, rejoicing, and understanding). From where do we receive wisdom and how is it received? (We receive wisdom from God and from

His Word because we ask and seek His wisdom).

5. For what situations do you need to spend more time asking for God's power and wisdom, and listening to God's answers from His Word? (Answers will vary.)
6. During the Battle of Gibeon, Joab was not acting for David even though he was David's commander of forces. Who do you sometimes represent poorly or without their authority? Do you sometimes represent Christ this way—pursuing your own will without His consent or command? (Answers will vary.)
7. When have you like Joab continued to pursue something even though you knew it was unwise? What consequences did it bring? (Answers will vary.)
8. Is a truce ever a good option? Over what things should you be willing to yield and over what should you never yield? Provide verses from Scripture to back up your answer. (Answers will vary.)
9. David treated even his enemies in such a way that it would not stir up conflict among others. What do the following verses teach about how we are to treat our enemies? Read Matthew 5:43-44 and Romans 12:20. (We are to love our enemies and pray for them. If our enemy is hungry we should feed him and if he is thirsty we should give him a drink of water).

DAY FOUR

Conflict between David and Ish-bosheth ended in David's gradual reign over all Israel.

SCRIPTURE

2 Samuel 3:1 – 4:12

Chapter 3 begins with grim words: *"There was a long war between the house of Saul and the house of David"* (2 Samuel 3:1). The civil war began with a battle between Abner and David's general Joab at Gibeon. David's forces won the battle, but hatred grew when Abner slew Joab's brother, Asahel (2 Samuel 2:23). During this time, David's forces grew stronger and stronger, while Saul's grew weaker and weaker. Also, during this time six sons were born to David. After a while Abner grew tired of the war so he sent messengers to David asking for peace. All Abner wanted was for David to promise to treat him well, and Abner would lead the rebel tribes in surrender to David. Abner also wanted to be on the victorious side. This would lead to the transfer of not just Judah to David, but the land from Dan to Beersheba. David was eager to accept this offer, because he wanted to avoid further bloodshed and hatred among the Israelites. But Joab was angry when he learned of this agreement, so he pursued and murdered his enemy, Abner (2 Samuel 3:26-27). David was furious, for not only had Joab sinned, but he had also harmed David's attempts to bring unity to the nation.

How did David overcome this great problem? First, we should observe that David avoided participating in the battles against his fellow Israelites, so that his future subjects would not have reason to resent him personally. Second, David publicly rebuked Joab for murdering Abner, even though Abner had been his enemy and Joab was his relative and chief general (2 Samuel 3:28-30). David wanted to show his former enemies that he could be trusted, and he wanted everyone to know that he would uphold God's Law. Third, David gave Abner a public funeral, at which he mourned and instructed all the people to mourn for his former enemy, and he ordered Joab to do the same (2 Samuel 3:31-39). The way David acted and felt about Abner's death turned the tide of public opinion and helped pave the way for his reigning over all Israel. Because of David's faithfulness and compassion, the hearts of Abner's followers were opened toward David and there was healing instead of hatred.

David's fifth and final action was when Ish-bosheth was left defenseless; some of his soldiers

killed him and brought his head to David. They expected to be rewarded, but David pointed out that they had sinned against the Lord by committing murder. David once again showed his justice and fairness by having these murderers hanged for their offense (2 Samuel 4:1-12). David's actions were so different from those than might have been expected. It is apparent that David gained his wisdom from his close relationship with the Lord, and it was that wisdom that governed his actions.

QUESTIONS

1. Since Saul was now dead, why was there civil war between the house of Saul and the house of David? (Saul's general, Abner, had put Ish-bosheth on the throne.)
2. Who finally asked for peace? (Abner asked for peace.)
3. What was David willing to do? (David brought Abner and his men to a feast and they made a covenant of peace together.)
4. What are you willing to do to make peace with those who were formerly your enemies? (Answers will vary.)
5. Who was not happy about this agreement and what did he do about it? (Joab was not happy because Abner had killed his brother in the battle. Joab made a plan and secretly killed Abner.)
6. How did David show that he did not know about Joab's plan? (David mourned Abner's death and publicly rebuked Joab for it.)
7. David mourned the death of his enemy, King Saul, as well as the enemy general, Abner. Why is it important for Christians, especially Christian leaders, to treat every person as precious to God and to love each as an individual? (Man is made in the image of God and therefore precious to God. Every person is a person to whom the gospel can be presented in the hope that he will receive Christ.) How would David's actions cause the people to trust him as their king? (David's actions were just and righteous before the people. He exhibited wisdom in those actions and that wisdom came from God. David exhibited the wisdom and actions of a leader).
8. Joab killed Abner unnecessarily. He did it to avenge his brother's death. His action might have continued a war that was essentially over because Abner had made peace with David. What long war over a "defeated foe" do you continue to fight? What temptation or struggle still has a grip on you even though you have surrendered it to Christ? (Answers will vary.)
9. Read Jesus' parable of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10:25-37. Compare and contrast the response of the Good Samaritan with that of the priest and Levite. How does this challenge us in our attitude toward others in need? (The challenge is to become aware of and care about those in need, not to be apathetic. To become involved is to show mercy. To meet the need, regardless of whom that person is, not to be prejudiced).

DAY FIVE

David was anointed as king over all of Israel and defeated the Philistines.

SCRIPTURE

2 Samuel 5:1-25

Because of David's leadership in chapters 1 – 4, his coronation as king over all Israel was joyfully accepted by the whole nation and the people came together as one. What a blessing is Christian unity (Psalm 133:1)! Are we surprised that David was able to lead his new army in victory over the Jebusites and capture a strong fortress (2 Samuel 5:1-9)? This was a very difficult and dangerous undertaking, but God's people responded bravely to David's trustworthy and God-honoring

leadership. All tribes participated in this battle. Judah and Benjamin had previously been unable to hold Jerusalem. United, however, it became the capital for all Israel and a symbol of their collective might under God's great leadership. Israel grew in might and so did David. *"And David knew that the LORD had established him king over Israel, and that he had exalted his kingdom for the sake of his people Israel"* (2 Samuel 5:12). David had a clear understanding that these good things were from God for His own glory and for His people—nothing David earned or deserved. David merely benefited as Israel's servant-king.

We can identify three commitments David showed, which God blessed by uniting the nation under his rule. First, David put God's honor and God's will first. Where do we learn God's will? We learn it in the Bible. While we are not saved by keeping God's Law, but through faith in Jesus Christ, Christians are then to honor God by obeying His Word. When David did this, people respected him and blessed him. Second, David was fair, honest, and just. He did not have different rules for different people, including his family members and closest servants. Therefore people could trust David as a ruler. Third, David treated individual people with love and compassion. Isn't this what God has done for us in Jesus Christ? Mark 1:41 says that Jesus was *"moved with pity,"* so we can trust ourselves to Him. Likewise, Christian leaders should treat people with God's compassion and love. By doing this, we gain people's trust and loyalty in return.

David's actions in these chapters provide a model for all Christian leaders, whether they are leaders in the home, in their school, in the church, or in society. Most importantly, when we serve others in Christ-like servant leadership, God is pleased and He gives His blessing to our work. This blessing was present both in David's attack on Jerusalem and in the battle with the Philistines afterwards (2 Samuel 5:17-25). 2 Samuel 5:10 says, *"David became greater and greater, for the LORD, the God of hosts, was with him."* We need Christians, especially those in leadership, whose hearts are pleasing to the Lord and whose actions honor God's Word, so that God's blessing will be on us today as it was with David so long ago.

QUESTIONS

1. How old was David when he began to reign and for how long did he reign? Cite the chapter and verses. (2 Samuel 5:4-5; he was thirty years old and he reigned forty years in total. He reigned over Judah seven years and six months, then a united kingdom all Israel and Judah, thirty-three years thus making a total of forty years.)
2. What three reasons did the tribes give for wanting David to rule over them? 1) They were *"your bone and flesh,"* they were kindred as Israelites; 2) He had previously led them in battles with great victory; 3) The Lord had appointed him to rule over them.)
3. What was the first thing David determined to do? (David put God's honor and God's will first. This is shown by his making a covenant with the tribes of Israel before the Lord [2 Samuel 5:3]. It shows his desire to honor God before men and to pursue His will before other things.)
4. What was the second thing we learn from these passages that David determined to do? (David was fair, honest, and just. He did not have different rules for different people, including his family members and closest servants. For example, Joab was David's nephew and he rebuked Joab for his killing of Abner.)
5. What was the third thing we learn from these passages that David determined to do? (David treated individual people with love and compassion.)
6. Considering David's godly leadership, what would that type of leadership look like today? How would your community change if we had leaders like this? (Answers will vary.)
7. Review 2 Samuel 5:12. What good thing has your servant-heartedness brought from God? (Answers will vary.)

8. Review these first five chapters of 2 Samuel with the students. Have them summarize the events that demonstrated David's godly leadership. 1) 2 Samuel 1: David mourned the death of Saul and Jonathan showing his care and concern even for an enemy. He also demonstrated his willingness to wait on God's timing for what he was promised. 2) 2 Samuel 2: In praising the leaders of Jabesh-gilead, David showed good leadership. He was rewarding those who showed faithfulness and love for God's people. In that way, David encouraged the kind of behavior that would be needed to bring unity in Israel. 3) 2 Samuel 2: David inquired of the Lord over many decisions. 4) 2 Samuel 3: David welcomed the opportunity to make peace with Abner. When Joab killed Abner, David went out of his way to show that he had no part in that. 5) 2 Samuel 4: David again showed his willingness to wait on God's timing as he was unhappy with the killing of Ish-bosheth. 6) 2 Samuel 5: David again relied on God's wisdom, not just man's wisdom, as demonstrated with the phrase, "David inquired of the Lord" in pursuing battles with the Philistines. David also recognized that success comes from the Lord alone, as evidenced by the phrase, "*The Lord has burst through my enemies before me like a bursting flood*" [2 Samuel 5:20].)
9. Have the students write a one-page essay that explains how these events in David's life illustrate Christ as our King (the catechism) and true servant leadership (the doctrine).
10. David gained favor in the eyes of the people because of his actions. Those actions were the fruit of a relationship with the Lord. Read James 3:18; Galatians 5:22; and Philippians 1:11 which speak of the fruit of a Christian's life. Read John 13:35 and John 15:8 which speak of the reason we bear fruit. Read 1 Peter 2:9-12. Why should we live a godly life before a watching world? (We are told in 1 Peter that we are a chosen race, we belong to God, and it is for this reason that we live, to proclaim the excellencies of Christ by our lives. At one time we were not a people who had been shown mercy; we now are a people who have been shown mercy. We are not citizens of this country and we should live in such a way that, while we are here, others may see our good deeds and glorify God).
11. David exhibited servant leadership. What do you learn about servant leadership from Matthew 20:25-27; Galatians 5:13; and 1 Peter 5:1-4? (A servant leader is a leader who serves out of a heart of love for his fellow man. He leads willingly and eagerly and not for personal gain. He does not put himself above others. He is an example to those who have been entrusted to him by God. He serves for the glory of God and for the reward that God Himself will one day give).

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2 Samuel

ADULT LESSON

PASSAGE

2 SAMUEL 1:1 – 5:25

MEMORY VERSE

“DAVID KNEW THAT THE LORD HAD ESTABLISHED HIM KING OVER ISRAEL, AND THAT HE HAD EXALTED HIS KINGDOM FOR THE SAKE OF HIS PEOPLE ISRAEL” (2 SAMUEL 5:12).

DOCTRINAL FOCUS

DAVID’S ACTIONS UPON BECOMING KING OF ISRAEL MODEL TRUE SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP AND SHOW HOW GOD BLESSES CHRIST-LIKE SERVANT LEADERSHIP.

CATECHISM

QUESTION: HOW DOES CHRIST EXECUTE THE OFFICE OF A KING?
ANSWER: CHRIST EXECUTES THE OFFICE OF A KING, IN SUBDUING US TO HIMSELF, IN RULING AND DEFENDING US, AND IN RESTRAINING AND CONQUERING ALL HIS AND OUR ENEMIES.

LESSON 1: DAVID UNITES ISRAEL UNDER HIS KINGSHIP

Read 2 Samuel 1:1 – 5:25.

The Book of 2 Samuel carries on from where 1 Samuel left off by telling the story of David’s reign as king over Israel. 1 Samuel ended with the deaths of King Saul and his son Jonathan. This also ended David’s long period of struggle against Saul’s persecutions. Now that Saul had died, the nation looked to David, and he faced the task of uniting the divided tribes under his rule as the new king. Chapter 5 shows David’s coronation as king, but it was the important work he did in chapters 1 – 4 that united the people under his rule. These chapters are rich in teaching for leaders today, and they also point forward to the kind of saving rule that Christians enjoy under our Lord Jesus Christ.

We may organize David’s actions in five points: 1) he honored King Saul and upheld the sanctity of this God-anointed office; (2 Samuel 1:1-18); 2) he showed compassion and love for Saul and Jonathan as people, reminding others that each individual (even an enemy) is precious before God (2 Samuel 1:19-27); 3) David gave public praise and support to those Israelites who set an example of faithfulness and self-sacrifice; 4) David brought peace by personally reconciling fellow Israelites who had become enemies (2 Samuel 2:8 – 3:39); and 5) David upheld standards of justice and righteousness by punishing those who had sinned against his rival, Saul’s son Ish-bosheth (2 Samuel 4:1-12). It is because of the leadership shown in chapters 1 – 4 that David’s rise to power in chapter 5 succeeded in bringing unity and blessing to Israel. As a result of this unity and God’s blessing on his obedience, David was able to lead the new nation in victory against its enemies.

First, 2 Samuel begins with David’s reaction to the news of King Saul’s death. Remember that Saul was David’s enemy, though David had never done Saul any wrong. So we might expect David to rejoice over Saul’s death. Instead, David was angry that an Amalekite should strike down the king of Israel. Israel’s king was God’s holy and anointed servant and no one—much less an unholy pagan—should ever lay a hand on him. David tore his clothes and went into mourning for Saul, and he ordered the execution of the man who had so thoughtlessly killed the king.

David’s action showed his followers that they must always look at people and events from God’s perspective. The killing of Saul actually helped David, but David was concerned more for God’s honor than for his own. David was mindful of our duty to God, which included respecting even a wicked king like Saul when he was the Lord’s anointed. Christians are to have the same attitude today for lawful authorities, even when they are evil. Paul wrote, *“Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and . . . whoever resists the authorities*

resists what God has appointed” (Romans 13:1-2). Even wicked rulers who harm Christians were put in power by our sovereign God, so Christians should follow David’s example of showing them respect. How much more should Christians honor and obey godly leaders, especially in the church (Hebrews 13:17)!

Second, David grieved over Saul and his son Jonathan, who had been David’s best friend. 2 Samuel 1:17-27 is a very moving poem that David recites, and it reveals that he honestly loved them as people. Again, David shows that his concern is not for himself but for God and his people. Saul and Jonathan had been mighty, so David laments them. He cared about them as individuals, and in this way he showed his followers the love of God even for his enemies. The Bible says that “*God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us*” (Romans 5:8). As David prepared to rule Israel, he showed personal compassion for people and encouraged others to unite with him because of the grace of God. Christian leaders today need to show the same love for individual people, treating them with respect and compassion because they are each precious to the Lord. Leaders should set an example in obeying Jesus, who said, “*By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another*” (John 13:35).

Third, chapter 2 begins with a short passage remembering the loyalty of the people of Jabesh-gilead towards King Saul. At the beginning of his kingship, Saul had rescued this town from a violent Ammonite raider (1 Samuel 11:1-11). Now, forty years later, the people from Jabesh-gilead risked their lives to recover Saul’s body from the Philistines and give him a proper burial in Israel. When David learned of this, he went out of his way to praise and thank these people, and to make a public declaration about them. What was David doing? He was rewarding those who showed faithfulness and love for God’s people. In this way, David encouraged the kind of behavior that would be needed to unify Israel. Good leaders know what they are looking for in others, and they are quick to praise and reward godly behavior in their followers.

Fourth, when David was made king over his own tribe of Judah, the tribes that had previously followed Saul made war against David. Abner, Saul’s former general, put Saul’s weak son, Ish-bosheth, on a throne and made him king over a large part of Israel (2 Samuel 2:8-11). This was a very grave threat to David’s plans to unite Israel. He had to protect his forces from this new enemy army, but he also had to fight in a way that would not stir up increased hatred among fellow Israelites in their battles against one another. It is not hard to imagine David spending long periods in prayer, seeking God’s wisdom and help for this difficult situation. Having shown his faithfulness to God’s Word, David’s life also revealed him as a man who was faithful to talk to God in prayer. James M. Boice writes, “Prayer is our talking to God; the Scriptures are God’s talking to us, and the two always go together” (88). There can be little doubt that David not only consulted God’s Word about what he was to do, but that he also spent time in prayer asking God’s power to enable him to do it.

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How did David overcome this great problem? First, we should observe that David had avoided participating in the battles against his fellow Israelites, so that his future subjects would not have reason to resent him personally. Second, David publicly punished Joab for murdering Abner, even though Abner

had been his enemy and Joab was his relative and his chief general (2 Samuel 3:28-30). David wanted to show his former enemies that he could be trusted, and he wanted everyone to know that he would uphold God's Law. Third, David gave Abner a public funeral, at which he mourned for his former enemy and ordered Joab to do the same (2 Samuel 3:31-39). Because of David's faithfulness and compassion, the hearts of Abner's followers were opened toward David and there was healing instead of hatred.

Finally, when Ish-bosheth was left defenseless, some of his soldiers killed him and brought his head to David. They expected to be rewarded, but David pointed out that they had sinned against the Lord by committing murder. David once again showed his justice and fairness by having these murderers hanged for their offense (2 Samuel 4:1-12).

How can we summarize David's actions? We can identify three commitments David showed, which God blessed by uniting the nation under his rule. First, David put God's honor and God's will first. Where do we learn God's will? We learn it in the Bible. While we are not saved by keeping God's Law, but only through faith in Jesus Christ, Christians are then to honor God by obeying his Word. When David did this, people respected him and God blessed him. Second, David was fair, honest, and just. He did not have different rules for different people, including his family members and closest servants. Therefore, people could trust David as a ruler. Third, David treated individual people with love and compassion. Isn't this what God has done for us in Jesus Christ? Mark 1:41 says that Jesus was "*moved with pity*," so we can trust ourselves to him. Likewise, Christian leaders should treat people with God's compassion and love. By doing this, we can gain people's trust and loyalty in return.

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David's actions in these chapters provide a model for all Christian leaders, whether they are leaders in the home, in the church, or in society. Most importantly, when we serve others in Christ-like servant leadership, God is pleased and he gives his blessing to our work. This happened both in David's attack on Jerusalem and in battle with the Philistines afterwards (2 Samuel 5:17-25). 2 Samuel 5:10 says, "*David became greater and greater, for the LORD, the God of hosts, was with him.*" We need Christians, especially those in leadership, whose hearts are pleasing to the Lord and whose actions honor God's Word, so that God's blessing will be on us today as they were with David so long ago.

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Boice, James M. *Acts*. Baker, 1997, p. 88.

Day Three

1. What did David do after King Saul's death that upheld the honor and sanctity of the divinely-anointed office of king (2 Samuel 1:1-2:7)? Why was it important for David's future reign as king that he respond in the way that he did to King Saul's death?
2. Read Romans 13:1-7 and 1 Peter 2:13-17. According to these passages, what is the reason that Christians should show respect and give obedience to government leaders? Identify specific commands given in these passages. Are they applicable to godless leaders as well as to godly ones?
3. What are some practical ways that Christians can glorify God by showing respect and giving obedience to government leaders? In your setting, what are practical ways in which you can glorify God by being a godly and submissive citizen or subject?

Day Four

1. In what ways were we enemies of God before putting our faith in Jesus? Read Romans 5:6-8. How did God show love to his enemies? How does this encourage us about God's love for us now that we are no longer his enemies but his beloved children through Jesus Christ?
2. Why was it important for David to honor God's Word as he prepared to become Israel's king? Is it necessary for Christians today to obey God? Where do we learn what God wants us to do? How do we gain the power to honor and obey the Lord?
3. How does godliness make leaders more effective? What should Christians in leadership do in order to be godly and to seek the Lord's blessing?

Day Five

1. Our study of David's leadership noted that David mourned over his enemy, King Saul, as well as for the enemy general, Abner. Why is it important for Christians—and especially Christian leaders—to treat people as individuals who are precious before God and to love every single person? How did David encourage the Israelites to trust him as their king because of the way he honored Saul and Jonathan, rewarded the people of Jabesh-gilead, and mourned for Abner?
2. In Genesis 9:6, God forbids murder on the grounds that “*God made man in his own image.*” According to this verse, even after Adam fell into sin, mankind still bears God's image. What is it about human beings that makes us especially valuable so that God commands that human life and dignity be preserved?
3. Read Jesus' parable of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10:25-37. Notice specific things that the Good Samaritan did to show mercy to the man in need, and notice specific things the religious Jew did that denied him mercy. How does this challenge us in our attitude toward others in need?

Days Six and Seven—For the Staff Meeting

1. Sing “The Church's One Foundation,” *Rafiki Hymnal*.
2. As he prepared to be made king over all of Israel, David dedicated himself to unifying the people. Why was unity so important to David's kingdom? Why is unity so important to any Christian organization today? What can you do to avoid division and to promote unity?
3. Read Ephesians 2:13-16. How does the blood of Christ enable all Christians to enjoy peace with one another? Read Ephesians 4:1-7. Identify specific ways that you can “*maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace*” (Ephesians 4:3).
4. The passage shows ways that David overcame the bitter divisions among the Israelites, including the following: 1) honoring his enemies; 2) praising those who promoted faithfulness and unity; 3) personally reconciling enemy factions; and uniting all of the tribes in an important mission (the conquest of Jerusalem). How might these apply to your situation, and how can you follow David's example?

2 SAMUEL LESSON 1: DAVID UNITES ISRAEL UNDER HIS KINGSHIP

PASSAGE:

2 Samuel 1:1 – 5:25

MEMORY VERSE:

“David knew that the LORD had established him king over Israel, and that he had exalted his kingdom for the sake of his people Israel” (2 Samuel 5:12).

DAY ONE: READ 2 SAMUEL 1:1-27.

Principle/Lessons: David loved Saul and Jonathan and is grieved by their deaths. An Amalekite comes and testifies to killing Saul, and David has him killed for “killing the Lord’s anointed.”

Questions: What do we learn from David about the government authorities God has allowed to rule?

DAY TWO: READ 2 SAMUEL 2:1-32.

Principle/Lessons: David was king over Judah but not all of Israel. There were still wars between the houses of David and Saul. David seeks wisdom and direction from God as he seeks to unite Israel.

Questions: What were some of the problems David faced in uniting Israel?

DAY THREE: READ 2 SAMUEL 3:1-39.

Principle/Lessons: Abner wants to make peace with David and Israel. David is eager to accept this offer, but Joab wants to exact vengeance and kills Abner. David mourns publicly to bring healing and peace.

Questions: How did Joab trick Abner so he could kill him? Why did Joab want Abner to suffer?

DAY FOUR: READ 2 SAMUEL 4:1-12.

Principle/Lessons: Two of David’s army captains kill Saul’s son Ish-bosheth, taking vengeance into their own hands even when God had said not to kill him. David was trusting God to take care of him.

Questions: Was David pleased with the action of the two men? Why or why not? What did David do to these two men?

DAY FIVE: READ 2 SAMUEL 5:1-25.

Principle/Lessons: David is anointed King of Israel, and he puts God’s honor and will first. He is fair, honest, and just and treats people with love and compassion. God is with David.

Questions: How long did David reign as King of Israel, and was he able to unite the Kingdom?

DEVOTIONAL POINTS:

Because of David’s leadership in chapters 1-4 of 2 Samuel, his coronation as king over all Israel was joyfully accepted by the whole nation and the people came together as one. When we serve others in Christ-like leadership, God is pleased and gives his blessing to our work. We see this in the obstacles David overcomes to unite Israel. 2 Samuel 5:10 says, *“David became greater and greater, for the Lord, the God of hosts, was with him.”* Christians whose hearts are pleasing to the Lord and whose actions honor God’s Word are needed today in Christian leadership. God’s blessing will be on them and their work.

CATECHISM:

Question: How does Christ execute the office of a king?

Answer: Christ executes the office of a king, in subduing us to himself, in ruling and defending us, and in restraining and conquering all his and our enemies.

HYMN:

The Church's One Foundation

Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. Eph. 2:20

1. The church - 's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ, her Lord;
2. E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,
3. Though with a scorn - ful won - der men see her sore op - pressed,
4. The church shall nev - er per - ish! Her dear Lord to de - fend,

she is his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the Word:
her char - ter of sal - va - tion one Lord, one faith, one birth;
by schis - ms rent a - sun - der, by her - e - sies dis - tressed,
to guide, sus - tain, and cher - ish, is with her to the end;

from heav'n he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride;
one ho - ly name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food,
yet saints their watch are keep - ing, their cry goes up, "How long?"
though there be those that hate her, and false sons in her pale,

with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.
and to one hope she press - es, with ev - 'ry grace en - dued.
And soon the night of weep - ing shall be the morn of song.
a - gainst or foe or trai - tor she ev - er shall pre - vail.

5. 'Mid toil and tribulation,
and tumult of her war,
she waits the consummation
of peace forevermore;
till with the vision glorious
her longing eyes are blest,
and the great church victorious
shall be the church at rest.

6. Yet she on earth hath union
with God the Three in One,
and mystic sweet communion
with those whose rest is won:
O happy ones and holy!
Lord, give us grace that we,
like them, the meek and lowly,
on high may dwell with thee.

Samuel J. Stone, 1866

AURELIA 7.6.7.6.D.
Samuel S. Wesley, 1864

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