



Turning Lost Students into Christ-Centered Laborers

## DAVID'S REIGN • The Way a Kingdom Should Look

### What Do I Need to Know About the Passage?

2 Samuel 8:1-10:19

When God gave the Israelites their wish and crowned Saul king, God knew that the Israelites were in for quite a wake-up call. The kingdom under Saul was in shambles. The one delightful thing was David's continued faithfulness to God, Saul and the people. The Israelites hoped this would transfer over to David's kingship. David has been king for a while, and our narrative now shifts to focus on David's military prowess and his kindness to an unworthy descendent of Saul.

God works through David in these chapters to display what a kingdom should look like. This is supposed to be a faint whisper of what God's kingdom will look like under Jesus. Just as David conquers enemies and wins battles, so Jesus conquers sin, evil and death to win salvation for God's people. Pray that your group sees the glory of God, as the hero who raises up David to bring the Israelite kingdom back to prominence, and that He also raises up His Son Jesus to be the ultimate King in the greatest kingdom the world has ever known.

#### David's Victories in Battle (8:1-14)

The primary theme of this chapter is that God gives David victory wherever he goes. That's what we read in verses 6 and 14. This is a bloody chapter as thousands of men perish at the hands of David. Despite the victories and fame he collected, David remains humble and continues to honor the Lord. When Joram, son of king Toi, comes to David and offers him articles of silver, gold and bronze, David dedicates them to the Lord. God has been so gracious and merciful to David (unlike he was with Saul) and David's response is fitting and proper. Your group should notice two things: 1) God is in control of David's victories and fame. 2) David does not let all this go to his head; he loves God and continues to give praise to Him. We should strive to be like David in that we should recognize God's sovereignty over every situation and give Him the glory due His name.

#### David's Mercy on Mephibosheth (9:1-13)

As powerful as David is, he could strike down anyone he wanted for even looking at him the wrong way. David doesn't do this, though. He actually wants to find someone who is still left from Saul's family so he can bless him! This is evidence enough that the Lord is working in David's life. Ziba, one of Saul's servants, tells David that Mephibosheth still remains. Mephibosheth is lame in both feet, for he was dropped as a child (2 Sam. 4:4). When you read this chapter, you might get the sense that David is giddy to bless Mephibosheth.

### What's the Big Idea?

After revealing His presence and promises to David, God works through David's reign to express what his reigning kingdom looks like. David is a type of Christ, as God's king to the people of Israel, so this passage displays the victory, justice, righteousness and grace of David's kingdom and it points toward the perfection of these qualities in Jesus' kingdom.

### What's the Problem?

Because we doubt God's plan, we do not submit to His will and kingship in our lives and trust ourselves for victory and justice instead.



That's because he is! David proclaims that Mephibosheth will always eat at the king's table. Mephibosheth asks, "What is your servant, that you should show regard for a dead dog such as I?"

This is such a beautiful picture of what God does for His children. We are undeserving dogs who are sinful to the core. "But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ – by grace you have been saved" (Eph. 2:4-5; see Rom. 5:8). God did not wait for us to heal our own lame feet. He rushed to us in the person of Jesus Christ and gave Himself up for us. Encourage your group to delight in God for inviting undeserving people to His table that we might dine with Him forever.

#### More Victories for David (10:1-19)

Chapter 10 begins with a royal death. The king of the Ammonites dies and David, wishing to be compassionate and courteous, sends his regards to the king's son. The king of the Ammonites had been loyal to David and David wanted to continue the cordial friendship with the next king, Hanun, but Hanun has other plans. When David's servants arrive to give his condolences, Hanun captures them and has their beards shaved half off (a major sign of disgrace) and he cuts off their garments at their hips. When David gets word of this, he prepares for battle again. The Ammonites, fearing David's power, hire some Arameans to fight with them. They are quite ready to fight David, but the Ammonites could have even had Chuck Norris on their side and it wouldn't have mattered.

As the chapter comes to a close, Joab and Abishai battle against the Arameans and Ammonites respectively. Both armies fled to Jerusalem, where David was waiting for them. David still seeks the Lord, so God continues to build him up and give him victory after victory. David and his men killed over 40,000 Arameans that day along with their commander. The battle went so poorly for the Arameans that they were afraid to fight with the Ammonites anymore (v. 19)!

#### Conclusion

These three chapters show us a lot about David and God. First, they show that David, though given so much power and fame as king, does not turn against the Lord and seek his own. He wants the name of the LORD to be revered and loved and delighted in. Second, these chapters show God as faithful, powerful and sovereign over all that David does. He promised to make David the deliverer of His people, and the kingdom of Israel is finally starting to look the way it was designed to be. With your group, praise God for delivering His people from defeat and destruction and that He has already given us King Jesus that we might be able to submit to His kingdom and rule in our lives and world.

#### What's Our Response?

We should submit to God's kingdom in our lives and in the world.

## What Are the Questions?

2 Samuel 8:1-10:19

### LAUNCH

If you could be president of the United States, what would be your top priorities?

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### EXPLORE

Read 2 Samuel 8.

1. What is the theme of this chapter?
2. In what way is this chapter a fulfillment of God's promise to David in 7:11?
3. What do verses 6 and 14 say about the key to David's victories?
4. What does verse 15 say about the tenure of David's kingdom?
5. Think about a challenging situation you're facing. How does the certain victory of Christ's kingdom as expressed in David's reign give you hope in what you're facing?

Read 2 Samuel 9.

6. What moves David to action at the beginning of this chapter?
7. What does Mephibosheth seem to expect as he enters David's presence and why?

8. In what ways does David show kindness to Mephibosheth?

9. The author mentions twice that Mephibosheth is lame in both feet (verses 3 & 13). Why do you think he emphasizes this detail?

Read 2 Samuel 10.

10. What fuels David's actions toward Hanun at the start of this chapter?
11. What happens when David's men show up to offer Hanun the king's condolences?
12. What happens next in verse 6?
13. How do David and his commander Joab respond when this enemy comes against them?
14. How does the battle end?

### APPLY

15. Read Psalm 2. How does this Psalm express God's victories through David in 2 Samuel 8 and 10 and look forward to the victory of David's greater Son, Jesus Christ?
16. Read Romans 5:6-10 and Romans 8:32. What parallels do you see between the way David treats Mephibosheth in 2 Samuel 9 and the way God's King, Jesus, treats us as His people?
17. What differences do you envision in your life as you internalize the truth that God lavishes grace on you the same way that David lavished it on Mephibosheth, even in the face of the "lameness" you see in your life?
18. In what ways do you see this grace transforming the lives of the people around you as God works through you to expose them to it?

## What Are the Answers?

1. David achieving victory over his enemies.
2. God is working to give David rest from his enemies.
3. The LORD is helping David wherever he goes.
4. He administered justice and righteousness for all the people.
5. Allow the group to discuss.
6. He wants to know if there's anyone left of Saul's house to whom he may show kindness for Jonathan's sake.
7. He seems to expect David to kill him since he is a descendant of the previous king.
8. He restores to him all the land his grandfather Saul had owned, has him eat at his table regularly and enlists Ziba and his servants to care for his land.
9. It shows the character of David's kingdom and leadership. He's a ruler who elevates even the lowliest of his kingdom in faithfulness to his promise to Jonathan.
10. He wants to show kindness to him the same way that Hanun's father had shown kindness to David.
11. Hanun's advisers suggest that David's men come with evil motives, so Hanun rejects their condolences and humiliates them.
12. Once Hanun realizes that he's made himself a stench in David's nostrils by the way he treated his men, he gathers his army and hires the Arameans to join in fighting against David.
13. David sends Joab and the whole army into action. Joab divides his forces to fight the enemy, which comes at them from two directions.
14. David's forces soundly beat both armies and the Arameans make peace with David and serve him.
15. This Psalm shows that although nations will rage against God's kingdom, God will defeat them handily, expressed both through David's victories and ultimately through the victory of his Son.
16. Just as David lavishes grace on Mephibosheth because of his relationship to Jonathan, so also God lavishes grace on us as His people because of our relationship with Jesus.
17. Allow the group to discuss.
18. Allow the group to discuss.

## Memorize

And David said to [Mephibosheth], "Do not fear, for I will show you kindness for the sake of your father Jonathan, and I will restore to you all the land of Saul your father, and you shall eat at my table always."

2 Samuel 9:7