

Foundations Devotional

• FOR THE WEEK OF NOV 22 - NOV 28 •

MONDAY // 2 SAMUEL 1; 2:1-7

In 1 Samuel 16, God chose David to replace Saul as king. After years of tension, wars, Saul's downfall, and David's patience, the time for David to take over the throne finally arrived. However, that time in David's life was not particularly joyful, for it was marked with grief over the deaths of Saul and Jonathan. David sang a lament to express his sadness, and that same lament became part of the nation's collective grieving for the loss of their king. David's lament marks a transition in the narrative from Saul's life to David's, which remains the focus for the rest of 2 Samuel. When the time of mourning for Saul and Jonathan was over, David asked the Lord to show him what to do next—a question that revealed his reliance upon God and his desire to live out his calling as God's anointed ruler. There is no question that David would be a much different king than Saul was and that David is the one whose obedience we should seek to emulate.

TUESDAY // 2 SAMUEL 3:1; 5; PSALM 23

David's rise to power was not without conflict between those loyal to him and those who were still loyal to Saul, but David was God's chosen leader. Soon after he became king, David attacked the Jebusites, a clan of the Canaanites, which marked a continuation of God's covenant instructions to take control of the promised land. David took control of the city of Jerusalem, but another war with the Philistines soon followed. Before responding to the Philistine threat, David sought God's guidance, which led to another victory. David realized that the source of His success was the Lord. God had been preparing David through both favorable and difficult circumstances to be the king of Israel, and His concern for His people was evident through David's actions. Second Samuel 5:10 notes an important truth that weaved throughout David's life: "David became more and more powerful, for the LORD God of Hosts, was with him." David recognized that God's presence and power were at the root of his success. No matter what David went through, he acknowledged that God was his Shepherd who would always be by his side. As David reminds us, God has promised to do whatever it takes to lead, guide, and protect us, and the very cross of Christ assures us that He will do just that.

WEDNESDAY // 2 SAMUEL 6-7

As one of his first actions after acquiring Jerusalem and making it his capital, David moved the ark of the covenant to the city. God's laws contained specific instructions for carrying the Ark, but the men moving it failed to follow all of the instructions, and one man died as a result. The setback caused David to reconsider his plans, and also opened his eyes to the holiness of God. After a three-month delay, he finally completed moving the ark to Jerusalem. Next, David planned a temple to house the ark, but God stopped him in the process. Even though David's motive was good, his desire was not in line with God's purpose or timetable. Construction on the temple would have to wait another generation. God did, however, make an eternal covenant with David that promised his kingdom would endure forever. The New Testament writers help us understand that the promises of the covenant with David were ultimately fulfilled in Jesus Christ, our eternal King (Acts 2:22-36).

THURSDAY // PSALM 18; 2 SAMUEL 9

One of the highlights of David's friendship with Jonathan was the time when Jonathan helped protect David from Saul's wrath. In response, David made a promise with Jonathan to always show kindness to Jonathan's descendants. Now, as king, David had the chance to make good on that promise by giving Mephibosheth—Jonathan's crippled son—all of Saul's remaining property, inviting him to live under the protection of the palace. Jonathan had shown grace to David, so David extended that same grace to Mephibosheth. David's understanding of the character of God, as described in Psalm 18, motivated the love and grace he showed Mephibosheth. This story from David's time as king gives us an incredible illustration of the gospel in action. God has extended His grace to us by inviting us into His family through the salvation available in Christ. Once we accept God's gift of grace and become His children, He expects us to reflect His love and grace to the world in return.

FRIDAY // 2 SAMUEL 11-12

Second Samuel 11-12 tells the infamous account of David's adultery with Bathsheba, as well as the sinful actions and devastating consequences that followed. While David was God's anointed king whom God described as a man after His own heart, he was still very human with fully human temptations and desires. David had an affair with Bathsheba, a woman who was married to a man in David's army. The affair led to a pregnancy, which David attempted to cover up. When the cover-up didn't go as David planned, David had Bathsheba's husband murdered in battle, which highlights the destructive pattern of sin David was trapped in. David tried to keep his sin a secret, but God used the prophet Nathan to expose David's sin and move him toward confession and repentance. This story highlights the devastating consequences of sin in our lives and our relationships, but it also reveals the great lengths God goes to in order to bring us back to Him. Ultimately, this story is a reminder that while David was a great king, Jesus is the true and better King whose sinless, perfect life makes our own victory over sin possible.

WEEKEND // FINISH UP ANY YOU DIDN'T DO