

## STUDY GUIDE: DAVID THE GREAT

King David, the second king of Israel, is a very diversified and complicated individual. He lived some 3,000 years ago. His most famous title is “a man after God’s own heart.” This title is very interesting, if not even confusing, when you consider many of the choices David made. Two important questions for us to consider as we discuss the life of David is, “Why is he called a man after God’s own heart,” and “How can we be considered the same?”

God’s initial call on David’s life is first recognized when the prophet Samuel visits the home of David to anoint a new king under the instruction of God. Of all the sons of Jesse, David seemed the most unlikely candidate. 1 Samuel 16:7 tells us God doesn’t look at the outward appearance but at the heart.

How do we often misjudge when we look on outward appearances? Discuss a time when you misjudged someone, or you were misjudged by others.

David had various talents that reflected both a softer side and rougher side. What are some things David did that reflect his softer, or more sensitive side?

What are things he did, or accomplished that reflected his tougher side?

How can one be used of God with either of these two demeanors? Which of these sides do you feel reflects who you are?

David made a lot of good choices, but he also made several horrible choices. How do the bad choices he made make you feel about decisions you have made?

Some of the bad decisions David made involved his own family. Why is it often difficult to see clearly how to make good decisions when it comes to our own family? What would help us make better decisions?

The primary question of this week’s message is how could David be considered a man after God’s own heart and yet make so many bad choices. Dr. Rutland pointed us to Psalm 51 as an answer. Read together and discuss the elements of this song David wrote about himself and how they reflect a heart after God. How can we apply the same attitude in our own lives?