



## **RCD Youth Dust to Glory - #15 David**

David is the only individual in Scripture who is declared to be a man after God's own heart. This most famous king of Israel was a brave warrior, a passionate poet, a musician, a prosperous king. Yet this mighty man of God was also an adulterer, a murderer, and a distant father. Despite his complexities and contradictions, David never loses his heart for repentance.

### **SCRIPTURE**

2 Samuel

### **DISCUSSION**

1. Identify the chief characteristics in the life of David.
2. Contrast the lives of Saul and David.
3. Explain the designation of David as a man after God's own heart.

### **OBSERVATIONS**

1. David's name is taken up as a title for Jesus, "son of David."
2. David was the original Renaissance man with many dimensions and many contradictions.
  - a. David was among many Old Testament characters that are full of passions that lead them to the heights of glory and the depths of corruption.
3. The reign of Saul ended in ignominy, defeat, and embarrassment.
  - a. David lamented the deaths of Saul and Jonathan in 2 Samuel 1:17–27.
  - b. David grieved the death of the man who relentlessly sought to murder him.
4. David was a child prodigy who demonstrated great gifts and faith at a young age.

- a. He killed a lion and a bear while shepherding his father's flock.
  - b. He was indignant against Goliath the Philistine for mocking God and the armies of Israel.
  - c. He convinced King Saul to let him fight Goliath.
  - d. He entered battle with only a sling, five stones, and the Lord.
  - e. Goliath mocked David as a dog and blasphemed his God.
  - f. David replied that Goliath comes with human weapons, but he comes with the Lord of hosts.
  - g. David slayed Goliath and became an instant hero to the people of Israel.
5. David was one of the greatest warriors of the Old Testament.
- a. He lived as a fugitive from King Saul in the wilderness.
  - b. David led a group of mighty men, gathered the outcasts and disenchanteds of society around him as a marauding band of warriors.
  - c. At times he was a vicious and cruel guerilla fighter.
  - d. David was called "a man after God's own heart."
6. David had the heart of a poet and musician.
- a. The poet laureate of Israel wrote many of the psalms, revealing his deep longing for intimacy with God.
  - b. He was invited to the palace to play the lyre and calm the evil spirit within the tortured soul of Saul.
  - c. David composed music for the court and the worship of Israel.
  - d. David was the supreme symbol of kingship in the Old Testament.
  - e. He won a brutal civil war against the supporters of Saul's family and is revealed as God's choice for Israel's king.
7. The golden age of Israel was during the Davidic monarchy.
- a. David conquered the surrounding nations, extended Israel's boundaries from Dan to Beersheba, and began a period of great prosperity in Israel.

- b. David was a very capable administrator and skillful diplomat.
  - c. He established his capital at Jerusalem, the “city of peace.”
8. David was also an extraordinary sinner.
- a. He was blinded by his lust for Bathsheba and committed adultery with her.
  - b. David ordered the death of her husband, Uriah the Hittite.
  - c. He took Bathsheba as his wife after murdering Uriah.
  - d. Nathan the prophet confronted David with his sin through a parable.
  - e. David promised vengeance against that evildoer in his kingdom.
  - f. Nathan responded by saying, “Thou art the man!”
9. David was exceptional at repentance.
- a. Repentance was the key difference between David and Saul.
  - b. David was deeply aware of his spiritual bankruptcy and need for God’s grace.
  - c. He composed Psalm 51 to lay himself bare before a holy God and show that he truly was a man after God’s own heart.

### **APPLICATION**

1. David loved his enemy Saul and grieved his death. Do you find it hard to love those who hate you? What can you do to show love towards those specific individuals who are causing you difficulty?
2. When Nathan told his parable, David quickly pointed out the sin of another person before he noticed his own. Are we prone to take more notice of the sins of others than we are of our own? How can we be sure to first take the log out of our own eye before we take the speck out of the eye of another person (Luke 6:41–42)?
3. Read Psalm 51 and discuss how we can appropriate it for use in our own repentance.
4. How does David anticipate Christ’s teaching, that we are to love our enemies (2 Sam. 1:17–27)?

5. Read 1 Samuel 17. What is David most concerned to promote in his battle against Goliath? What qualities does he display that indicate he will be a fit king for Israel?
6. Fill in the blanks: Although David was a great and mighty \_\_\_\_\_, he also had the heart of a \_\_\_\_\_ and a \_\_\_\_\_ as seen in his composition of song and verse. David was also called a man after \_\_\_\_\_ own heart.
7. What book of the Bible contains a large number of David's own written compositions?
8. Who was the most well known prophet who prophesied during the days of David (2 Sam. 7:1–3)?
9. What is the key difference between David and Saul?
10. How could David be called a man after God's own heart if he was guilty of murder and adultery?