



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF EDMOND

DAVID

THE SHEPHERD KING



STUDY GUIDE

“David: The Shepherd King”

Sermon Series pt. 2

There are a few people in the Bible whose story is monumental, robust, layered and complicated as David's. Pulled from the field watching his father's flock as a skinny-armed, beautiful boy he defeated a giant in battle depending upon the Lord. He showed amazing trust on God on the run from a jealous King and was called a man after God's own heart but, yet when he was king he sinned in the grievous way. Finally no one's name is more closely identified with Jesus than David. As we look at his story, we see shades of Jesus and our story too. Join us at First Presbyterian Church of Edmond as Lead Pastor Eric Laverentz walks us through an extensive sermon series looking at that looks at the life of David—the shepherd of God's people who wore a crown.

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- 1** SHARE who you are
- 2** CARE for one another
-
- 3** READ and PRACTICE scripture
- 4** PRAY together
-
- 5** INVEST in people
- 6** SERVE community
- 7** CREATE and SEND leaders

NEW LIFE,
through **JESUS,**
for **EDMOND**
and the **WORLD.**

Lesson 8: Shepherd of the Lord

Then all the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron and said, "Behold, we are your bone and flesh. In times past, when Saul was king over us, it was you who led out and brought in Israel. And the LORD said to you, 'You shall be shepherd of my people Israel, and you shall be prince 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. David was thirty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned forty years. At Hebron he reigned over Judah seven years and six months, and at Jerusalem he reigned over all Israel and Judah thirty-three years. And the king and his men went to Jerusalem against the Jebusites, the inhabitants of the land, who said to David, "You will not come in here, but the blind and the lame will ward you off"—thinking, "David cannot come in here." Nevertheless, David took the stronghold of Zion, that is, the city of David. And David said on that day, "Whoever would strike the Jebusites, let him get up the water shaft to attack 'the lame and the blind,' who are hated by David's soul." Therefore it is said, "The blind and the lame shall not come into the house." And David lived in the stronghold and called it the city of David. And David built the city all around from the Millo inward. And David became greater and greater, for the LORD, the God of hosts, was with him.

2 Samuel 5:1-10

1. Do you have a special place that feels like home to you? What is it? What makes it feel like home? Why do you think the Lord places feelings of home in our heart? Does feeling have anything to do with feeling safe?
2. Does what the people of Israel said to David remind you of any other statements of unity in God's Word? (1 Samuel 5:2, Genesis 2:23) What kind of close connection are the people of Israel expressing to David here and why is it so important? Was David initially king of Israel and Judah or just Judah alone? (1 Samuel 2:10) Why is unity among God's people so important? (John 17:23)
3. Why do you think that when the Lord speaks of David's and Saul's kingship, he calls David "Prince" of his people rather than king? (2 Samuel 5:2, 1 Samuel 10:1) Is this just a language game or there something more

going on here? Why would the Lord call the anointed leader a 'prince'? Who was their true king? (**1 Samuel 8:7**)

4. How many years did David reign in total? David changed his capital city from Hebron in Judah to Jerusalem on the border of Judah and Israel, why was that move important for his leadership and what does it teach us about being a good leader? How does Jesus demonstrate this for us in a grand way? (**John 1:9**) Why is it important that leaders are not separate from their people?

5. What does it mean to say, "David became greater and greater?" (**2 Samuel 5:10**) Who was making him greater? What was the Lord's interest in making David greater? (**2 Samuel 7:9-16**) Do we understand what greatness really is? (**Matthew 20:26-28**) How does Jesus demonstrate and redefine greatness for us?

NEXT STEPS

Take the step of showing someone who you know is in need what it is to feel at home. Give them a place that feels like a safe stronghold even if it is only for a couple of hours. Share what you did with your small group.

Lesson 9: Outrageous Joy

As the ark of the Lord came into the city of David, Michal the daughter of Saul looked out of the window and saw King David leaping and dancing before the Lord, and she despised him in her heart. And they brought in the ark of the Lord and set it in its place, inside the tent that David had pitched for it. And David offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before the Lord. And when David had finished offering the burnt offerings and the peace offerings, he blessed the people in the name of the LORD of hosts and distributed among all the people, the whole multitude of Israel, both men and women, a cake of bread, a portion of meat, and a cake of raisins to each one. Then all the people departed, each to his house.

And David returned to bless his household. But Michal the daughter of Saul came out to meet David and said, "How the king of Israel honored himself today, uncovering himself today before the eyes of his servants' female servants, as one of the vulgar fellows shamelessly uncovers himself!" And David said to Michal, "It was before the LORD, who chose me above your father and above all his house, to appoint me as prince over Israel, the people of the LORD—and I will celebrate before the LORD. I will make myself yet more contemptible than this, and I will be abased in your eyes. But by the female servants of whom you have spoken, by them I shall be held in honor." And Michal the daughter of Saul had no child to the day of her death.

2 Samuel 6:16-23

1. What is something that gives you incredible joy? Is this something that builds you and others up? Is it something you can share? What do our joys and pains say about us? How much joy do you have in the Lord?
2. What was the occasion of joy for David? (2 Samuel 6:16) Why was this important? Where had the ark been? (2 Samuel 6:1-4) What was the purpose of the ark and what did it represent? (Exodus 25:10-22) What happened when the Philistines stole the ark and put it in their temple? (1 Samuel 5)
3. What happened when a man reached out to steady the ark so it didn't fall? (2 Samuel 6:5-8) Why do you think this made David angry? Was he justified? What does it say about David's relationship with the Lord that

he could be upset with Him? How do the Psalms express this disappointment with God? (**Psalm 35:17-18, 22-25**) Do you think the Lord prefers us to be disappointed or dispassionate with Him? What does anger suggest in a relationship?

4. Why do you think David shared food with all the people when the ark arrived in Jerusalem? (**2 Samuel 6:18-19**) Why do you think David wanted to involve everyday people in the celebration of the ark being brought home? Do you think something gives us authentic joy if we don't want to share it with others? What does the Bible say is our strength? (**Nehemiah 8:10**) What do you think gives the Lord joy?

5. Why was Michal upset with David? (**2 Samuel 6:14-15,20**) How did David respond to her anger? (**2 Samuel 6:21-23**) Do you think this was the only reason she was upset or was there more her anger? (**2 Samuel 3:1-6**) What number wife was Michal? (**1 Samuel 18:17-18**) Why was it critical for David's rise to becoming king that he marry Saul's daughter? Did she love David? (**1 Samuel 18:20**) Do you think this love made her more or less angry with David? Why is it important for David's royal line that Michal had no children after this day?

NEXT STEPS

Do something that you believe will give the Lord joy. Take note of how this feels. Did this thing also give you joy?

Lesson 10: An Everlasting Kingdom

But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, "Go and tell my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD: Would you build me a house to dwell in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent for my dwelling. In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?"' Now, therefore, thus you shall say to my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel. And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son. When he commits iniquity, I will discipline him with the rod of men, with the stripes of the sons of men, but my steadfast love will not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you. And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.' In accordance with all these words, and in accordance with all this vision, Nathan spoke to David.

2 Samuel 7:4-17

1. Have you ever had a desire to do a great thing for God? What was it? Did you do it or did God seem to have other plans? How did those other plans work out? Were they greater? Why or why not?
2. What did David want to build for the Lord? (*2 Samuel 7:1-3*) What was David's logic? Does this sound right to you or not? Was the prophet Na-

than doing his job by quickly endorsing David's plan? What was missing from his discernment and how did he quickly correct it? (**Ephesians 6:18**, **2 Samuel 7:4**) Are you ever tempted to proceed without asking the Lord His will? Why?

3. Why was it so important for Nathan to have the courage to reverse his counsel and come back to David? Does it sound like the Lord desired a permanent home? Why or why not? (**2 Samuel 7:6-8**) What is God really after? (**Matthew 9:13**) What was David presuming when he sought to build the Temple for the Lord? Why is it often unwise to presume God's will? (**Isaiah 55:8-9**)

4. How does God begin to share with David the fullness of His plan to build a house for David? (**2 Samuel 7:8-9**) Why is God's history with someone important? What does our history with God demonstrate? (**Psalm 119:89-90**) Is your history with God encouraging to you? Why or why not? Why can we count on God's consistent work for our life? (**Hebrews 13:8**)

5. What did the Lord promise to do for His people? (**2 Samuel 7:10-11**) What does this promise mean? Where do you believe that place to be? Why is the promise to "protect Israel from violent men" so important? What does the Lord promise to do for David? (**1 Samuel 7:11-12, 16**) What is significant about the Lord's approach to David's son when he sins? (**1 Samuel 7:13-15**) How does this resemble God's love for us? (**Romans 8:37-39**) Are we part of David's 'house'? Why? How?

NEXT STEPS

Commit a plan that you are passionate about to prayer. It could be something big or something small. See what the Lord with your plan when you lay at His feet. Did the vision expand or did the Lord change it somehow?

Lesson 11: How to Repent

And the LORD sent Nathan to David. He came to him and said to him, "There were two men in a certain city, the one rich and the other poor. The rich man had very many flocks and herds, but the poor man had nothing but one little ewe lamb, which he had bought. And he brought it up, and it grew up with him and with his children. It used to eat of his morsel and drink from his cup and lie in his arms, and it was like a daughter to him. Now there came a traveler to the rich man, and he was unwilling to take one of his own flock or herd to prepare for the guest who had come to him, but he took the poor man's lamb and prepared it for the man who had come to him." Then David's anger was greatly kindled against the man, and he said to Nathan, "As the LORD lives, the man who has done this deserves to die, and he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity." Nathan said to David, "You are the man! Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel..."

2 Samuel 12:1-7

1. How do you define repentance? What does repentance look like? Can repentance be something that is partial or makes an excuse? Is repentance merely a confession of sin or error? Does it also mean living differently?
2. Where did David's problems begin? (**2 Samuel 11:1-2**) Why do you think David was not out to battle with his armies? Where was David spending his afternoon? Why was this a problem? (**Ecclesiastes 10:18**) How could David have stopped from sinning after noticing Bathsheba? What did he do instead? (**2 Samuel 11:3-4**) How many wives did David have already? (**1 Chronicles 3:1-3**) What does this tell us about David's state of mind at this time?
3. How did David attempt to hide Bathsheba's pregnancy? (**2 Samuel 11:6-13**) Why did this plan fail? (**2 Samuel 11:11**) What should David have done at this point? What did he do instead? (**2 Samuel 11:14-15**) Why is covering up our sin usually such a disaster? What does the Bible promise about things that done in the darkness? (**Luke 8:16-17**) Does this verse encourage, convict, or disturb you? How does David's response to Uriah's

death in battle seem particularly cold and evil? (**2 Samuel 11:22-25**)

4. What did David and Bathsheba do as soon as her mourning period was over? (**2 Samuel 11:26-27**) What are the ominous words with which this part of the story ends? (**2 Samuel 11:27**) If something displeases the Lord, what can we count upon Him doing? (**Proverbs 24:17-20, Hosea 14:9**) What does the fact that Nathan knew all about David's sin demonstrate? What does this suggest about David's power as king and confirm about Samuel's warning about kings? (**1 Samuel 8:10-18**)

5. How much courage did it take for Samuel to confront a king with so much power? What does God command us about having the courage to follow His will? (**Joshua 1:7**) What do you notice about David's repentance? (**2 Samuel 12:13**) What did David do next? (**2 Samuel 12:15-20**) Does David seem quick to return to 'normal' life after his fasting? Why could he return so quickly? What does that tell us about David's confidence in God's grace?

NEXT STEPS

Read Psalm 51, first quickly and then slowly. Ask the Lord to show you a place in your life where you need to repent and seek His forgiveness. Share this with someone and ask them to hold you accountable.

Lesson 12: Between Heaven and Earth

After this Absalom got himself a chariot and horses, and fifty men to run before him. And Absalom used to rise early and stand beside the way of the gate. And when any man had a dispute to come before the king for judgment, Absalom would call to him and say, "From what city are you?" And when he said, "Your servant is of such and such a tribe in Israel," Absalom would say to him, "See, your claims are good and right, but there is no man designated by the king to hear you." Then Absalom would say, "Oh that I were judge in the land! Then every man with a dispute or cause might come to me, and I would give him justice." And whenever a man came near to pay homage to him, he would put out his hand and take hold of him and kiss him. Thus Absalom did to all of Israel who came to the king for judgment. So Absalom stole the hearts of the men of Israel.

2 Samuel 15:1-6

1. Reflect on a very challenging conflict you had with someone. Was this conflict a by-product of something else or did it just arise on its own? How did it end? Looking back can you see ways that you could have resolved the conflict earlier and with less damage? Are we in conflict with the Lord? Why should we be? Why aren't we? (**Romans 5:10**)
2. What was the source of Absalom's controversy with his father David? (**2 Samuel 13:30-38**) Why did David not punish his son Absalom for murdering his half-brothers? Did Absalom learn any tactics from his father? (**2 Samuel 13:28-29**) How have David's sins come back to haunt him with this controversy? Is this common? (**Deuteronomy 5:9-10**)
3. How did Absalom appeal to the people of Israel and build his support? (**2 Samuel 15:1-6**) Did the support for Absalom look anything like the people's support for David decades earlier when Saul was king? (**1 Samuel 18:16**) Were the people fickle or is this simple human nature or was David not doing his job? Why would David's reign as king suddenly not be very effective? What does David's ignorance of Absalom's conspiracy suggest? Why would David be distracted and unaware?
4. Why did David flee from Jerusalem rather than stay and fight? (**2 Sam-**

uel 15:13-17) How is this different than the David we previously knew? (1 Samuel 30:9-10) To where did David flee for safety? (2 Samuel 16:13-14) Where did Absalom go when David left Jerusalem? (2 Samuel 16:15) What vile act did Absalom do to establish his reign? (2 Samuel 16:20-23) How was this different than David's approach to becoming king? (1 Samuel 24:4-7)

5. What was Absalom's fatal mistake? (2 Samuel 17:5-14) How did the Lord save David? Why is this counsel we receive so important and to whom should we look to for counsel? (Psalm 1:1-6) Does the verbiage around Absalom's death remind you of anyone? (2 Samuel 18:9-15, Galatians 3:13) What was David's reaction to his Absalom's death? (2 Samuel 18:31-33) Was this justified? How did Joab react to David's sorrow and grief? (2 Samuel 19:1-8) Was Joab correct?

NEXT STEPS

Read Psalm 3, first quickly and then slowly. Ask the Lord to show you a place in your life where you are running in fear. Ask the Lord to act on your behalf and defeat your enemy. Share this prayer with someone.

Lesson 13: An Eternal Altar

And Gad came that day to David and said to him, "Go up, raise an altar to the LORD on the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite." So David went up at Gad's word, as the LORD commanded. And when Araunah looked down, he saw the king and his servants coming on toward him. And Araunah went out and paid homage to the king with his face to the ground. And Araunah said, "Why has my lord the king come to his servant?" David said, "To buy the threshing floor from you, in order to build an altar to the LORD, that the plague may be averted from the people." Then Araunah said to David, "Let my lord the king take and offer up what seems good to him. Here are the oxen for the burnt offering and the threshing sledges and the yokes of the oxen for the wood. All this, O king, Araunah gives to the king." And Araunah said to the king, "May the LORD your God accept you." But the king said to Araunah, "No, but I will buy it from you for a price. I will not offer burnt offerings to the LORD my God that cost me nothing." So David bought the threshing floor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver. And David built there an altar to the LORD and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings. So the LORD responded to the plea for the land, and the plague was averted from Israel.

2 Samuel 24:18-25

1. Name something about you or your life that makes you proud. What is it about this thing that causes you to feel this way? Is there anything in your life you are tempted to count and number? What is it? Are you in danger this thing become a point of pride that would separate you and God? What is the difference between being proud and having pride?
2. What initiated this episode of the Lord disciplining David? (2 Samuel 24:1-2) What did Joab say to discourage David from conducting the census? (2 Samuel 24:3) Why was the census something David should not do? What was he falling victim to? (Jeremiah 9:23) Does this story remind you of a parable of Jesus'? Why or why not? (Luke 12:13-21) What happened to the man in Jesus' parable?
3. Did David's commanders count all the people in Israel? Why not? (1 Chronicles 21:4-6) Was there anything else Joab could have done? What do you think caused David to suddenly repent of his census? (2 Samuel

24:10) Did David hedge, wait to repent or explain himself to the Lord? How is this consistent with his words in Psalm 51:3-6? Does our repentance confession ever contain an explanation of our sin?

4. What three choices did the Lord offer David for discipline? (**2 Samuel 24:12-14**) What was the choice for discipline? Does this seem fair to you or not? Why would the deaths of 70,000 people be a fit punishment? When and why did the Lord relent from his punishment? (**2 Samuel 24:16-17**) What was David's response to this?

5. What did the Lord command David to do through Gad? (**2 Samuel 24:18**) How did David respond? (**2 Samuel 24:19**) Why did David insist on paying Araunah for the threshing floor? (**2 Samuel 24:22-25**) How was the purchase of a threshing floor to become a place of sacrifice and offerings connected to God staying the angel's hand? (**2 Samuel 24:25**) Do we know where Araunah's threshing floor is today? What was there? (**2 Chronicles 3:1**) What other event happened at the top of Mount Moriah? (**Genesis 22:1-2**) How is this event connected to the temple?

NEXT STEPS

Do something this week that humbles you. It may be serving someone or taking on menial task or even confessing something that is on your heart. Share with your small group what you have done.

Lesson 14: From God for God

Therefore David blessed the Lord in the presence of all the assembly. And David said: "Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of Israel our father, forever and ever. Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours. Yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as head above all. Both riches and honor come from you, and you rule over all. In your hand are power and might, and in your hand it is to make great and to give strength to all. And now we thank you, our God, and praise your glorious name. "But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able thus to offer willingly? For all things come from you, and of your own have we given you. For we are strangers before you and sojourners, as all our fathers were. Our days on the earth are like a shadow, and there is no abiding. O Lord our God, all this abundance that we have provided for building you a house for your holy name comes from your hand and is all your own.

1 Chronicles 29:10-16

1. To whom do you credit the good things in your life? Do you credit family? Teachers? Friends? Yourself? How much credit do you give to God? Why or why not? Where do you think your blessings come from if not from God?
2. What is the context for this passage? For what is David preparing to happen? (1 Chronicles 29:1-5) Why do you think providing for the Jerusalem temple to be built was so important for David? (2 Samuel 7:1-3) What was the purpose of the temple? Where was the temple built? Why was that important? (2 Chronicles 3:1) What does this placement of the temple tell us about God's plan?
3. Who else did David involve in raising the resources to build the temple? (1 Chronicles 29:8-9) Why was it important to involve them in this project? Was it just about raising money or was there another reason? How did the people respond when they were called upon to give? What was the disposition of their heart and spirit? Why is having a joyful heart important? (2 Corinthians 9:6-7) Why does giving under compulsion or duress spoil the gift?

4. What does David claim belongs to God? (**1 Chronicles 29:11**) What does David claim comes from God? (**1 Chronicles 29:12**) Do you find this difficult or easy to believe? Why? How does David respond to God's power over his life? (**1 Chronicles 29:13**) Why is giving thanks or having an attitude of thanksgiving so important? (**Philippians 4:6**)

5. What do you think of David's question? (**1 Chronicles 29:14**) Do you see an echo of this idea in Psalm 8? (**Psalm 8:1-8**) What is the contrast between human beings and God in David's prayer? What does God give and what do we receive? What is His power and what are our days like? (**1 Chronicles 29:15**) Is this our normal perspective? What does a humanist worldview suggest instead? Who is in charge in that mindset?

NEXT STEPS

Make a list of the good things in your life. Take several and ask the fundamental question of where they came from and how did you receive them. Go back as far as it takes to get to the most basic, primal Giver of your blessings. Give thanks to God for each thing on your list.

Who's Who in the Story of David

Samuel— Prophet of God and Judge of Israel who anointed David as King and executed God’s judgment against Saul for his faithless leadership.

Saul— First King of God’s people who was filled with the Holy Spirit. He later led faithlessly and was rejected by God and tormented with a demonic spirit.

Jonathan— Saul’s oldest son, mighty warrior, heir to the throne, and great friend of David.

Jesse— Father of David whose family lived in Bethlehem.

Michal— David’s first wife and daughter of King Saul.

Abigail— Wife of David renowned for her beauty and intelligence. The former wife of the brutish Nabal, head of the clan of Caleb.

Bathsheba— The former wife of Uriah the Hittite who was stolen by King David in an egregious sin. Bathsheba was also the mother of Solomon.

Joab— A key military leader during David’s reign who often got his hands dirty protecting David.

Philistines— Sea-faring people who settled in Canaan in the 12th century BC. They were the enemies of God’s people and chief competitors for the land.

Goliath— Mighty champion of the Philistine army who the Bible tells us was over nine feet tall. Died at the hand of the boy David.

Eliab— David’s oldest brother and son of Jesse, who to Samuel appeared like a king. Led the tribe of Judah during David’s kingship.

Ahimelech— Chief of the priests at the city of Nob who helped David after being deceived by him.

Ish-Boseth— Younger son of Saul who served for seven years as King of Israel, contesting with David for the throne.

Abner— Cousin of Saul, commander of his armies and the most capable of his leaders. Served briefly under King Ish-Boseth before he was killed by Joab.

Mephisboseth— Younger son of King Saul with one of his concubines. He lived in obscurity until he was invited by David to join his court many years later.

Nathan— Prophet during the reign of David and Solomon.

Solomon—Son of David by Bathsheba. Became King of Israel, renowned for his wisdom but strayed from the Lord later in life.

Amnon—Oldest son of David who attacked his half-sister. He was killed by Absalom in revenge for his heinous act.

Tamar—Daughter of David, sister to Absalom and half-sister to Amnon.

Absalom—The charismatic, wrathful, and rebellious son of David who led a briefly successful revolt against his father.

Estimated Timeline of David's Life

<u>Date</u>	<u>David's Age</u>	<u>Event</u>
~1040 BC	0	David Born
	~15	David anointed King by Samuel
	~15-20	David defeats Goliath
1012 BC	~25-30	David is a fugitive from Saul
1010 BC	30	David becomes King of Judah at Hebron
1003 BC	37	David becomes King over all Israel & conquers Jerusalem
	~37-47	Palace built, Philistine and Aramean campaigns
	~47	The Lord promises to establish David's throne forever
	~47	David sins with Bathsheba
	~47	Solomon born
	~45-50	Amnon attacks Tamar
	~47-52	Absalom kills Amnon, flees to Geshur, stays 3 years
	~52-57	Absalom returns to Jerusalem
	~54-59	Absalom sees David's face after 2 years in Jerusalem
	~56-61	Absalom wins the hearts of Israel over 4 years
	~61	Absalom becomes king in Hebron, David flees Jerusalem
	~62	Absalom killed
	~62-63	Sheba's rebellion
	~66	David buys threshing floor of Araunah and builds an alter there
	~69	Adonijah and Solomon vie for the throne
970BC	70	David dies