

CRSWLK BIBLE STUDY GUIDES

It's Complicated Season 2

IT'S COMPLICATED W1 Bible Study Guide - David the King

INTRODUCTION

The following guide is designed to facilitate discussion between you and the person you're studying with or your Connect Group. Feel free to add, subtract, or change questions to fit the conversation, and pray for the Spirit to lead in all things.

OPEN QUESTIONS

Share about an experience where you felt like you definitely did not belong in the place you were; somewhere you stood out like a sore thumb. Then share about a place you were welcomed in, no questions asked.

HEAD

1. Read 2 Samuel 1:17-27, 2:1-7 together and share any wisdom, insights, or thoughts that come to you from the reading.
2. Do you think David found any joy or relief in the death of Saul? Explain.
3. David's grief over Jonathan would have been intense. Do you think he may have contemplated giving up on trying to be Israel's king, or did Jonathan's death spur him on?
4. When David asked God what to do next, do you think he was considering going straight to Jerusalem to be king of all Israel, or did he just need permission for the next step?
5. Which anointing service do you think was more meaningful for David, Samuel's or Judah's? Why?
6. Why was what David did in verse 5-7 so important for building trust with the rest of the Israelites?

HEART

1. What lessons, if any, have you learned about grief in the course of your life?
2. David had to wait so long for the fulfillment of God's plans for His life. What helps you wait on God? Do you ever struggle to rush God and His plans?
3. David sought God's guidance before he acted. Have you found ways that help you remember to do this? If not, what might be some helpful practices?
4. Jesus prayed on the night of his crucifixion for us to be united. In a world of division, how can you and I, and our faith communities, seek to be more like Jesus and less self-preserving? How can you and I help each other seek fame for Jesus, over ourselves?

HANDS

This week, give time thinking about some way, in your day to day lives, that you could bring attention to Jesus. This may be at your work, in your school, at your church, or in your home. It may be an act of service, it may be a post on social media, it may even be a text to someone you need to reconcile with. Don't try everything, that can be overwhelming. But think through one act you can do this week to lift up Jesus more than yourself. Then, next week, try another, then another, then another...

LIVING WORDS FOR YOUR WEEK

5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. 6 Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.

Proverbs 3:5-6, NLT

21 You can make many plans, but the Lord's purpose will prevail.

Proverbs 19:21, NLT

IT'S COMPLICATED W2 Bible Study Guide - David the Worshipper

INTRODUCTION

The following is a guide to help facilitate discussion between you and the person you're studying with or with your Connect Group. Feel free to add, subtract, or change questions to fit the conversation, and pray for the Spirit to lead in all things.

OPENING QUESTION

Can you remember a place and time where you felt a deep sense of worship? Maybe you got lost in the moment, maybe it impacted you in a unique and powerful way? Share your experience with the group.

HEAD

1. Read 2 Samuel 6:1-23 & Psalm 132:1-5 together and share any wisdom, insights, or thoughts that come to you from the reading.
2. What do you think it would have been like to see all of Israel singing, dancing, and playing all those instruments? What looks were on their faces? What side conversations were they having?
3. What do you make of the Uzzah situation? Is God that harsh over what appears to be an accident? (keep in mind, the ark had sat in their living room, in essence, for some time and had almost become commonplace to that family)
4. In verse 14-15, why do you think David worshipped so mightily? If you were an onlooker, what do you think his worship might have looked like if you didn't know better?
5. Why was Micah upset at David for the way in which he worshipped?
6. David's response to Micah was that he would become even more undignified if it brought glory to God. Why do you think he was willing to be seen in this light for God, without a care as to what others thought?

HEART

1. In our Adventist faith tradition, we have often struggled to be more expressive and emotive in worship. Why do you think that is and is there one right way to worship and one wrong way?
2. David didn't care what onlookers thought of him; his worship was between him and God. What would it take for you to be able to worship in that way even when surrounded by other people?
3. When others criticize the way we worship, what's a good way to respond?
4. Even though there are different styles and ways to worship, what might it take for you to worship with all your might (strength)?

HANDS

In your private time with Jesus this week, you are encouraged to try different ways of worship. Pray with your hands opened and facing down as a sign of letting go of your sins and worries, then facing up as a sign of receiving what God has for you. Listen to a worship song with your eyes closed and hands lifted up. Listen to a favorite song/hymn while lying on the ground. See what the different postures and ways of worshipping do for your posture towards God. Remember, worship isn't for the spectator, it's your offering to the God of the Universe, so give Him your all.

LIVING WORDS FOR YOUR WEEK

21...I will celebrate before the Lord. **22** I will become even more undignified than this...

2 Samuel 6:21b-22a, NLT

IT'S COMPLICATED W3 Bible Study Guide - David the Murderer

INTRODUCTION

The following is a guide to help facilitate discussion between you and the person you're studying with or with your Connect Group. Feel free to add, subtract, or change questions to fit the conversation, and pray for the Spirit to lead in all things.

OPENING QUESTION

How could David be a man after God's own heart, and, commit murder and adultery? What lessons are there from his struggles, for us to learn as we prepare to dive into the story?

HEAD

1. Read 2 Samuel 11:1-25 and Psalm 32:1-11 together and share any wisdom, insights, or thoughts that come to you from the reading.
2. We want to be VERY careful here not to place blame on any one party, but in these first four verses, what do you observe about the actions of both David and Bathsheba?
3. David had other wives. Why go after Bathsheba and what does this say about his own weaknesses?
4. There was a lot of conniving on David's part in this situation. Why do you think he didn't "wake up" and realize that what he was doing was wrong?
5. It seems that as the story continues, trying to cover up a wrong gets worse and worse and worse. How do you see this happen in your life and our world today?
6. Concerning Psalm 32, what did David learn about God's forgiveness, mercy, and grace in relation to his terrible wrongs?

HEART

1. In Psalm 32, David speaks about wasting away when he kept his sin to himself. Have you ever experienced this; physical affects of hiding in your sin? If so, what and how did you feel once you released that sin over to God?
2. The devil knows our weaknesses. One of David's was obviously women. What can you and I do to protect ourselves from succumbing to those weaknesses over and over again?
3. What are some ways you and I can help each other stay on the narrow road that leads to life and make good, life-giving choices, instead of life-taking ones?
4. We know David eventually confesses his many wrongs, and that God forgives him, but were there still consequences to his actions?

HANDS

This week, we challenge you to spend extra time in the practice of confession. If there are sins and struggles you haven't released to God and asked forgiveness for, work on that this week. If you need help, talk to a friend or a pastor you trust to help pray over you. Remember, our secrets keep us sick, so lay out your sin and let them go as God sends His grace and forgiveness to not only forgive you, but heal and restore you.

LIVING WORDS FOR YOUR WEEK

9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.!

I John 1:9, NLT

IT'S COMPLICATED W4 Bible Study Guide - David the Adulterer

INTRODUCTION

The following is a guide to help facilitate discussion between you and the person you're studying with or with your Connect Group. Feel free to add, subtract, or change questions to fit the conversation, and pray for the Spirit to lead in all things.

OPEN POINT TO CONSIDER/SHARE

This content may be difficult for some in your group to process together. Be sure to let your group know the topic before you meet, and give permission to anyone to bow out if they are concerned about being triggered, or who simply don't want to talk through this particular story.

HEAD

1. Read 2 Samuel 11:26-12:13, Psalm 51:1-19 together and share any wisdom, insights, or thoughts that come to you from the reading.
2. Do you think Bathsheba loved Uriah? If so, why cheat on him with David?
3. Can you imagine being Nathan in this moment? How would you have felt before confronting David?
4. Why do you think it was so hard for David to see what he had done, or was doing, was wrong?
5. In verse 13, it seems that God is quick to forgive David. Does that bother you in any way, like maybe David should have had to suffer first?
6. According to Psalm 51:3, David was haunted by his sin. Have you ever felt that? Is that from God? Our conscience? Both?
7. It was a big deal for David to write that the sacrifice that God truly desires isn't a burnt offering, but a broken and repentant spirit. What does this mean to you?

HEART

1. One thing we learn about this whole story is that though there is forgiveness, there are still consequences for our choices. What consequences did both Bathsheba and David have to live with even though, they were forgiven when they repented?
2. Even though we put David on a pedestal, we see that he was as sinful as any of us. What hope do we get from difficult stories about these as it relates to God's love for us, and His ability to use us?
3. If adultery is cheating on our lover, what are the ways in which we cheat on God?
4. How can we help one another stay true to our love for God, as well as restore our relationship with Him when we do fall?

HANDS

This week, what if you worked on memorizing the first 12 verses of Psalm 51, especially Psalm 51:10-12, and prayed it daily for a month? Maybe it would put you smack dab in the middle of God's presence and His ability to reform you into His image, your heart into a copy of His.

LIVING WORDS FOR YOUR WEEK

10 Create in me a clean heart, O God. Renew a loyal spirit within me.

Psalm 51:10, NLT

IT'S COMPLICATED W5 Bible Study Guide - David the Parent

INTRODUCTION

The following is a guide to help facilitate discussion between you and the person you're studying with or with your Connect Group. Feel free to add, subtract, or change questions to fit the conversation, and pray for the Spirit to lead in all things.

OPEN POINT TO CONSIDER/SHARE

This content may be difficult for some in your group to process together. Be sure to let your group know the topic before you meet, and give permission to anyone to bow out if they are concerned about being triggered, or who simply don't want to talk through this particular story.

OPENING QUESTION

What are some of the stories from Scripture that you struggle to understand, have questions about, or wish you had some sort of answer for that you currently don't?

HEAD

1. Read 2 Samuel 13:1-39 together and share any wisdom, insights, or thoughts that come to you from the reading.
2. Verse 1 says that Amnon became so obsessed with Tamar that he became ill. How do you think that happens and what do you think happens to one's ability to make choices when it does happen?
3. Do you think if Amnon had a better friend/cousin than Jonadab, he may have avoided this disaster? Jonadab enabled Amnon and gave him a way to quench his obsession. What do you think Amnon could have done differently, if anything, to avoid what happened?
4. What were the ways Tamar was taken advantage of?
5. Tamar offered Amnon a better way, but he refused. Why?
6. Was there anything Absalom could have done to keep his hatred and anger from consuming him?
7. Both Amnon and Absalom had a similar problem, they became so focused on something that it destroyed them. How do you and I keep each other from this same fate?

HEART

1. Obviously, Amnon and Absalom both inherited traits from their dad, and not all the good ones. How do you and I keep cycles of abuse, trauma, or bad choices from continuing in our lives?
2. Tamar lived desolate after this, which was partly a product of her culture. But what advice would you have given Tamar so that she didn't let the shame of this experience, or any self-blame, define her for the rest of her life.
3. David experienced all sorts of grief through this story. How does one survive the weight of such horrific loss?

HANDS

This week, I simply want to encourage you to take some time to pray over all of those who have ever suffered under sexual, physical, emotional, or mental abuse. Pray for their peace, pray for their healing, pray for them to know that they are loved beyond measure.

LIVING WORDS FOR YOUR WEEK

13...In your unfailing love, O God, answer my prayer with your sure salvation. 14 Rescue me from the mud; don't let me sink any deeper!

Psalm 69:13a-14, NLT

IT'S COMPLICATED W6 Bible Study Guide - 2 Samuel 18:9-33

INTRODUCTION

The following is a guide to help facilitate discussion between you and the person you're studying with or with your Connect Group. Feel free to add, subtract, or change questions to fit the conversation, and pray for the Spirit to lead in all things.

OPEN QUESTIONS

After the resurrection, who are some of the people you can't wait to be reunited with?

HEAD

1. Read 2 Samuel 18:9-33 together and share any wisdom, insights, or thoughts that come to you from the reading.
2. Knowing everything you know about the story, what would you have done if you found Absalom hanging in that tree?
3. Why do you think Joab was so quick to run Absalom through when he knew the king's wishes? Do you think he made the right decision?
4. Why not bring Absalom's body home so David can properly mourn his son?
5. How do you think David would have responded if the war continued, but Absalom was alive? What would the next steps have been, or should they have been?
6. So Absalom's death seemed to be the best thing for Israel and the worst thing for David. True? Explain. Was there another way to handle this situation?

HEART

1. Do you think the outcome of this situation would have been different if David was quicker to reconcile with Absalom instead of making him wait two years?
2. How does anger and hatred affect us? Mind? Body? Soul?
3. Have you ever journeyed with someone through the stages of grief? Are those stages a checklist or more of a continuum of two steps forward, ten steps back?
4. Why do you think our body revolts such much with grief? Weeping. Hyperventilating. Moaning. Etc...

HANDS

Is there anyone in your circle of influence who has been grieving a loss; maybe a job, a situation, a loved one? Knowing how difficult grief can be to navigate, could you do something for that person this week to help them know they are not alone? Send them a note, make them a treat, call them and chat, etc...

LIVING WORDS FOR YOUR WEEK

- 1 O Lord, don't rebuke me in your anger or discipline me in your rage.
- 2 Have compassion on me, Lord, for I am weak. Heal me, Lord, for my bones are in agony.
- 3 I am sick at heart. How long, O Lord, until you restore me?
- 4 Return, O Lord, and rescue me. Save me because of your unfailing love.
- 5 For the dead do not remember you. Who can praise you from the grave?
- 6 I am worn out from sobbing. All night I flood my bed with weeping, drenching it with my tears.
- 7 My vision is blurred by grief; my eyes are worn out because of all my enemies.
- 8 Go away, all you who do evil, for the Lord has heard my weeping.
- 9 The Lord has heard my plea; the Lord will answer my prayer.

Psalm 6:1-9, NLT