

## **The King God Promised**

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2 Samuel / 2 Samuel 5

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[God establishes David's fractured kingdom, giving us a glimpse of the greater King whose reign brings true and lasting unity in Christ.]

### **Text: 2 Samuel 5**

**Call:** “*The grass withers and the flower fades,*”

**Response:** “*But the word of the Lord endures forever.*”

## **The King God Promised**

### **1. The People Gather (v. 1–5)**

1.1 Israel's Recognition (v. 1–2)

1.2 David's Coronation (v. 3–5)

### **2. The Fortress Falls (v. 6–10)**

2.1 The Taunt of Zion (v. 6–8)

2.2 The Stronghold Secured (v. 9–10)

### **3. The Nations Honor (v. 11–12)**

3.1 A House Built by Grace (v. 11–12)

## **4. The Household Grows (v. 13–16)**

### 4.1 A Family Multiplied (v. 13–16)

## **5. The Enemy Scatters (v. 17–25)**

### 5.1 A God Who Leads the Fight (v. 17–25)

## **6. Application And Call To Christ**

## **7. Questions For Study**

# **Introduction**

Often in the middle of the day, while the house is buzzing with children, my wife will begin a painting. She does it right in the middle of the chaos, she puts bits and pieces onto the canvas as time permits. When I finally see it in the evening, the whole piece fits together beautifully, every color, every line, every detail working in harmony to communicate exactly what she intended. But if I were to watch the process in real time, it would feel nothing like the finished work. I'd see odd shapes, scattered colors, and strokes that seem to make no sense at all. I would never guess that a broad brown smear would become a stone wall, or that a streak of black paint would turn into someone's perfectly styled hair.

The opening chapters of 2 Samuel have felt a bit like watching that process up close. We've seen David mourning Saul and Jonathan in chapter 1. We've watched him crowned king, but only over Judah, while the rest of Israel rallies around Ish-bosheth in chapters 2 and 3. We've witnessed civil war, political maneuvering, Abner's shifting loyalties, and finally the collapse of Saul's house with Ish-bosheth's assassination in chapter 4. None of it has looked clean or straightforward. It has been a series of strokes on the canvas, important, but not yet forming the whole picture.

And now we come to chapter 5. As Dale Ralph Davis points out, this chapter doesn't move in a tidy, chronological line. It's more like a collage, events from different moments in David's reign placed side by side. But when we step back, the picture becomes clear. All these pieces, however scattered they may seem, work together to show us the faithfulness of God. That's the point of this chapter, of this collage, even when the pieces feel scattered, God is faithfully weaving them together to accomplish exactly what He has promised.

# 1. The People Gather (v. 1–5) (Chronologically 1st)

## 1.1 Israel's Recognition (v. 1–2)

Israel acknowledges David's identity, David's history, and David's God given role.

In **verse 1** we see David's identity, his kinship with the people confessed. "We are your bone and flesh." I love this kind of talk because it's not casual business meeting chatter, this is covenant language. Their words are not spoken as part of some negotiation, they are spoken from hearts of confession. It's the language of unity, loyalty, and belonging. Israel is saying, David, you are not a distant ruler. You are one of us. God has raised you up from among your brothers.

Right in verse one, my thoughts are immediately sent toward Christ! We come to Christ acknowledging he is our "bone and flesh." In the incarnation, he became one of us, our Kinsman-Redeemer. We don't serve a distant deity, we bow to our God who is also our brother, who took on our humanity in order to save us.

Then in **verse 2**, we have the second two confessions. They look at David's history. Even when Saul wore the crown, David was the one fighting the Lord's battles and protecting the flock. They confess that even though Saul was still in place David functioned as the true shepherd king. Right away again we should immediately think of Christ. David was a shepherd for the people of Israel, but Jesus is the Good Shepherd who lays down His life for the sheep. David had a proven record of victory, but Christ has the ultimate record of victory, his empty tomb is the final proof that he is the victorious Captain of our Salvation, worthy to lead His people.

Then, still in verse 2 we have the third confession of those gathered to David. This is the real tie that binds them! "The LORD said to you, You shall be shepherd of my people Israel." This is the heart of their covenant recognition. They are not merely choosing David, they are submitting to God's choice. They are aligning themselves with the king God appointed.

This is how unity is formed among God's people, it's not by human strategy, and it's not by political meetings. It happens here in this chapter the same exact way that it happens in every single believers life who has ever lived. It happens by submitting to God, and the king

God has chosen. Israel's national unity begins when they bow to God's revealed will and God's revealed king. In a greater and different way, the church's unity begins when sinners bow to Christ by faith. Israel was united as a nation under a king. The church is united as a redeemed people under the risen Lord. The principle is the same, submission to God's chosen king, but the covenant form has reached its fulfillment in Christ. Under the old covenant, this unity was expressed nationally and temporarily, but under the new covenant, it is expressed spiritually and eternally in Christ.

So now that their hearts have confessed these truths, what happens next? We should remember that David is not Christ, but he truly points beyond himself to Christ, and the similarities exist because God designed David's reign to prepare His people for a greater King. So, after their hearts have been brought around, now it's time for action.

## 1.2 David's Coronation (v. 3–5)

The tribes covenant with David, and he becomes king over all Israel.

**Verse 3** tells us that the elders of Israel come to Hebron and make a covenant with David before the LORD. Can we see how that phrase matters? This is not a political contract. It is a sacred covenant. We also need to see that the king is not above the covenant, he is under it. David's authority as King is real, but it is not autonomous. He is binding himself to rule his people under the law of God. This is a king who places himself, and his kingdom, under God's authority.

Then David is anointed king over all Israel. Only after the covenant is made do we read those glorious words: "and they anointed David king over Israel." What a moment this must have been. The Holy Spirit adds the timing in **verses 4 and 5**. David had to wait seven and a half years in Hebron. That period of division and waiting wasn't a mistake, it was part of God's perfect plan. It was a time of testing and sanctification, teaching us yet again that God's promises are worth waiting for. In the same breath that I mention David waiting and it being God's perfect timing, this coronation of David points to a greater coronation that the entire world waited for. Our minds should leap to the enthronement of Christ at His resurrection and ascension. When Jesus rose from the dead and ascended to the right hand of the Father, he was installed as the King over all creation. And just as Israel in this chapter gathered to David, the nations will gather to Christ. Just as David's reign brought unity to a fractured nation, so Christ's reign is bringing unity to a fractured world now, and will bring it perfectly and visibly at his return. Even now, Christ is gathering his people from every tribe and nation into one body. That unity is real, spiritual, and unbreakable. But it is not yet complete. We

still wait for the day when every enemy is finally put under his feet and the unity he has already secured is fully revealed.

This is kind of the first brushstroke in the chapter's larger picture, God establishes David's fractured kingdom and it gives us a glimpse of the greater King whose reign brings true and lasting unity in Christ.

But a king needs a capital. And that brings us to the next section, the next brushstroke, with The Fortress Falls.

## 2. The Fortress Falls (v. 6–10) (Chronologically 3rd)

### 2.1 The Taunt of Zion (v. 6–8)

The Jebusites mock David, confident in their stronghold.

Jerusalem in those days, was probably considered impenetrable. Up on a mountain, guarded by steep valleys on three sides. It was as close as you might come to a natural fortress, and the people who lived there, the Jebusites, were dripping with arrogance because of it. Look at their response when David and his army arrive in **verse 6**, "You will not come in here, but the blind and the lame will ward you off." In other words, David, you're no threat to us. This city is so secure that even our weakest could defend it against you. The Jebusites believed their fortress was impenetrable. They believed their history could guarantee their future. They believed David's kingship meant nothing. And again, our minds should run to Christ because it's still true that the nations rage. The strongholds of unbelief still mock the reign of King Jesus. But their taunts do not concern the King of kings. Christ, on his throne, does not tremble before the pride of the world. His kingdom is not fragile or even able to be shaken. His reign is not uncertain. The mockery of the nations against David in this chapter and against Christ in this world is nothing more than the dying breath of already defeated enemies.

**Verse 7** gives us the outcome in one simple, triumphant sentence, Nevertheless, David took the stronghold of Zion. So, while the Jebusites boasted, David conquered and God prevailed. This is the pattern of God's kingdom. Human pride mocks. God's king advances and the strongholds fall. **Verse 8** tells us how David did it. Whoever would strike the Jebusites, let him get up the water shaft. This is not a random detail. It shows us that David is not only courageous in battle, he is a wise leader. David knows the fortress is not as invincible as it

appears. The Jebusites trust in walls, David trusts in God.

## 2.2 The Stronghold Secured (v. 9–10)

David takes Zion, and the Lord establishes him.

So, what does David do with this victory? In **verse 9** David does something significant. He takes this pagan Jebusite stronghold, a symbol of arrogant opposition to God, and he renames it. He calls it "the city of David." He conquers it and he names it, now the city of David is set on a path to become the city of the Great King, the place where God's name will dwell, the earthly center of God's redemptive plan. What a theme in scripture, dominion then names, all the time, dominion then names. Adam took dominion and named creation; David took dominion and named the city; but the risen Christ conquered death and now rules a new family, a new kingdom, a new creation, and He names us brothers, priests, and friends.

I don't want to lose ourselves in the depths of geography or the strategy of water shaft ascension, the real key comes in **verse 10**, David became greater and greater, for the LORD, the God of hosts, was with him. This is the key to the entire chapter, if not the whole book. David's greatness is not self made. It is God given. God is establishing His king. God is expanding His kingdom. God is fulfilling His promise.

When I read the Old Testament scriptures, at all times I am looking for Christ. He taught me to do that on the Emmaus road. Luke 24:27 "And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself."

Christ is the greater David who conquers the strongholds of sin, death. Christ is the King whose kingdom advances not by human strategy but by God's promise. Christ is the one who takes what once belonged to darkness and makes it the dwelling place of God.

He took me!

Oh can you imagine the walls built by my heart? What a Jebusite stronghold I was. But David's conquering and Jerusalem's fall is a mini preview of the gospel's triumph. The world's strongest fortresses can't withstand the advance of God's chosen King. The Jebusites didn't give the city to David, he conquered them. In that same way I didn't give my heart away to Christ. The King conquered my rebellion and brought my heart gladly to submit. That glad submission is exactly what Scripture describes as effectual calling, where

God sovereignly changes the heart so that the sinner comes freely and willingly to Christ. The darkness in me, even in every believer, was overthrown, and after darkness, light!

Now I want to be careful here. The fall of Jerusalem is not a conversion story in the strict sense. Scripture teaches us clearly that regeneration is the sovereign work of the Holy Spirit, not a military conquest. But this event does give us a fitting picture of the grace Scripture describes elsewhere. Ezekiel tells us that God removes hearts of stone and gives hearts of flesh. Paul tells us that we were dead in our trespasses and sins until God made us alive. So while Jerusalem's fall is not the doctrine of regeneration, it is a vivid illustration of the sovereign grace that conquers sinners and brings them willingly under Christ's rule.

And now that the king has a capital, the next brushstroke in the chapter shows us something interesting, the nations begin to honor him.

### 3. The Nations Honor (v. 11-12) (Chronologically 4th)

#### 3.1 A House Built by Grace (v. 11-12)

Hiram's gift confirms that God Himself is raising David up.

I love the order that this chapter is written in, it's a literary masterpiece. Not necessarily conforming to strict chronology, but I'm just overwhelmed at the Spirit's work in chapter 5. In **verse 11** Hiram of Tyre is sending envoys, cedar trees, carpenters, and masons to build David a house. From a human perspective, Hiram is just being a savvy politician. He sees David's rising power and he wants to be on the right side of it, he wants to secure favor. But biblically, there is something far deeper going on. God is using the political calculations of a pagan king to put an exclamation point on his favor for David. What is so moving about this to me is that David does not miss it. David gets the message. In **verse 12** we read, And David knew that the Lord had established him king over Israel, and that he had exalted his kingdom for the sake of his people Israel. This gift from Hiram becomes a moment of spiritual clarity for David. God, I pray you would give to me and your people more and more moments like this. I want us to rightly interpret your grace in our lives too, because David certainly does. He makes two very important connections.

The first is that David knows without a doubt that God is the one establishing him. It wasn't

his military wins, and it wasn't political favor. It was God. God was the one building this kingdom. This gift to David was simply another piece of evidence confirming God's sovereign hand at work.

The second thing, and the one most precious to me personally, has to do not with the what God was doing, but with the why. Verse 12 is explicit. God does this for the sake of His people Israel. That is a stunning statement.

David's throne does not exist for David's comfort. It exists for Israel's good. The palace is not ultimately about David's success. It is a sign of stability and blessing for the nation. The king is exalted so the people may live in peace, flourish, and have a secure future.

David sees this. He understands that his exaltation as king is not an end in itself. His throne exists to serve the people God has entrusted to him. That is the why behind the what of God's plan.

And that pattern does not end with David. It reaches its fullest meaning in Christ.

Christ's exaltation is not merely for His comfort or prestige, but as the obedient Son receiving His rightful reward and as the Mediator reigning for the good of His people. In this chapter, through David's spiritual clarity and these Spirit inspired words, God is training our eyes to look beyond David and see our greater King.

Christ is raised for our justification. (Romans 4:25)

He ascends to intercede for us. (Romans 8:34, Hebrews 7:25)

He reigns to shepherd and secure His people. (1 Corinthians 15:25, Ephesians 1:20-22)

He receives the name above every name so that every knee that bows in faith finds mercy, not destruction. (Philippians 2:9-11, Acts 4:12)

David's throne existed for Israel's good, but Christ's throne exists for the good of the new humanity He has redeemed. His exaltation is the ground of our Christian hope. This is the heart of these verses, the heart of this chapter, the heart of the gospel. The King is lifted up so His people may live. (John 12:32)

And now that David's house is built, the next scene shows us something else God is building, David's household. But as I read these verses, I can feel the tension. David's growing family is

both a sign of God's blessing and a reminder of David's brokenness. So, his household expands because God is establishing him, but the presence of additional wives shows us that even God's chosen king is still a man deeply in need of grace.

## 4. The Household Grows (v. 13–16) (Chronologically 5th {Summary})

### 4.1 A Family Multiplied (v. 13–16)

David's household expands, it's a blessing, yet one that foreshadows future trouble.

David's household expands, and Scripture presents it as both a blessing and a warning, and I want us to see why. On one hand, the growth of David's family is a sign that God is establishing him. Children were marks of stability, strength, and divine favor. **Verse 13** says David took more concubines and wives, and **verses 14–16** list the sons born to him in Jerusalem. This multiplication is connected to God's promise to make David's name great and his kingdom secure. Scripture records this household expansion without approving David's actions, reminding us that God's promises advance even through the sinful choices of his servants, never because of them.

So, in this case, it's right to feel the tension. The same household growth that displays God's blessing also exposes David's brokenness. God had already given instructions in Deuteronomy 17 that Israel's king must not multiply wives, and David's choices here will sow seeds of future sorrow. These names in verses 14–16 are not just a recorded genealogy, we will see that they are the beginnings of family rivalries and heartaches that will eventually tear David's house apart.

This tension is here for us to serve a purpose. It is designed to make our hearts seek after a better King. It's meant to show us that even the best of earthly kings is still a sinner in need of grace. David is a great king, but he is not the ultimate one. The kingdom is being blessed but it won't be completely safe in David's hands.

Ultimately, the kingdom is only safe in the hands of David's Descendant who always does what pleases the Father (John 8:29). - Dale Ralph Davis

Christ, by way of contrast, loves His bride with undivided faithfulness. He has one bride, the church, and He never compromises His covenant love or brings division into His household.

David's methods for the household growth remind us that even the best of men are men at best. But it also reminds us that God's promise will not fail, all evening we have been reading David and seeing Christ and we can't stop now, because the true King, the perfect Son, is coming.

And with David's household established, the chapter now turns to the final brushstroke, the enemy scatters before the King God has chosen.

## 5. The Enemy Scatters (v. 17–25) (Chronologically 2nd)

### 5.1 A God Who Leads the Fight (v. 17–25)

Two battles, two inquiries, one faithful God who goes before His king.

As soon as David is crowned king over all Israel, the Philistines hear the news and move immediately. **Verse 17** says they “went up to search for David.” This will not be a diplomatic visit, it is a preemptive strike. The Philistines know exactly what David's kingship means. They all remember the shepherd who killed their champion, and they know a united Israel under David will threaten their power. In **verse 18**, they march to crush the king before his throne is secure.

What does David do? **Verse 19** tells us that he inquired of the Lord. This is the heartbeat of godly leadership. Before lifting a sword or drawing a battle plan, David seeks divine guidance. He knows the kingdom he leads is not his own, and he has learned over a lifetime that victory does not come from human strength.

The Lord answers, saying, “Go up, for I will certainly give the Philistines into your hand.” David obeys, and the Philistines are defeated. **Verse 20** tells us David names the place Baal-perazim, “the Lord of breaking through,” because God broke through the enemy line like a flood. **Verse 21** confirms the results, God scattered the enemies, their idols are

abandoned, and David triumphs because it is God who fights for him.

But then it happens again. In **verse 22**, the Philistines regroup and return to the same valley with the same army and the same intent. David does something remarkable, he goes to God again in **verse 23**. Even after the coronation, the capture of Jerusalem, and the first victory, David returns to the Lord. Success does not go to his head. He does not assume that yesterday's guidance is sufficient for today's battle.

God could have led David the same way again. He could have repeated the strategy, the timing, and the victory in the same form. But he chose not to. And this is not because God had changed, but because God is free. He is faithful to His promises, but He is not bound to our expectations. He does not place His power on repeat, and He does not reduce His wisdom to a formula. David cannot rely on past victories; he cannot say, "I know how this works now." He goes back to God, day by day, battle by battle.

Sometimes, when we read about God's victories in Scripture, or see Him move decisively in another's life, it can feel like He "breaks through" there, but not here. In our own lives, walls can seem unyielding, battles drag on, and the enemy does not immediately scatter. This is not because God is less faithful or has forgotten His promises. Rather, His timing and methods are perfectly wise, often hidden, so that our dependence is on Him alone, not on immediate results. Just as David followed the sound of marching in the trees, not knowing exactly how God would strike, we trust that God is at work even when the breakthrough seems delayed.

So David inquires again, and this time God gives a new strategy in **verses 23-24**: "You shall not go up; go around to their rear, and come against them opposite the balsam trees. And when you hear the sound of marching in the tops of the balsam trees, then rouse yourself, for then the Lord has gone out before you to strike down the army of the Philistines".

**Verse 25** captures the moment, the sound of marching in the trees, invisible armies moving ahead of David's men. God is not merely helping David fight, God is fighting before David fights. The king is not leading God into battle, God is leading the king.

David's dependence on God points us to Christ's perfect submission to the Father. This submission is not about Christ's divine nature, but His obedience as the incarnate Son and faithful Mediator. And for us, the reality is even greater. David had to inquire; we have been given the Holy Spirit. David followed the sound of marching; our King, the risen Lord Jesus, is the Captain of the host who has already gone before us. He has already broken through the ultimate enemy, sin and death, at the cross. Our decisive battle has been fought and won,

victory shouted over creation at His resurrection.

And now, as God's kingdom advances, He still goes before us. Our role is to listen to His command in His Word and follow in faith, knowing that the King has already gone out to strike down His enemies.

The chapter's painting is complete, the people are gathered, the fortress has fallen, the nations honored, the household is flawed but growing, and the enemy is scattered. The kingdom is established. God has kept His promise.

What does this mean for us? It is a call to trust, to follow, and to rest in the King who fights before us—a call to Christ.

## 6. Application And Call To Christ

**God establishes David's fractured kingdom, giving us a glimpse of the greater King whose reign brings true and lasting unity in Christ.**

2 Samuel 5 marks for us a decisive turning point in Israel's story. After years of division and conflict, David is finally established as king over all Israel. We've seen Jerusalem captured, the nations honoring David, and the Philistines defeated, all under God's guiding hand. Through every scene, this chapter reveals God faithfully installing His chosen king, a pattern we should recognize, it's one that ultimately points forward to the greater Son of David, whose reign brings lasting unity, peace, and victory for His people. As Dale Ralph Davis notes in his commentary on 2 Samuel, here's what we must not miss:

**Every obstacle that seemed to threaten God's promise was actually the very tool God used to fulfill it.** From a human perspective, the opposition looked overwhelming, civil war, rival kings, hostile nations, fortified cities, and relentless enemies. But none of these slowed God down. None of them even complicated His plan. They were the brushstrokes that looked chaotic up close but formed the masterpiece when we view this story with a biblical scope from God's vantage point.

As we finish chapter 5 and look back at the beginning of David's reign, we see three truths that shape our lives as followers of Christ.

### **1. God's promises are unshakeable.**

No opposition could stop David. Civil war, rival kings, fortified cities, and hostile nations all served to confirm God's plan rather than hinder it. Likewise, every promise of God in Christ is certain. We face enemies, setbacks, and delays in life, but nothing can thwart God's plan for His people. This does not mean the church will avoid suffering or defeat in the short term, but it does mean that no suffering and no defeat can undo what Christ has secured. When life seems chaotic, we can trust that God is working all things for His glory and our good.

The greatest promise we have, our salvation, is secure in Jesus. Through his life, death, and resurrection, Christ has accomplished what no enemy, no sin, and no death could prevent, the redemption of His people. When life seems chaotic or uncertain, we can trust that God's promises in Christ will never fail, and that includes the promise of forgiveness, new life, and eternal fellowship with Him.

### **2. True unity comes from submitting to God's chosen King.**

Israel's tribes were divided until they acknowledged David, God's anointed. Unity was not the result of negotiation or compromise, instead it came when the people submitted to God's authority. In this same way, the church finds true unity only under Christ, the eternal King. Our divisions, fears, and preferences must yield to His rule.

What we end up with is a church filled with converted sinners, all called by the gospel. From every tribe, nation, and tongue, when we submit to Jesus as King, we are reconciled with God and to one another! In chapter 5, a nation came together around a King, that's the local context. In the greater King Jesus, not just one nation, but a redeemed people from all creation are united.

### **3. The greatest King brings lasting life and hope.**

David was a type of Christ, and in chapter 5, we saw him established by God. But David's kingdom was temporary and flawed, just as earthly blessings are limited. Christ's kingdom is eternal, perfect, and secure. He has defeated sin and death, He reigns over the nations, and He intercedes for His people. Every promise God kept to David points us forward to Christ, who secures our salvation and establishes a kingdom that will never end.

So, when life brings caves for us to live in, or enemy kings to chase us, or even complete uncertainty, we are not to be shaken. Instead, we face each day and every obstacle with deep joy, we laugh, not because suffering is light, but because Christ's promises are heavy with certainty. This kind of deep Christian faith shapes our joy, shapes our thoughts, guides our families, and steadies our hearts.

As Dale Ralph Davis puts it so well, "None of it is because we are unshakeable but because God's promises are firm, so firm that time cannot dissolve them, and enemies cannot sabotage them. God's promises to us in Christ may be old, they may even be opposed, but they are never, never false."

And this brings us right back to the heart of this passage, and to the title of this sermon, The King God Promised. David is the king God promised on the near horizon, the immediate fulfilment we see in chapter 5, the king raised up through years of fighting and opposition. But David's rise was never meant to be the final fulfillment. His throne points us forward to the greater King God promised from eternity, the Lord Jesus Christ. Every promise God kept to David is a preview of the perfect fulfillment found in Christ. Every obstacle that could not stop David whispers the greater truth that nothing in heaven or on earth can hinder the reign of Jesus.

The God who kept His word to David keeps His word to us in Christ.

He does it in fullness and he does it forever.

But if you are here today and you are not in Christ, this entire chapter presses a question upon you. Have you bowed to the King God has appointed? Christ is not waiting to become King. He reigns now, and every person already stands under His authority, either in joyful submission or ongoing rebellion. David was not chosen by popular vote. Christ is not offered as a suggestion. God commands all people everywhere to repent and believe. The same King who unites and protects his people will judge those who remain in rebellion. Today is the

day to lay down your arms, repent of your sins, and trust in the risen Lord Jesus Christ, the promise keeper of God.

## **7. Questions for Reflection and Discipleship**

Please be encouraged to use these questions for reflection throughout the week and Awakening discipleship group discussions.

1. How does Second Samuel 5 show that God keeps His promises even when circumstances seem chaotic or opposed, and how does that strengthen your confidence in His promises today?
2. Israel found unity by submitting to the king God had chosen. What does this teach us about where true unity in the church comes from?
3. What does the covenant made between David and the elders before the Lord teach us about the nature and limits of godly authority, both in Israel and in the church today?
4. David knew that God had established his kingdom for the sake of the people. How does this shape your understanding of Christ's reign being for your good?
5. Why is it important to see both David's faithfulness and David's flaws in this chapter, and how does that help us look more fully to Christ?

## **Questions for small children during family devotion:**

Please be encouraged to use these questions in family devotion throughout the week, especially for young minds learning about Christ.

1. Who chose David to be king over Israel?

2. What city did David take that became the city of David?
3. When David needed help, who did he ask before fighting his enemies?
4. Did David win his battles by himself, or did God fight for him?
5. Who is the greater King that David points us to, and why can we trust Him?