

A baby wearing a straw hat and a blue and white striped shirt is sitting on a sandy beach, looking out at the ocean under a clear blue sky.

# after God's heart

3 | David Spares Saul's Life



**12** - David gets anointed by Samuel

**16** - David defeats Goliath

**21** - David gets appointed to be Saul's armor bearer

**25** - David flees from Saul, who tries to kill him a number of times

**25-30** - Saul's army tries to hunt David and his men down

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1 Sam 24

After Saul returned from fighting the Philistines, he was told that David had gone into the wilderness of En-gedi. <sup>2</sup>So Saul chose 3,000 elite troops from all Israel and went to search for David and his men near the rocks of the wild goats.





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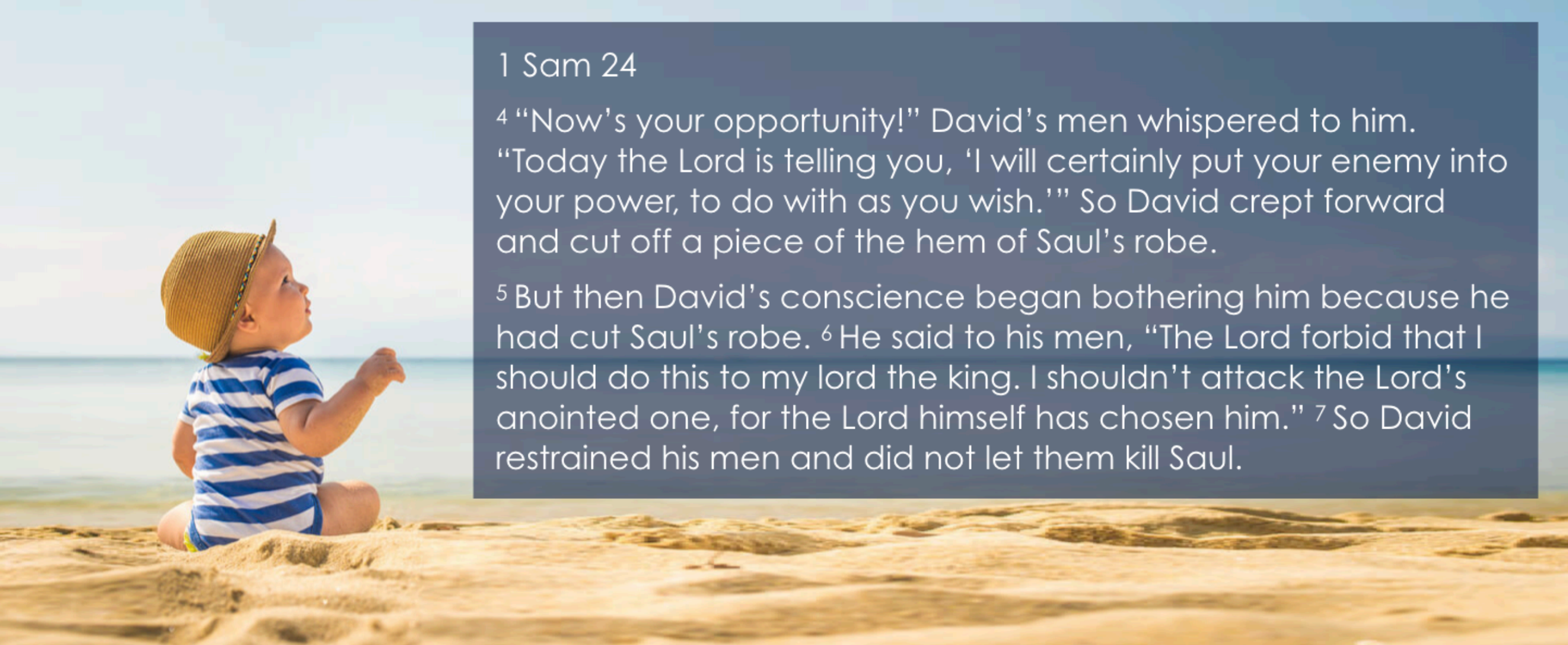


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## 1 Sam 24

After Saul returned from fighting the Philistines, he was told that David had gone into the wilderness of En-gedi. <sup>2</sup> So Saul chose 3,000 elite troops from all Israel and went to search for David and his men near the rocks of the wild goats.

<sup>3</sup> At the place where the road passes some sheepfolds, Saul went into a cave to relieve himself. But as it happened, David and his men were hiding farther back in that very cave!



## 1 Sam 24

<sup>4</sup> “Now’s your opportunity!” David’s men whispered to him. “Today the Lord is telling you, ‘I will certainly put your enemy into your power, to do with as you wish.’” So David crept forward and cut off a piece of the hem of Saul’s robe.

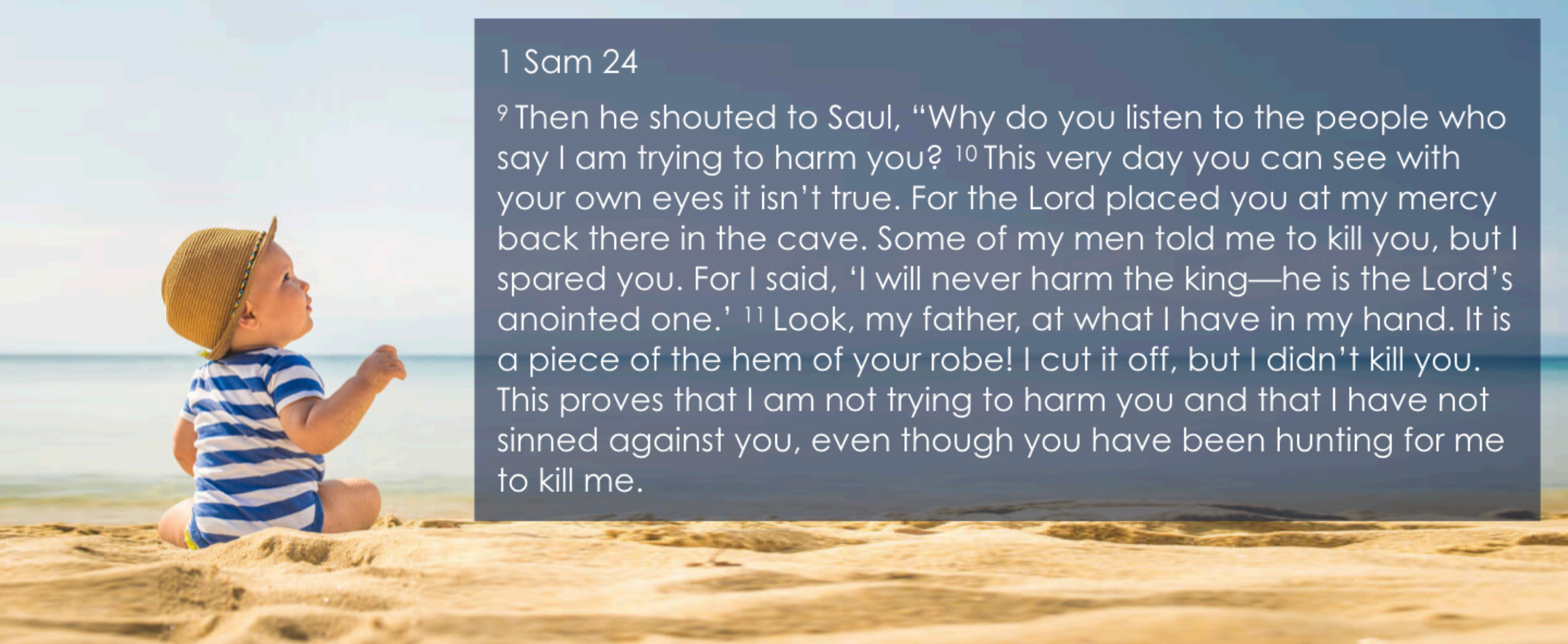
<sup>5</sup> But then David’s conscience began bothering him because he had cut Saul’s robe. <sup>6</sup> He said to his men, “The Lord forbid that I should do this to my lord the king. I shouldn’t attack the Lord’s anointed one, for the Lord himself has chosen him.” <sup>7</sup> So David restrained his men and did not let them kill Saul.



1 Sam 24

After Saul had left the cave and gone on his way, <sup>8</sup> David came out and shouted after him, "My lord the king!" And when Saul looked around, David bowed low before him.





## 1 Sam 24

<sup>9</sup> Then he shouted to Saul, “Why do you listen to the people who say I am trying to harm you?” <sup>10</sup> This very day you can see with your own eyes it isn’t true. For the Lord placed you at my mercy back there in the cave. Some of my men told me to kill you, but I spared you. For I said, ‘I will never harm the king—he is the Lord’s anointed one.’ <sup>11</sup> Look, my father, at what I have in my hand. It is a piece of the hem of your robe! I cut it off, but I didn’t kill you. This proves that I am not trying to harm you and that I have not sinned against you, even though you have been hunting for me to kill me.



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1 Sam 24

<sup>15</sup> May the Lord therefore judge which of us is right and punish the guilty one. He is my advocate, and he will rescue me from your power!"

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## 1 Sam 24

<sup>16</sup> When David had finished speaking, Saul called back, “Is that really you, my son David?” Then he began to cry. <sup>17</sup> And he said to David, “You are a better man than I am, for you have repaid me good for evil. <sup>18</sup> Yes, you have been amazingly kind to me today, for when the Lord put me in a place where you could have killed me, you didn’t do it. <sup>19</sup> Who else would let his enemy get away when he had him in his power? May the Lord reward you well for the kindness you have shown me today. <sup>20</sup> And now I realize that you are surely going to be king, and that the kingdom of Israel will flourish under your rule.



# test from God

~~pass or fail~~

measuring or assessing  
what's inside



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### Judges 3

<sup>1</sup> These are the nations the Lord left to test all those Israelites who had not experienced any of the wars in Canaan <sup>2</sup> (he did this only to teach warfare to the descendants of the Israelites who had not had previous battle experience): <sup>3</sup> the five rulers of the Philistines, all the Canaanites, the Sidonians, and the Hivites living in the Lebanon mountains from Mount Baal Hermon to Lebo Hamath. <sup>4</sup> They were left to **test** the Israelites to see whether they would obey the Lord's commands, which he had given their ancestors through Moses.



Pop quizzes  
help us see whether  
we are after God's heart or our own



# Test of Trust

Will I do things my way in my time or let God do things His way in His time?

Can David wait or does he have to have it now?





# Test of Trust

Will I do things my way in my time or let God do things His way in His time?



Will David take things into his own hands?

David understands that the office of King is something that God decides, not humans

# Test of Trust

Will I do things my way in my time or let God do things His way in His time?

offense leads to entitlement

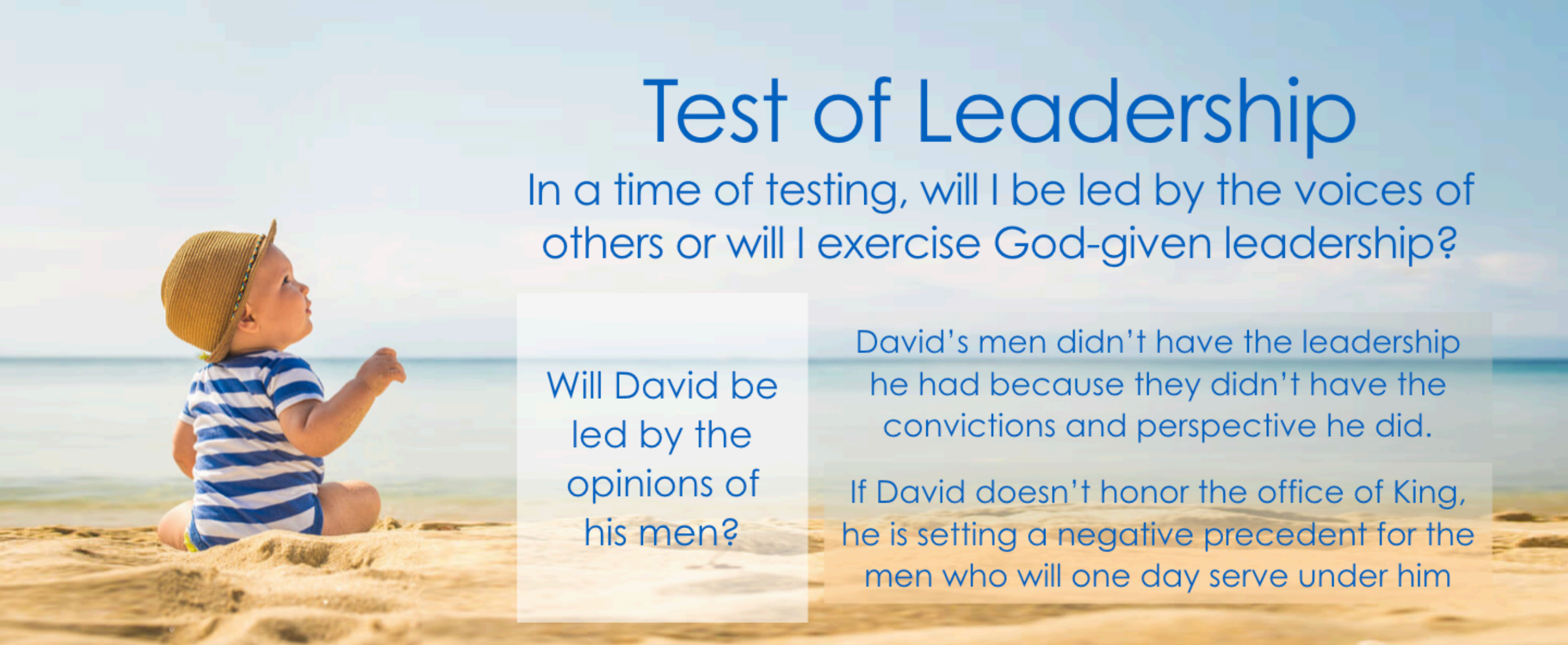
Can David  
keep his  
heart  
unoffended?





# Test of Leadership

In a time of testing, will I be led by the voices of others or will I exercise God-given leadership?



Will David be led by the opinions of his men?

David's men didn't have the leadership he had because they didn't have the convictions and perspective he did.

If David doesn't honor the office of King, he is setting a negative precedent for the men who will one day serve under him

# Test of Long Trials

Can I maintain my trust in God during long periods of struggle?

Does the weariness of long-time challenge lead David into entitlement?

Can David go deeper and find hope in God?

Psalm 54

James 1:2-4







Can you wait or do you have to have it now?

Will you take things into your own hands?

Can you keep your heart unoffended?

Will you be led by the opinions of others?

Has the weariness of long-time challenge led you into entitlement?

Can you go deeper and find hope in God?

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accept Jesus as the leader of your life

re-commit yourself to God

repent in places where you've sinned