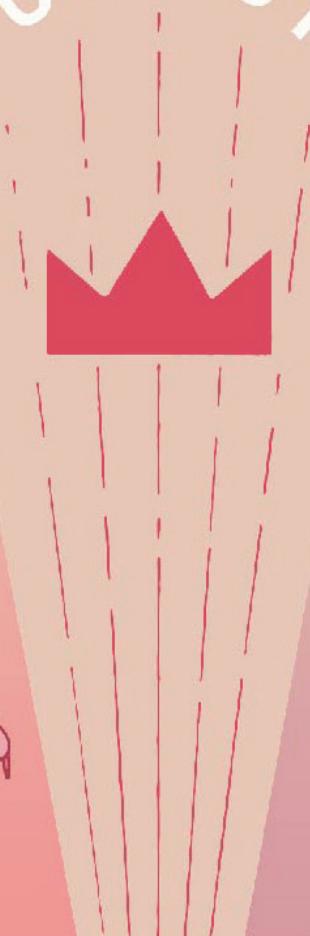


THE RELENTLESS PURSUIT



**“The Lord who
rescued me from
the paw of the lion
and the paw of the
bear will rescue
me from the hand
of this Philistine.”**

1 Samuel 17:37

How to use this book:

Personal Devotions

- Use this book to help you read your Bible every day. You will find a guide that will help you read through scriptures related to our sermon series. Scribble down your thoughts and questions and remember to pray and ask God to speak to you by His Spirit, through His Word. Additionally, we've recommended a verse to memorise each week.
- Listen to our Spotify playlist by searching for the 'The Bridge Church – Songs We Sing' playlist.
- Please make note of and pray too, for the mentioned 'What's On' events in our term calendar.

Connect Groups

- Take this guide with you to your Connect Group each week. Bible Studies based on the Sunday Bible talks have been provided for each week, so you could use this space to write down comments, questions and prayer points that come from the study that week and prayer requests from the members of your group.

Church

- Keep this guide with your Bible and bring it with you to church.
- Scribble down sermon notes in the space provided.

Dear Church,

In our ‘Year of Loving the Nations’, it has been so encouraging to see and hear stories of people putting that into practice, choosing a nation, praying for a nation, and growing in awe of God’s heart for people from every tribe, people, nation and language. This term we’d love you to focus on intentionally partnering with one of our global mission partners.

Here are 4 steps to help us “Think Global: Act Local”

#1: PRAY: Choose a nation! We want every member of church to choose a different nation, so we cover the approximately 200 different countries. We want you to learn about their culture, traditions, religions, and the gospel landscape. We’d love you to pray for that nation regularly. What is your nation? Pray for that nation.

#2: PARTNER: Intentionally connect with 1 of our existing mission partners. Here at The Bridge Church, we have the privilege of supporting up to 24 wonderful mission partners who are serving Jesus all over the world. We’d love you to partner with one of them intentionally and meaningfully in 2022, subscribe to their newsletter, pray regularly, send them an encouraging note or gift.

#3: GIVE: Jesus said, ‘where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.’ Maybe 2022 could be a year where you give ‘above and beyond’ your regular giving, to global gospel need, an individual or mission agency.

#4: GO: Go on a missions conference, a short term mission, a regional church mission or beach mission. Maybe you could serve at Everyday English, to connect with the nations who are coming to us here in Sydney.

This term we are preaching through the Old Testament books of 1 & 2 Samuel, looking at the life of David. I’m so excited to see how God might shape and shake us as we dig deep into His Word. My prayer is that we would see people and nations as God sees them, we’d seek to be obedient to His Word and we’d marvel again at God’s faithfulness despite our failings.

There are many wonderful ministry opportunities for Term 2 which I commend to you:

- The Alpha Course. This term we are praying for 50 guests at our course. Who can you invite and pray for?
- Our Bag of Hope Winter Appeal
- A Wellbeing & Care Seminar on Depression & Anxiety
- The Living Single Conference on the June long weekend
- For our Kids: Terrific Tuesday (pupil free activity day); our regular Playtime (Mon & Thurs & Fri), Bridge Kids (Fri) and Kids Church (Sun)
- For our Youth: KYCK camp; our regular Ignite Youth (Fri) and Ignite Connect (Sun)
- For our Young Adults: our regular Young Adults Evenings (Mon)
- Our ongoing Community Care ministries to Greenway, to the Aged Care homes and Everyday English

Of course, none of these ministries can happen without being under girded and driven by prayer – so I continue to encourage you to prioritize Central Prayer on the 1st Wednesday of each month, rotating around our 3 locations.

With love in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "PD Dale". It consists of stylized initials "PD" followed by the surname "Dale" in a cursive script. There is a horizontal line underneath the signature.

Paul Dale
(Senior Pastor)

Overview

David is one of the most important figures of world history, the subject of vast numbers of paintings, sculptures, writings, and poems. The story of his life is a captivating story – it's a story of greatness and faithfulness, yet also a story of weakness and failure. He is also one of the most significant people in the Bible. His reign shaped the nation of Israel, and God promised that from his descendants would come the Messiah, the one who would rule eternally. The life story of David takes up the majority of the books of 1 & 2 Samuel.

1 & 2 Samuel

1 & 2 Samuel are part of the much larger 'scroll' of 1 Samuel to 2 Kings, which were called 'the 4 books of the kingdom' or 'The book of the kings.' These 4 books record the step-by-step establishment of a monarchy in Israel's relatively new land (they have been in Canaan for 200 years by the time of Samuel) and cover the 4 centuries, up until the collapse of Judah and destruction of Jerusalem in 587 BC.

The situation

Israel is in a leadership crisis! But what kind of leader do Israel need? The people demand a shift from a 'theocracy' to a 'monarchy' (A theocracy is when God, by His Spirit, designated human leaders as and when needed; a monarchy is a succession to the throne already designated from among the king's sons).

Israel desired a monarchy because they wanted to be like other nations. They thought it would enable them to defeat aggressive neighbours (1 Sam 8:4-8; 1 Sam 12:12, 17, 19) So God gave them the king they asked for (1 Sam 8:22) but He refused to forsake the people he'd made his own (1 Sam 12:22). They could have their king only so long as both king and people followed the Lord (1 Sam 12:13-15).

Saul was that king (1 Sam 10:1, 24), the king the people chose for themselves. But Saul failed to fulfil the condition of kingship (1 Sam 13), he disobeyed God and did not listen to God's word. So God rejected Saul and promised he'd provide a different king (1 Sam 13, 14), a man after God's own heart who'd be better. (1 Sam 15:25). Whilst King Saul was chosen by the people themselves (1 Sam 8:18, 12:17-19), King David was chosen by God himself (1 Sam 16:1).

The enemies at that time

There were no great world powers seeking to dominate the Near East at that time. Israel's battles were against their neighbours, the mighty Philistines. The Philistines had migrated from the Aegean area in mid 12th century BC and settled in the southwest coastal strip of Canaan. They inhabited 5 city states (Ashdod, Ashkelon, Ekron, Gaza, Gath (see Josh 13:3). (Note: the name Palestine was derived from Philistine). They mastered ironwork technology and created weapons to wage war on Israel. It was the persistent aggression of the Philistines that led Israel to repeatedly ask for a king. Throughout Saul's reign and the early part of David's reign, the Philistines were a thorn in Israel's side. Both Saul and Jonathan died at their hands. It's interesting that the Philistines recognized David's kingship early in the story (1 Sam 21:11).

Style of 1 & 2 Samuel

These books are written as historical narratives. They are not written like a diary (as the events take place), but rather as a history book (written at a time when the author knows the 'ending'). It's a very well written story, broken into story units, with purposely selected material, often restrained, sometimes repetitive. Two songs act as bookends; Hannah's song in 1 Sam 2 and David's song in 2 Sam 22. Note that the pace of the book is much slower than previous books (in Judges, whole generations are summarized in a single verse!). We're supposed to read in a way that we 'enjoy' the characters – see their hurts and ambitions, spiritual aspirations, moral failures.

Dating

We know that King David reigned from 1010 - 970 BC, so 1 & 2 Samuel cover the period of time 1050 BC – 970 BC.

Structure

The books are carefully structured around 3 main characters, namely Samuel, Saul and David; all God's appointed leaders. It's really a story of the success and failures of 3 leaders, with the bulk of the narrative focusing on David.

- Samuel is the leader God provided – 1 Sam 1-25
- Saul is the leader the people asked for – 1 Sam 8-31
- David is the leader 'according to God's own heart' – 1 Sam 16-2 Sam 24

The Life of David

David was a great-grandson of Ruth, and the youngest of eight sons of Jesse, from the tribe of Judah, in the town of Bethlehem. He was appointed to keep the family sheep and developed great skill in music and fighting (it was his custom to kill any lion or bear that disturbed the flock – 1 Sam 17).

When Samuel, the great judge and prophet of Israel, arrived in Bethlehem to offer a sacrifice, he reviewed all of Jesse's sons, then called for David, who was anointed as a future king of Israel in the presence of his family. The Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon David (1 Sam 16). However, Saul was king of Israel at that time, but he was rejected by God because of his disobedience. The Spirit of the Lord departed Saul and he began to experience spiritual oppression. The court followers recommended a musician, so David became the musician for the tormented king, and quickly became the king's armor-bearer.

Eventually David ended up near the battlefield between the Israelites and the Philistines. When he heard Goliath, a Philistine warrior, insult the God of Israel, David stepped in to fight, in the name of the LORD Almighty. The LORD defeated Goliath through David, and David was quickly hailed a hero! (1 Sam 17)

David's popularity did not sit well with Saul. Even though Saul appointed him as a commander of the army, the king became jealous and eventually tried to murder David with his javelin. Saul's son Jonathan, however, befriended David, and David married Saul's daughter Michal as the king continued to make plots on his life. Even as he continued to wage a successful war against the Philistines, David's life was rescued by both Jonathan and Michal (1 Sam 18-19).

Finally, David fled the court, heading first to Nob (1 Sam 21) and then southwest to the land of the Philistines. He visited the kingdom of Moab in the southeast, leaving his parents in the protection of that king, and then dwelt in the arid southern deserts of Judah. Many times, Saul pursued him with armed men, but David continued to escape, even sparing Saul's life when he had the opportunity to kill him (1 Sam 22-26).

David cultivated a friendship with Achish, the Philistine king of Gath. Achish made him the ruler of the city of Ziklag, and from this base, David continued to make raids against the enemies of Israel (1 Sam 27). Eventually, the Philistines prepared to make war against Saul.

While David was away from Ziklag, a group of Amalekite warriors destroyed the village and captured the possessions and family members of David and his own followers. David responded by pursuing them into the desert, defeating them, and bringing back all the spoils of war (1 Sam 28-30). Even as David was fighting to recover Ziklag, Saul and the Israelites were defeated in a stunning loss at the Battle of Mount Gilboa. Both Saul and Jonathan were killed, and David mourned when he heard the news. (1 Sam 31, 2 Sam 1)

The leaders of the southern Israelite tribe of Judah responded by anointing David as their king; he became king of Judah at the age of 30 and reigned for seven years and six months. Yet it was not a time of peace. To the north, the remaining Israelite tribes selected Ishbosheth, Saul's son, as their king. A civil war broke out between the northern Kingdom of Israel and the southern Kingdom of Judah. This continued until two men, Rechab and Baanah, assassinated Ishbosheth on his bed. When they brought his head to David, expecting gifts, David accused them of murder and had them executed. (2 Sam 2-4)

David was anointed king over a united kingdom of the 12 tribes, where he would reign for 33 years (2 Sam 5). He conquered the city of Jerusalem from the non-Hebrew Jebusites, renaming it as the City of David. He rebuilt this city (also known as 'Zion'), and established a diplomatic relationship with Hiram, king of the city of Tyre in the north. David continued the war against the Philistines, and he brought the Ark of God into the City of David. (2 Sam 6)

David intended to build a temple of God in Jerusalem. However, the prophet Nathan recounted God's Word to David: that David should not build a temple. Instead, God would himself bless David, providing him with a descendant whose throne would remain forever. (2 Sam 7). After this, David continued to enjoy triumphs over neighbouring nations, including Moab, Syria, and Edom. (2 Sam 8). When he found a grandson of Saul – Mephibosheth – he showed kindness to the man. (2 Sam 9)

David's greatest years came to a sudden end when he fell into a scandal. While his army was away, David was relaxing at the palace. He happened to look out over the city of Jerusalem and saw a beautiful woman (Bathsheba) bathing.

He brought her into the palace and committed adultery with her. In an attempt to cover his sin, he eventually murdered her husband Uriah, one of his most trusted military leaders, and married the now-widowed Bathsheba. Nathan the prophet reappeared, condemning David for his sin. Suddenly filled with remorse, David repented with grief, crying out to God for mercy. Meanwhile, his child with Bathsheba died. Later, David had another child with Bathsheba, a child whom he named Solomon – the next king of Israel. (2 Sam 11-12)

The consequences of David's sin would continue throughout the rest of his reign. A military victory over the Ammonites was soon forgotten when his son Amnon committed incestual rape against his daughter Tamar. Tamar's brother, Absalom, determined to take justice into his own hands, and he responded by killing Amnon. Later, Absalom revolted against his own father. David and his trusted followers fled the capital, while Absalom moved into the royal palace and the royal harem. Civil war broke out in Israel, leading to the defeat and death of Absalom. David was grieved to lose a son, but the turmoil was not over; another conspirator, Sheba, later made war with David. Sheba also ended up dead. (2 Sam 13-20).

A three-year famine then weakened the Israelite economy. After this, David made a successful war against the Philistines, but he sinned against God again when he determined to take a military census of the Israelite nation – an action strictly forbidden by God. The divine judgment was an outbreak of disease, killing tens of thousands of Hebrews. David repented, and the outbreak subsided. (2 Sam 21-24)

In his last years, David married Abishag, a beautiful young Hebrew maiden. Adonijah, another of his sons, then tried to seize the throne, but David – though decrepit from age – intervened, ending the conspiracy and selecting Solomon as his successor. After giving words of wisdom and advice to his son Solomon, David died at the age of 70 and was buried in Jerusalem, the City of David. (1 Kings 1-2)

Despite his many flaws & failures, David was known as 'a man after God's own heart'. He was chosen by God to lead God's people, and his kingship became the standard by which every other Judean king would be measured. The prophecy of a king whose throne would endure forever fuelled Messianic hopes among the Jews – hopes which were finally fulfilled in the coming of Jesus, the physical descendant and promised 'Son of David.' (Matthew 1:1)

What's On This Term:

May

Sun 1st	Term 2 Sermon Series Launch (11 weeks) Kids Church Kick Off Term 2 Baptism Information Session
Mon 2nd	Playtime at Neutral Bay Commences Term 2
Wed 4th	Central Prayer (at Kirribilli)
Sat 7th	SMBC Kids
Mon 9th	Creative Team Training (3 weeks)
Wed 11th	Belonging Course Commences (3 weeks - 11/18/25 May)
Sun 29th	Winter Appeal (Bag of Hope) Collection Day #1 Baptism Sunday
Mon 30th	Young Adults Gathering

June

Wed 1st	Central Prayer (at Macquarie Park)
Sun 5th	Winter Appeal (Bag of Hope) Collection Day #2
Sat 11th	Living Single
Mon 20th	Wellbeing & Care Seminar – Depression & Anxiety (at Kirribilli)
Thu 23rd	Repeat of Depression & Anxiety Seminar (at Macquarie Park)
w/c 27th	Final Playtime, Everyday English, English for Living, Bridge Kids Fridays, Ignite Fridays for Term 2

July

Sun 3rd	Final Kids church & Ignite Connect for Term 2
Wed 6th	Central Prayer (at Neutral Bay)
Sun 10th & 17th	Holiday Kids Church
Mon 18th	Kids Mega Monday Young Adults Gathering English for Living Macquarie Park for Term 3 commences

July (Continued)

Tues 19th	Christianity Explored launch (7 weeks)
Wed 20th	Everyday English Term 3 commences
	Deeper Semester 2 commences
Thu 21st	Playtime at Kirribilli commences Term 3
Fri 22nd	Playtime at Macquarie Park commences Term 3
	Bridge Kids Fridays & Ignite Term 3 commences
Sun 24th	Kids Church Kick Off Term 3
	Ignite Connect Term 3 commences
Mon 25th	Playtime at Neutral Bay commences Term 3
Sun 31st	Launch Term 3 Sermon Series
	Baptism Information Session.



Connect Group Study #1

1 Samuel 16 - Week of 25th April

Background:

Who is Samuel? Who is Saul?

Read 1 Samuel 16

How does the world view people, compared to how God views people?

How would you compare Saul and David? What is different about this new king?

Read 1 Samuel 13:13-14. How does it help us understand the significance of 16:7?

How does vs 7 comfort you, knowing that God looks at our hearts? How does it challenge you?

In what ways can we look at the outward appearance, rather than at the heart, when it comes to: a) Religion? b) Leadership?

Do you ever feel inadequate for the roles God has given you? How does this passage comfort us, especially the idea of God giving us his Spirit?

What would you say to someone who said the following about this chapter:
“Look at David! He wasn’t much, but he became a king. Don’t judge a book by its cover”.

Looking to Jesus

How does God choosing David point us to Jesus? Read Isaiah 53:2-3.

What is significant about David being a shepherd? (Read Ezekiel 34:23).

Read John 10:11. What does it mean for Jesus to be the shepherd and king in your own life? What are some things that compete for his rule in your heart?



Sermon 1: 1 Samuel 16

Sunday 1st May

Bible readings:

Monday: 1 Samuel 16
Tuesday: 1 Samuel 17
Wednesday: 1 Samuel 18
Thursday: 1 Samuel 19
Friday: Psalm 59

Central Prayer this week!

Wed 4th May, held at Kirribilli





Sermon 2: 1 Samuel 17

Sunday 8th May

Bible readings:

Monday: 1 Samuel 20

Tuesday: 1 Samuel 21

Wednesday: Psalm 34

Thursday: Psalm 56

Friday: Psalm 142



Connect Group Study #2

1 Samuel 17 - Week of 9th May

Background:

"Who is the Goliath in your life? The Christian life is one of victory. Jesus is victorious, and so you can live a victorious life in him. Go and conquer your giants!". What is right and wrong about this statement?

Why is David so confident of victory, when other Israelites (who are stronger and better-armed than him) refuse to face Goliath?

a) vs 32-37

b) vs 45-47

How do the Israelites respond to the challenge (17:11, 24)? What would it look like in your life to respond to temptation and opposition differently to them?

What attitude does Goliath show towards Israel and God? What other situations in our world today do we see God's honour at stake?

David recognises God's reputation is at stake, and he's willing to risk his life for it. Do you have that same passion driving you? Why/why not?

Is David the hero of this story? Whose role is emphasised?

Like David, Paul talks about his weakness in ministry. Read 2 Corinthians 12:9-10. How does our weakness show God's glory? How does this change the way we think about serving Jesus?

Read 2 Samuel 7:11-14. Years after David defeats Goliath, God promises that he will have a descendant who is a greater king even than him. What can we look to that king to do for God's people? How has he conquered our enemies?

The bible teaches that we are saved by grace alone, not by our works. Where can we see the incredible grace of God in this passage?

Read 2 Corinthians 10:4-5 and Ephesians 6:10-17. What role do we play today in conquering the enemies of God? How can you actively put on the armour of God?

What difference would it make in your life if you remembered Jesus has won the battle? (For more, read 1 Cor 15:54-57).

In pairs, try and think about how you would use the story of David and Goliath to explain the gospel to a non-Christian. Share back with the group.



Sermon 3: 1 Samuel 18-20

Sunday 15th May

Bible readings:

Monday: 1 Samuel 22
Tuesday: Psalm 52
Wednesday: Psalm 57
Thursday: 1 Samuel 23
Friday: Psalm 54



Connect Group Study #3

1 Samuel 18-20 - Week of 16th May

In what ways has God used seasons of trial or testing in your life to prepare you for new callings or endeavours? What was difficult during the trials? What changed regarding your perspective when you looked back and saw God's hand in them?

How do Jonathan and the people feel about their king?

What is the right response for us towards God's king, Jesus?

What is Saul's attitude towards David, and why? Read:

18:8-9, 15-16, 28-29

18:12, 28-29.

Do you recognise any of Saul's attitudes in yourself? How can you make sure your identity and security are in Jesus and not in other things?

What are some of the things Saul tries to do to David?

What is beautiful about the friendship between Jonathan and David? How can you cultivate those kinds of friendships?

Jonathan is often held up as a model of a good friend. But how is he, much more than this, the model of a good follower of God's king. What sacrifices did he make?

Read the following passages. How is David's experience of rejection similar to Jesus?

a) Matthew 8:20

b) Matthew 13:53-57

c) Phil 2:5-11 (David was humiliated before being exalted, and so was Jesus).

What does David's experience tell us about how we should expect our lives to be as people chosen by God?

Why do we find it hard to remember that the Christian life involves suffering?

In times of suffering and opposition, what truths can we hold on to?

Psalm 59 was written by David during these events. How does it encourage our hearts? Spend some time meditating on it and then turn it into a prayer together.



Sermon 4: 1 Samuel 25

Sunday 22nd May

Bible readings:

Monday: 1 Samuel 23
Tuesday: Psalm 63
Wednesday: 1 Samuel 24
Thursday: Psalm 7
Friday: 1 Samuel 25



Connect Group Study #4

1 Samuel 25 - Week of 23rd May

Have you ever been warned about a potential mistake? What was the situation? What did someone say or do that helped you to make a better decision?

Read 1 Samuel 25

How is Nabal described? What qualities about him are emphasised? How is he contrasted with Abigail? (v2-3)

Why is David in the wilderness (v4)? Why is he, essentially, begging from a rich man? What are some things that David has done (v5-8; v14-16)?

What was Nabal's response (v10-11)? Does he truly not know who David is? What is suggested by his words: 'many servants are breaking away from their masters'?

What do you think of David's reaction to Nabal's rudeness in v13? Or what he says in v21-22? How does it contrast with his actions towards Saul in chapters 24 and 26?

Examine the descriptions (v3) and actions (v18-19; v23-31; v36-37) of Abigail, as well as how people around her treat her (v14-17). How would you describe Abigail?

Examine Abigail's speech to David in v23-31. What are some striking things that you notice? How many times does Abigail refer to the LORD?

Look at David's speeches in v32-34 and v39. What did Abigail's wisdom prevent David from doing?

How can Abigail be an example to us of wisdom, humility and godly counsel?

When are we tempted to take justice into our own hands? What are the dangers of taking such action?

When has forgiving someone who has wronged you been difficult? What helped in the end?

Have you ever been forgiven after wronging someone else? How did that feel?

Pray (suggested time: 20 minutes)

- Praise God that he holds justice in his own hands and that his judgment is always right
- Praise God for the forgiveness that he has given to us all through Jesus
- Pray that we may have the heart of Jesus, forgiving with generosity and love as he did for us



Sermon 5: 1 Samuel 26-31

Sunday 29th May

Bible readings:

Monday: 1 Samuel 26
Tuesday: 1 Samuel 27
Wednesday: 1 Samuel 28
Thursday: 1 Samuel 29
Friday: 1 Samuel 30

Central Prayer this week!

Wed 1st June, held at Macquarie Park





Sermon 6: 2 Samuel 2-6

Sunday 5th June

Bible readings:

Monday: 1 Samuel 31
Tuesday: 2 Samuel 1
Wednesday: 2 Samuel 2
Thursday: 2 Samuel 3
Friday: 2 Samuel 4



Connect Group Study #5

2 Samuel 2-6- Week of 6th June

Read 2 Samuel 6

Opening question: Can you share a time when someone you know massively overreacted to something?

Why did God strike Uzzah dead? Was God overreacting? See Numbers 4:4-6, 17-20.

How does what God did to Uzzah make you feel?

How did David feel about the incident? How would you feel if you were him? See vs 8-9.

Psalm 2:11 says: "Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling". How can we be complacent and casual in our attitude towards God's king?

Read Hebrews 12:28-29. How does it help us apply 2 Samuel 6 to our lives today?

Three months have passed in vs 12-17. What has David learned about how to properly approach God?

Read the following quote from Mr Beaver about Aslan in ‘The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe’: “Safe?... Course he isn’t safe. But He’s Good”. Do you feel similarly about God?

How can we live with a God who is both good and dangerous?

What did the ark of the Lord represent? What is David asking in vs 9?

How is David’s question in vs 9 fulfilled in Jesus? Read Hebrews 10:19.

Why does Michal respond in such a way in vs 20? What does she get wrong and what does David get right? What should our hearts be like before God?

Are you influenced by the opinions of others? How can you be like David and focus more on God’s opinion of you?

Do you celebrate before God (vs 21)? In what ways can we do this? How can we stimulate this kind of worship in our hearts?



Sermon 7: 2 Samuel 7

Sunday 12th June

Bible readings:

Monday: 2 Samuel 5

Tuesday: 2 Samuel 6

Wednesday: Psalm 30

Thursday: 2 Samuel 7

Friday: Psalm 89



Connect Group Study #6

2 Samuel 7- Week of 13th June

Have you ever done something kind for someone else and not asked for anything in return? What was the response? What happened in the end?

Read 2 Samuel 7:1-17

Given all that David has been through, what's remarkable about v1? What were David's first thoughts (v2)?

Why doesn't God need a place of worship for himself? What is it about him that does not require it?

Instead, God makes a series of promises to David in v 8-16:

a) Why does God start with what he has already done?

b) What are the actual promises?

c) Are there any similarities between any other promises from God earlier in the Bible? (cf Gen 12:2-3; 17:4-8)

How are these promises ultimately fulfilled in Jesus? vs 12, 13, 14, and 16?
Look at Matthew 1.

Read 2 Samuel 7:18-29

What was David's response to God's promises? What does it show us about the kind of king he is?

On this side of the cross, how is this promise to David a promise to us? How is David's response to be like our response?

How are we sometimes tempted to contribute to our own salvation? What does this passage reveal about the kind of works that God requires from us?

Pray (suggested time: 20 minutes)

- Praise God for all that he gives us – that he does this out of abundance of love and faithfulness
- Praise God for his gift of Jesus Christ, the ultimate fulfillment of God's promises in 2 Samuel 7
- Pray that we may always remember God's faithfulness and to trust in his eternal, enduring and sure promises



Sermon 8: 2 Samuel 9

Sunday 19th June

Bible readings:

Monday: 2 Samuel 8

Tuesday: Psalm 60

Wednesday: 2 Samuel 9

Thursday: 2 Samuel 10

Friday: 2 Samuel 11



Connect Group Study #7

2 Samuel 9- Week of 20th June

Opening Question: Encourage each other with God's grace: How did you first accept the invitation to God's family table and become a Christian?

Read 2 Samuel 9

Would you be afraid like Mephibosheth was if you were coming before the victorious king David? Why was he so afraid?

What are good and bad fears when we think about coming into the presence of God?

How does David's kindness relate to previous passages in 1-2 Samuel? See especially 1 Sam 20:13-17; 24:20-22; 2 Sam 4:4.

How does David's invitation point us to God's invitation towards us?

How are we given a place at God's table? What does it represent?

Go deeper: Read Luke 14:13-21. How does Jesus' story show the kindness and grace of God?

How does the Lord's Supper in church illustrate this invitation into a relationship of intimacy and friendship?

How can you use your table (meal times, eating together, Connect Groups) to extend to others, Jesus' invitation to belong to his family?

What is significant about the fact that David treats him like a son (vs 11)? How does that point us to the gospel of Jesus?

How does this passage shape our attitudes towards people with a disability?

How does Mephibosheth's response in vs 8 model the right way to respond to God's king?

Christ's love for us, like David's for Mephibosheth, is so unexpected, so incredible. Have you become so used to it that it no longer causes you to be amazed?



Sermon 9: 2 Samuel 11-12

Sunday 26th June

Bible readings:

Monday: 2 Samuel 12
Tuesday: Psalm 51
Wednesday: 2 Samuel 13
Thursday: 2 Samuel 14
Friday: 2 Samuel 15



Connect Group Study #8

2 Samuel 11-12 - Week of 27th June

Opening Question: Share a story (yours or one you've heard) where a cover-up led to more and more deception.

Read 2 Samuel 11.

What mistakes did David make that led to him sinning with Bathsheba? (vs 1-3)

How many cover-up schemes does David attempt? Why do you think David tries to cover it up? When are you/we tempted to do the same thing with our sin?

Read James 1:14-15. How does it help us understand what happens when we sin? If a great man like King David can fall, is there any hope for the rest of us?

Do you recognise this pattern of falling into sin in your own life? How have similar failures led you, or others, into a spiral of sin?

David's sin was not to see Bathsheba, but to keep on looking. How do we unhelpfully indulge our eyes?

Read 2 Samuel 12

What charges does God lay before David in vs 7-9?

How can we be like David's friend Nathan when it comes to helping others in the battle against sin? (see Matt 7:4; 18:15-20; Gal 6:1; 2 Tim 2:24-26; James 5:19-20).

What steps does David take to confess his sins and be restored to God?

Often, it's easy to be caught in sin and forget God's power to forgive and transform us. How can we help ourselves and others to experience the freedom and forgiveness we have in Christ when we are caught in sin?

How does God take away David's sin (vs 13)?

What were the consequences of David's sin? See 12:10, 11, and 14. What does this teach us about sin and forgiveness in this world?

Psalm 51 was written by David at this time. How does this Psalm show David's genuine repentance?

Finish your time by praying Psalm 51 together out loud as a prayer of repentance.



Sermon 10: 2 Samuel 13-17

Sunday 3rd July

Bible readings:

Monday: 2 Samuel 16

Tuesday: 2 Samuel 17

Wednesday: Psalm 3

Thursday: 2 Samuel 18

Friday: 2 Samuel 19

Central Prayer this week!

Wed 6th July, held at Neutral Bay





Sermon 11: 2 Samuel 22-23

Sunday 10th July

Bible readings:

Monday: 2 Samuel 20
Tuesday: 2 Samuel 21
Wednesday: 2 Samuel 22
Thursday: 2 Samuel 23
Friday: 2 Samuel 24

Personal Reflection following our series

How has our series on 1 & 2 Samuel changed your view of:

a) God: Father, Son & Spirit?

b) Yourself?

c) The world in which we live?

How could our series on 1 & 2 Samuel help you in Loving the Nations?

What is one area you have changed in your thinking or actions, because of this series?

What is one question that you still have?

Giving at Church

God has been gracious and generous to us, and we are called to give back. The generosity of our congregations across the three sites of Kirribilli, Neutral Bay and Macquarie Park, generates over 80% of our income.

“Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.” 2 Corinthians 9:6

Through this joyful giving, we are able to fund a wide range of ministries, both locally and further afield. In this Year of Loving the Nations, we aspire to have a “Think Global: Act Local”, mindset. We’ve each been invited to choose a different nation to learn about and pray for and it is important to know that we provide financial support for missionaries in many different parts of the world.

The Bridge Church is supporting 24 mission partners across the world - over 10% of our offertories go to supporting their great work in parts of the world where there is a real need to spread the gospel. We help these partners in a number of ways, providing funding towards their costs of living and sharing the good news in these locations. We often find there are some very specific ways in which we can provide support, when particular needs arise that would be very difficult to fund locally or would cause major disruption to the important ministry work that these teams provide.

One such recent example, was the way in which we were able to provide some additional funding for Tawanda and Shupi Masango who are teaching the Bible and training students at National University of Science and Technology in Bulluwayo, Zimbabwe. This money was needed to purchase an automatic glucose monitoring device from South Africa that enabled their son Sanele’s glucose levels to be continuously and automatically monitored. They were incredibly grateful for our support and continued partnership with them.



We would dearly love to be able to support more mission partners around the world. If you would like to partner with The Bridge Church and help us to fund more mission partners, you can give by using our bank account details below, scanning the QR code or heading to our website for more details, including the option to give by credit card.

We thank you for your continued and intentional giving to help us spread the Good News.

<https://thebridgechurch.org.au/give>

Bank Account details
The Bridge Church
BSB: 032-099
Account number: 637189



“As for God, his way is perfect: The LORD’s word is flawless; he shields all who take refuge in him. For who is God besides the LORD?”

2 Samuel 22:31



The Bridge Church
thebridgechurch.org.au