



ontrack devotions

JUNE

2022

2 SAMUEL

# MONTHLY PRAYER SHEET

**"...The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective." James 5:16**

Who I Will Reach	How I Will Do It	How It Went

Other Requests	Date Answered	How It Was Answered

# MONTHLY COMMITMENT SHEET

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

This sheet is designed to help you make personal commitments each month that will **help you grow in your walk with God**. Fill it out by determining

1. What will push you
2. What you think you can achieve

If you need help filling out your commitments, seek out someone you trust who can help you. Share your commitments with those who will help keep you accountable.

## **Personal Devotions:**

How did I do with my commitment last month? \_\_\_\_\_  
I will commit to read the OnTrack Bible passage and devotional thought \_\_\_\_\_ day(s) each week this month.

## **Church Attendance:**

How did I do last month with my attendance? \_\_\_\_\_  
I will attend church \_\_\_\_\_ time(s) this month.  
I will attend small group \_\_\_\_\_ time(s) this month.  
I will attend \_\_\_\_\_ time(s) this month.  
(List any other activities you will participate in this month—Bible study, church events, etc.)

## **Bible Memory:**

How did I do with Bible memory last month? \_\_\_\_\_  
I will memorize \_\_\_\_\_ verse(s) this month.

## **Outreach:**

How did I do last month with sharing Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_

I will share Jesus with \_\_\_\_\_ this month.

I will serve my local church this month by \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

While 1 Samuel focused on Saul's reign as King, 2 Samuel focuses on David's reign as king. As we read through this book, we will learn much about David and why God said he was a man after His own heart. David was truly one of the great men of God in the Bible, illustrated by how often we read the statement, "but for the sake of my servant David." Long after David's death, God responded to events in the lives of people in light of His love for David. In this chapter, we have an example of what made him so great. His response to the death of Saul was amazing considering the depth of Saul's hatred toward David and how wickedly he had been treated by this man. Yet, when Saul died, David and his men mourned for him. David even wrote a song in honor of Saul and ordered that all the men of Judah be taught it. He refused to become bitter or hostile toward him. He not only felt this way personally, but was able to help his men develop these same qualities. Are you like David in this way? Mercy and compassion in the midst of opposition are godly characteristics. Are you demonstrating them?

### SAY WHAT?

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Observation: What do I see?

### SO WHAT?

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Interpretation: What does it mean?

### NOW WHAT?

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Application: How does it apply to me?

### THEN WHAT?

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Implementation: What do I do?

## EXTRA READING

2 SAMUEL 1

## 2 SAMUEL 2:1-7

## GUIDANCE

**SAY WHAT?**

In what area of your life do you easily forget to seek God's counsel?

**SO WHAT?**

Why is it so easy to leave God out of some areas of our lives?

**NOW WHAT?**

What steps can you take to avoid the pattern of Saul and follow the pattern of David?

**THEN WHAT?**

In light of this passage, what personal commitment can you make?

In this chapter, we learn a second quality that made David great. How many decisions did David ask God about in today's reading? David began his reign by inquiring of the Lord instead of relying on his own wisdom. He wanted God's direction in every area. Notice that first, he wanted confirmation that it was time to become king. He knew that God had promised it, but he wanted to wait for God's timing. Second, David asked God where He wanted him to set up his rule. He wanted to be in the place of God's choosing. Compare this response to that of Saul. He had gotten so far from knowing what God wanted that he had to consult a spiritist to receive guidance. As we read through this book, we will see that David continually sought God's direction. Too often, we move ahead of God or ask Him to bless decisions that have already been made without concern for what He wants. Commit to follow David's example of seeking God's direction in the when and where of life. He already has a plan. Why not ask about it?

EXTRA READING  
2 SAMUEL 2

Have you ever sensed that God wanted you to do something but you resisted His leading? We can all learn a valuable lesson about resisting from Abner in today's reading. Abner made it obvious, in verse 9, that he knew God had promised the kingdom to David. In spite of that knowledge, he wanted Ish-Bosheth to have the kingdom. When it became apparent that it was not going to work out as he planned, he switched to David's side in order to maintain his position and glory. Did his actions have consequences? Ultimately, he was murdered by Joab. What a contrast to David, who patiently waited for God's timing. In due time, David was not only given the kingdom, but was proven to be innocent of any crime. In fact, God used these very circumstances to cause the people's loyalty to be with David. Choosing to do the will of God is always best. If we try to resist His will or attempt to force it to fit our purpose, we will eventually pay the price. Is God prompting you in an area of your life in which you need to simply obey and follow His direction? What will you choose?

### SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

### SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

### NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

### THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

## EXTRA READING

2 SAMUEL 3

## 2 SAMUEL 4:5-12

## COMPROMISE

**SAY WHAT?**

Observation: What do I see?

**SO WHAT?**

Interpretation: What does it mean?

**NOW WHAT?**

Application: How does it apply to me?

**THEN WHAT?**

Implementation: What do I do?

Do the ends ever justify the means? If doing something wrong will speed up what God desires to happen eventually, does that negate the sin? That is exactly what Recab and Baanah thought in today's reading. They knew that God had promised the kingdom to David. They also knew that God did not want Ish-Bosheth to be king. They concluded that murdering him and avoiding the problems that may arise if he vied for power was the solution. They were even convinced that they were somehow doing the will of God. David did not see it the same way. He knew that murder was wrong regardless of the motive. The end never justifies the means. David again made a powerful statement to those around him. Although the motives may be good, or the outcome is what someone believes to be right, God will never honor sin. David's response was immediate and just. The two men were executed. God will never require us to disobey the Bible to fulfill His will. It may appear that His plan will not prevail, but we must never violate His standards to accomplish what we think is right.

EXTRA READING  
2 SAMUEL 4

In today's reading, we see the first crack in David's armor that will ultimately lead to disaster in his life. It is found in verse 13. David took for himself concubines and wives. Now it is true that these marriages were probably part of international treaties or alliances and not like marriages today. In those days, marriages were often used to seal treaties made between countries. The king who was entering into the agreement would give his daughter to seal it and make it binding. While this cultural tradition of political diplomacy accounted for many of David's marriages, it was still a violation of God's Word (1 Kings 11:1-3). With every occurrence of polygamy, David was violating the Word of God. Eventually, he would pay a heavy price for his sin in this area. We must never allow ourselves to compromise in any area of our lives. It may seem as if compromising in culturally accepted areas of life is a small thing, but if it violates God's standards, it will lead to disaster. Has God convicted you about an area of your life in which you tolerate compromise? When are you going to deal with it?

### SAY WHAT?

In what areas do people today use culture to excuse or justify sin?

### SO WHAT?

What reasons do you think David gave himself to excuse his sin?

### NOW WHAT?

What will you do to avoid similar compromise in your life?

### THEN WHAT?

In light of this passage, what personal commitment can you make?

## EXTRA READING

2 SAMUEL 5

## 2 SAMUEL 6:1-11

## OBEDIENCE

**SAY WHAT?**

Observation: What do I see?

**SO WHAT?**

Interpretation: What does it mean?

**NOW WHAT?**

Application: How does it apply to me?

**THEN WHAT?**

Implementation: What do I do?

Why was David angry in this chapter? Was he angry because God had responded with such force, or was he angry at himself for not being more careful? Whatever his reason, we do know that David's zeal and passion for God, though admirable, was not guided by careful obedience to the Word of God. Consequently, a man died. A valuable lesson is here for us to learn. God had clearly stated that any time the ark was to be moved, it was to be carried by the Sons of Kohath. Also, it was not to be placed on a cart drawn by animals, but it was to be carried using the prescribed poles (Ex 25:12-15). Unfortunately for Uzzah, they did not follow the instructions concerning the ark and as a result, he violated them by touching it. We live in a world in which people want their passion for God to have greater value than obedience to God. The Bible must always control our behavior. We cannot force the Bible to conform to our behavior. Obedience, not desire, must determine what we do. Does it for you?

EXTRA READING  
2 SAMUEL 6

What motivated David's prayer life? As we look closely at the prayer in today's reading, we find it clearly stated. In fact, it is a good way to examine the motives of our own prayer lives. David was very aware of how undeserving he was of the blessing of God in his life. He knew that his kingdom was a gift from God, not a result of his strength or wisdom. In verse 25, David asked God to fulfill the promises He had made to him. Why? According to verse 26, it was so that God's name would be magnified forever. His request was not made because of his desire for personal glory or a life of comfort. It was motivated by his love for God and a desire to bring honor and glory to His Name. He wanted God to be admired by the nations. What do you pray for? Are you praying only about yourself and for selfish things? Does the content of your prayers reflect only what is best for you? God's glory should be our motivation. Is that what your prayers reveal? What needs to change?

### SAY WHAT?

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List some of the most common motives people have when they pray?

### SO WHAT?

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How can you determine what the true motives of your prayers are?

### NOW WHAT?

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What will you do to ensure that your motives are pure when you pray?

### THEN WHAT?

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In light of this passage, what personal commitment can you make?

## EXTRA READING

2 SAMUEL 7

## 2 SAMUEL 8:1-14

## GOD GAVE

**SAY WHAT?**

Observation: What do I see?

**SO WHAT?**

Interpretation: What does it mean?

**NOW WHAT?**

Application: How does it apply to me?

**THEN WHAT?**

Implementation: What do I do?

As David's kingdom began to expand, a common theme emerged. It is a phrase found in verses 6 & 14. It is a phrase that we will often see as we read through this book. David was expanding his kingdom in all directions. In the west, he defeated the Philistines. In the east, he defeated Moab. In the south, the Amalekites were subdued. In the north, he took control of Hadadezer and what he ruled. It was the hand of God that worked to bring about the expansion of the kingdom of David. David knew that it was God who moved the hearts of the people to embrace him as king. He transformed a lowly shepherd into the ruler of a nation. And, it was the hand of God that gave him great victory and increased his borders. We often look at our successes and feel great pride in all we have done. We fail to realize that it is God who gives us success. Acknowledging God's work in our lives prevents pride from creeping in. God is at work. His will is being accomplished. Remember to acknowledge that.

EXTRA READING  
2 SAMUEL 8

Today's reading is a Psalm believed to be written as a result of the events we read about yesterday in chapter 8. While David and the majority of his army were at war in the north, a neighboring enemy successfully attacked the southern part of Judah. This Psalm expresses the emotion they must have felt when it seemed as if God had abandoned Israel. It contains a pattern of thought that we can use when we face difficult and confusing situations. When all seems to be going well and then the world falls apart, we find ourselves in the same situation that people of faith have for generations. In verses 1-5, we see feelings of abandonment expressed. The circumstances seemed to indicate that God had forgotten them. We are then reminded by the Psalmist that God is in total control of every event in our lives. He has not left us. The truth of that conviction should lead us to have confidence in God's sovereignty. Although it may seem as if God has abandoned us, He never will. Do you find yourself in a situation in which you need to be reminded of the sovereignty of God? Write out part of this Psalm to remind you.

### SAY WHAT?

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Observation: What do I see?

### SO WHAT?

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Interpretation: What does it mean?

### NOW WHAT?

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Application: How does it apply to me?

### THEN WHAT?

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Implementation: What do I do?

## EXTRA READING

PSALM 60

## 2 SAMUEL 9:6-13

## SECURITY

**SAY WHAT?**

In what areas do people in our culture feel threatened by others?

**SO WHAT?**

How is that usually demonstrated?

**NOW WHAT?**

How can you use David's example to help you avoid responding out of fear?

**THEN WHAT?**

In light of this passage, what personal commitment can you make?

In today's reading, we see another positive characteristic of David. When we consider the culture of the day, David's actions become even more amazing. Remember, David had formed a significant relationship with Saul's son Jonathan. Because David loved Jonathan, he wanted to help his children in any way that he could. He searched and found Jonathan's one remaining son, Mephibosheth. Upon locating him, David gave him the land that once had belonged to Saul and invited him to eat at his table. David was gracious to Mephibosheth, and was not threatened by who he was. Mephibosheth had a rightful claim to the throne and could have posed a danger to David's reign. In that society, a new king would routinely kill anyone who had claim to the throne in order to secure his kingdom. David's behavior illustrates that his security was in God and he felt no need to protect what God had given him. In the same way, we do not need to aggressively hang on to what God has given to us. Whether it be a position at work, a relationship, or our standing in the community, we must find our security in God and not ourselves.

EXTRA READING  
2 SAMUEL 9

Did you ever find yourself facing what appeared to be insurmountable odds? Was it a situation in which you felt there was no hope? In this passage, we find Joab in that very predicament. His response can encourage us to follow his example. The army was hemmed in by the enemy in front and behind. The Ammonite army was ready at the city gate and the Arameans were encamped in the fields around the city. Joab opted to divide his forces and deal with both groups of enemy soldiers at the same time. He urged his troops to be strong and have confidence in the fact that God determines the outcome of the battle, not their military might or military knowledge. Joab asked his men to trust God's ability to accomplish what was good in His sight. As the troops advanced, God gave them victory. Like Joab, when we face difficult circumstances, we must not despair or resign ourselves to defeat. God provides the victory and our confidence must lie in Him. We must trust God, knowing His mighty power will accomplish what is good. While we do not know the outcome, we know it will be His perfect will.

### SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

### SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

### NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

### THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

## EXTRA READING

2 SAMUEL 10

## 2 SAMUEL 11:1-15

## SIN'S PROGRESSION

**SAY WHAT?**

Observation: What do I see?

As you read this passage about David's sin, did you see the progression of his fall? It is a good lesson to learn so that we can avoid falling into sin ourselves. Step one, we see that David had become lazy. Verse one tells us that David was home, instead of at war, where a king should have been. He sent Joab in his place. He was lazy when he should have been working. Step two, he moved away from protection. David saw Bathsheba and decided to send someone to find out who she was instead of walking away. Step three, David put himself in a position to commit sin by sending messengers to get Bathsheba. If he had not gotten more information about her and simply walked away, he could have avoided sin, but he did not. He deliberately chose to give in to his lust and sleep with a married woman. As you examine your life, do you find that you are lazy, resulting in avoidable temptation? Have you become less cautious in avoiding temptation? Have you placed yourself in a position to sin? Who can help you process what you read today? What should your next steps be?

**SO WHAT?**

Interpretation: What does it mean?

**NOW WHAT?**

Application: How does it apply to me?

**THEN WHAT?**

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING  
2 SAMUEL 11

In verse 27 of yesterday's passage there was an important phrase. Go back and read it. We learn that while David may have felt his sin was unnoticed, God had seen it and He was not pleased with the choices that he made. God sent Nathan to rebuke David for his sin. In today's reading, we learn two more facts about sin. One, God always deals with sin. We may think we have gotten away with it, but God will respond in some way, someday. Second, sin always has consequences. Nathan told David a story about sheep. If what he said was an actual incident, the law would not have required that the man be killed as David suggested, but that he make 4-fold restitution. David would in fact see this unfold during his lifetime, as three of his own sons died. His fourth son died shortly after his own death. His sons by Bathsheba—Amnon, Absalom and Adonijah—all died, not to mention the emotional trauma his sin caused in the lives of his family. David paid a heavy price for a brief moment of pleasure. Sin will always find you out, and it will always have consequences. We can't get away with sin. Is there a hidden sin you need to confess? Do so today!

### SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

### SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

### NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

### THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

## EXTRA READING

2 SAMUEL 12

## PSALM 51

## TRUE REPENTANCE

**SAY WHAT?**

Observation: What do I see?

**SO WHAT?**

Interpretation: What does it mean?

**NOW WHAT?**

Application: How does it apply to me?

**THEN WHAT?**

Implementation: What do I do?

Today and tomorrow, we will be reading two Psalms written by David after his sin with Bathsheba. While it is true that David initially tried to cover up his sin, after being confronted by Nathan, he demonstrated true repentance. Chapter 11 taught us how to avoid sin and chapter 12 taught us that if we sin, there are always consequences. These two Psalms demonstrate that a heart filled with true sorrow and repentance will find the forgiveness and grace of God. Both of these Psalms give us a pattern for true repentance that we can follow. First, a plea for forgiveness was made. Second, although many are hurt when sin is committed, the ultimate violation is against God. Third, a longing to be cleansed follows. The blame rests only on himself and David desires spiritual restoration. Fourth, a commitment to renewed service is made. Guilt over failure will not paralyze him, but motivate him to allow God to continue to use him. Finally, God's healing is sought not only for himself but for the nation. Do you need to repent and seek forgiveness for sin as David did? Write down these steps to use yourself or to help others who need to repent.

EXTRA READING  
2 SAMUEL 12

According to Bible scholars, Psalm 51 was written by David in the midst of his guilt and resulting repentance because of his sin with Bathsheba. Psalm 32 is believed to have been written after David wrote Psalm 51. The perspective is different because it is more of a reflective look at what he learned from his sin. He shares with us two important lessons. The first lesson is to remember what we learned. He remembered what it was like when he tried to hide his sin. There was guilt and pain in his soul from unconfessed sin. The hand of God was heavy on his life and nothing seemed good. He remembered what it was like when he finally went to God and was forgiven. A second lesson is to go to God immediately. His love and forgiveness will overwhelm us. David instructs us to not resist God's prompting when there is sin that needs to be confessed. David confirms that a repentant man will find God's forgiveness. Do you need to take this to heart? Does someone you know need this forgiveness?

### SAY WHAT?

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Why is it so hard for us to acknowledge our sin to God and seek His forgiveness?

### SO WHAT?

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How can you use today's reading to help you respond to sin?

### NOW WHAT?

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What do you need to do in light of what you have read during these past four days?

### THEN WHAT?

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In light of this passage, what personal commitment can you make?

## EXTRA READING

2 SAMUEL 12

## 2 SAMUEL 13:1-22

## OUR EXAMPLE

**SAY WHAT?**

Observation: What do I see?

**SO WHAT?**

Interpretation: What does it mean?

**NOW WHAT?**

Application: How does it apply to me?

**THEN WHAT?**

Implementation: What do I do?

Did you notice that there are similarities between Absalom's behavior in this passage and David's in chapter 11? Both men used wine to get their victims drunk. Both men had someone else do the actual killing for them. Both men plotted in order to gain something—David wanted Bathsheba and Absalom wanted the death of his rival to the throne. Could Absalom have been following David's example of dealing with his problems? This passage reveals to us that David set a lousy example as a father for his children, and then made no attempt to resolve the situation as it unfolded. When David heard of Amnon's sin, he should have addressed it. Instead, he did nothing. When Absalom killed Amnon, he should have intervened, but again, he did nothing. As a result, the sin and its consequences just continued on in his family. His poor example and lack of response resulted in shattered lives. Often, we do not stop to think of the impact our behavior can have on those watching. We must not only be a good example, but also help others avoid repeating our sin. Is your life like David's in some areas? What kind of example are you setting?

EXTRA READING  
2 SAMUEL 13

Did you ever feel like your parents were too hard on you? Did you ever feel like an authority made a big deal out of something really minor? There may be times that we would like our parents or authority to be more tolerant and permissive but, in this passage, we see what can happen to children whose parents or authorities are tolerant and passive. We read yesterday that David neglected to punish Amnon for his sin with Tamar. Likewise, Absalom did not suffer any kind of consequences for killing Amnon. In this chapter, David brought Absalom back home, but refused to meet with him or even speak to him. It must have been during these times that Absalom's heart grew more rebellious toward God and his father. How different might it have been had David been less permissive or tolerant of his children's behavior? It is a blessing to have parents or authorities who are involved in what goes on in our lives and who are willing to come down hard on sinful behavior. To have that kind of parent or authority is a gift from God. Do you appreciate it? Why not thank them today?

### SAY WHAT?

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What kind of response should David have had in his children's lives?

### SO WHAT?

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In what ways have your parents or authorities responded that helped you in the past?

### NOW WHAT?

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What reason do you think God had for giving you the parents or authorities He did?

### THEN WHAT?

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In light of this passage, what personal commitment can you make?

## EXTRA READING

2 SAMUEL 14

## 2 SAMUEL 15:13-37

## TRUSTING GOD

**SAY WHAT?**

Observation: What do I see?

**SO WHAT?**

Interpretation: What does it mean?

**NOW WHAT?**

Application: How does it apply to me?

**THEN WHAT?**

Implementation: What do I do?

Did David really believe that God had total control over his life? As we read through this chapter, we can assume that he did. Think about it. Absalom's rebellion spilled out and his plot was hatched. Rather than fight it, David was willing to submit himself to the plan of God and did not manipulate what he felt God was doing. He concluded that if God no longer wanted him to be king, he would live with that decision. In verse 25, David expressed his faith to Zadok. The Levites brought the ark of God out of the city to be a comfort, but David sent it back. He knew that if God wanted him to rule as the king, He would put him back on the throne. But if not, David was willing to submit to that as well. David wanted the plan of God to unfold in his life. Do you demonstrate the same kind of faith in your life? Do you allow God to reveal His plan for your life and then submit to it or do you resist what He is doing? Can you trust Him enough to allow someone else to take the place or position you hold? It takes great confidence to trust that His way is always best even if His plan is not yours. Do you need to apply this to a specific situation today?

EXTRA READING  
2 SAMUEL 15

How can we have assurance in the midst of overwhelming adversity? This Psalm, written during David's difficulty with Absalom gives us some insights. David, in one of his darkest moments, went back to truth. He deliberately chose to find confidence in his theology. He reminded himself that God was aware of his circumstances. David knew that when he cried, God heard him. God knew exactly what he was going through. David also reflected on God's ability to sustain him. God not only knew and cared about those circumstances, but He provided the strength for him to persevere in the midst of them. David then focused on God's ability to defend him. God knew what was going on, helped him persevere, and protected him from any evil. This Psalm contains an excellent pattern for us to follow when we face difficult circumstances. We must not forget that God knows, He cares, and He strengthens and protects. Is there a circumstance in your life in which you need to remind yourself of these things? Why not write them down and post them where you can see them.

### SAY WHAT?

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What difficult circumstance are you facing right now?

### SO WHAT?

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Why is it so hard for you to trust God in them?

### NOW WHAT?

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How can you apply this Psalm in these difficult circumstances?

### THEN WHAT?

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In light of this passage, what personal commitment can you make?

## EXTRA READING

2 SAMUEL 15

## 2 SAMUEL 16:5-14

## LESSONS FROM SIN

**SAY WHAT?**

Observation: What do I see?

**SO WHAT?**

Interpretation: What does it mean?

**NOW WHAT?**

Application: How does it apply to me?

**THEN WHAT?**

Implementation: What do I do?

This chapter gives us several lessons regarding sin. One lesson is that although we sin, we can repent. With our repentance comes learning and growth from the mistakes we have made. We also see the lesson that, although we can learn from sin, consequences will still follow. David had to leave his throne and find safety. On his way, a distant relative of Saul's cursed him. Instead of reacting like he did with Nabal, he endured it with grace and left it with God. He had learned to control his anger when insulted. That lesson was easier to learn than the next lesson, which illustrates that the consequences to our sin are sometimes very painful. The chapter closes with Absalom shamelessly sleeping with David's concubines. His brazen behavior demonstrated to the public that he was claiming the throne for himself. This action fulfilled the judgement declared by Nathan to David for his sin with Bathsheba. While sin can be confessed and forgiven, and lessons learned, we cannot control the painful consequences of sin in our lives and the lives of others. Sin will take you farther than you ever intend to go.

EXTRA READING  
2 SAMUEL 16

While it is not clearly stated, many believe this Psalm was written in relationship to the events you read about yesterday. It was a plea from David, asking that God vindicate him from the accusations and actions taken against him. David begins with expressing his anxiety concerning the events he was facing. He described his enemies as a lion, ready to tear him to pieces. He then asked God to reveal any sin in his life. Although he did not claim to be perfect, he felt that he was innocent of any wrongdoing in this instance. He then stated his case before God. He asked not only for vindication, but also that God would repay those who falsely accused him. The Psalm ends with David recommitting the events of his life to the control of God. He left it in the Lord's hand to do with it what He wanted. David did not make any demands or give a timetable in which he wanted God to work. David resumed singing praise to God and trusting His righteousness. What a great example to us of how to respond when we are attacked and falsely accused. Do you need to take any of these steps today?

### SAY WHAT?

When have you ever faced a situation in which you were falsely accused?

### SO WHAT?

How did you respond to that situation?

### NOW WHAT?

How can you use David's example to help you next time you are falsely accused?

### THEN WHAT?

In light of this passage, what personal commitment can you make?

## EXTRA READING

2 SAMUEL 16

## 2 SAMUEL 17:1-23

## HOPELESS

**SAY WHAT?**

Observation: What do I see?

**SO WHAT?**

Interpretation: What does it mean?

**NOW WHAT?**

Application: How does it apply to me?

**THEN WHAT?**

Implementation: What do I do?

Have you ever felt like the situation you were in was totally hopeless? Did it seem as if there was no solution and disaster was looming on the horizon? In this chapter, we find David is just such a situation. We can learn so much from seeing David's problems up close and watching how he dealt with them. David left Jerusalem and it appeared as if his defeat was sure. In the meantime, Absalom was trying to determine what was the best course of action. He received two opposing pieces of advice. One was to pursue David immediately, the other was to wait. His success would be determined by which advice he followed. Fortunately for David, he followed the wrong one. Why do you suppose he made a poor choice? According to verse 14, it was because God had a plan. God would defeat Absalom and give the kingdom back to David. We sometimes forget that God is always in control of everything. He alone can control what people see, think, or perceive, according to His plan. He has total control over not only our lives, but also over those whose choices affect us. Take comfort in that today.

EXTRA READING  
2 SAMUEL 17

Today, we again see the consequences of wrong choices. Consequences bring grief and can't be changed. God brought victory for David. His rebellious son died and David was filled with grief. He became focused on his own loss and had no thought for his men or the fact that God's intervention was just. David's grief and sorrow were an indication of how much he loved his son, but unfortunately for Absalom, that love did not motivate him to be the kind of father he should have been. It was too late to demonstrate his love to his son, too late to build the kind of relationship he should have had with Absalom. It may be that David's excessive sorrow was related to his understanding that he had failed in many ways as a father. His choices had a major affect on the emotional and physical lives of his children. Do you ever consider the affect your decisions will have on your relationship with your family? Choices you make today will impact those relationships. Have you considered the consequences?

### SAY WHAT?

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Why do we find it so difficult to build solid relationships with the people that are closest to us?

### SO WHAT?

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What kind of behavior today could result in regret later?

### NOW WHAT?

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How can you avoid doing something that will result in negatively affecting those you love?

### THEN WHAT?

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In light of this passage, what personal commitment can you make?

## EXTRA READING

2 SAMUEL 18

## 2 SAMUEL 19:9-43

## COMPASSION

**SAY WHAT?**

Observation: What do I see?

**SO WHAT?**

Interpretation: What does it mean?

**NOW WHAT?**

Application: How does it apply to me?

**THEN WHAT?**

Implementation: What do I do?

What three things did David do when he returned to Jerusalem? What do they tell us about him? The first thing he did was demonstrate mercy to someone who wronged him. He could have easily punished Shimei for cursing him when he left Jerusalem, but he entrusted vindication to the Lord. Secondly, he restored Mephibosheth to his position. You may remember that Ziba had deceived David into believing that Mephibosheth had deserted him. David could have assumed he was deliberately hurt and responded to his pain based on his assumption. Instead, he found out what had taken place and treated Saul's grandson with compassion. And finally, he rewarded Barzillai for his faithful support during his absence. David understood how much this man risked and sacrificed by giving him supplies during Absalom's reign. These three events reveal to us again how compassionate David was. He was fair and just in his dealings with people. He did not react maliciously out of hurt or a desire for vindication for the wrong done to him. He was gracious and kind. Are you like this?

EXTRA READING  
2 SAMUEL 19

Yesterday, we saw one of David's strengths. Today, we see one of his greatest weaknesses surface again. It is David's refusal to confront and correct the sin of others. David failed to correct Joab's sin just like the incident with Absalom. In fact, this is the third time he has neglected to respond correctly to blatant sin. Joab killed Abner and David chose to ignore it. While he mourned for Abner and made it perfectly clear to the nation that he did not approve, Joab did not suffer any consequences. Joab disobeyed David's orders regarding Absalom and David did not take action. The fact that he appointed Amasa may have been a response to what Joab did, but he did not communicate that to Joab and this action only seemed to provoke Joab more. Even after Joab killed Amasa, David was silent. David had a huge problem on his hands and still did not deal with it. He actually restored Joab to his former position. We often think that it is a demonstration of love to ignore or overlook sin and not confront it. However, true love always seeks to correct sin, not condone it. Could there be someone you need to help today?

### SAY WHAT?

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Why do you think it is difficult to confront and deal with sin?

### SO WHAT?

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How should you respond to others when they sin?

### NOW WHAT?

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How can you avoid making the same mistakes that David did in today's reading?

### THEN WHAT?

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In light of this passage, what personal commitment can you make?

## EXTRA READING

2 SAMUEL 20

## 2 SAMUEL 21:1-14

## COMMITMENT

**SAY WHAT?**

Observation: What do I see?

**SO WHAT?**

Interpretation: What does it mean?

**NOW WHAT?**

Application: How does it apply to me?

**THEN WHAT?**

Implementation: What do I do?

In today's reading, we see one of God's greatest attributes on display. Some 400 years earlier, Joshua made a treaty with the Gibeonites (Joshua 9:3-27). You might remember that these people tricked Joshua into making a treaty with them and he promised not to harm them. For an unknown reason Saul had them killed. The Bible does not have a record of the reason he killed them. It could have been that Saul simply forgot to honor this commitment. However, God did not forget. It had been over 400 years since the treaty was made and the original people involved were long gone. However, God still held them to the commitment and punished them for breaking it. Commitments are obviously very important to God. If you made a commitment, God will remember. He will keep you accountable for it and will respond if you fail to follow through with the commitment you made. We must not make decisions lightly. God will not forget what we commit to do.

EXTRA READING  
2 SAMUEL 21

THANK YOU!

2 SAMUEL 22:1-30

For the next two days, we are going to be looking at David's two works of praise. We find them in both 2 Samuel 22 and in Psalms 18. These two works are almost identical. Use the questions provided today to help you discover why David felt so passionate about the work of God in his life. The questions are also designed to help you identify how God is working in your own life. You may want to write your own Psalm when you are done. Make sure you take time over these two days to thank God for all He has done in your life. God delights in our praise to Him.

**SAY WHAT?**

What attributes of God did David identify in this chapter?

**SO WHAT?**

How did those attributes show up in his life?

**NOW WHAT?**

How have they been revealed in your life?

**THEN WHAT?**

In light of this passage what personal commitment can you make?

EXTRA READING  
2 SAMUEL 22



## PSALM 18:1-29

## THANK YOU!

**SAY WHAT?**

What attributes of God did David identify in this psalm?

**SO WHAT?**

How were those attributes on display in his life?

**NOW WHAT?**

How have you seen them in your life?

**THEN WHAT?**

In light of this passage what personal commitment can you make?

Today, we continue our look at David's hymn of praise to God. It is found here in Psalm 18 as well as 2 Samuel 22. These two works are almost identical to each other. Use the questions provided today to help you discover why David was so moved by what God did in his life. Also, just like yesterday, look for ways you can identify how God is working in your own life. Again today, either write out a Psalm of your own, or just spend some time in prayer thanking God for His work in your life. We should never forget all God has done for us!

EXTRA READING  
PSALM 18

In this chapter, we learn who the greatest men in David's army were. As we read through this list, we can see how incredible these guys were. These men demonstrated great loyalty toward David and great courage in the face of danger. It includes three remarkable men willing to risk their lives just to get David a drink of water from the well in Bethlehem. They fought through the Philistine garrison to get a drink that their leader longed for. David was so moved by this demonstration of love that he could not even drink the water. In fact, he poured it out before the Lord as an offering. David's men loved him and were willing to give their lives to show him how much. Have you ever taken a risk to show someone how much you love them? God is far more worthy to be loved than a man like David, and yet we are so slow to show Him the kind of love demonstrated by the men in this chapter. When was the last time you did something for God that would show Him how much you love Him? Did it require any risk at all? With all He has done for us, how could we do anything less? How can you show Him how much you love Him today?

### SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

### SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

### NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

### THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

## EXTRA READING

2 SAMUEL 23

## 2 SAMUEL 24:18-25

## SACRIFICE

**SAY WHAT?**

List some things people do for God that cost them nothing.

**SO WHAT?**

List some things you have given to God that cost you something. What was the cost?

**NOW WHAT?**

Is there something in your life that you feel God wants you to give, but you are hesitant because of what it will cost you? What are you going to do?

**THEN WHAT?**

In light of this passage, what personal commitment can you make?

If we were to examine the sacrifices you make for God, what would we conclude? Does your life demonstrate that you serve Him only when it is convenient? Or, does it demonstrate that you would not consider giving God anything less than that which costs you something? In this closing chapter, David made an important statement that ought to be the standard for our lives. He told Araunah that he would not accept the threshing floor from him without cost. He would not even consider offering to God that which cost me nothing. If what is given to God did not cost anything, how could that be considered a sacrifice? David wanted God to know how much he loved Him by how much he was willing to sacrifice. We often give God our time, but only if there is nothing else to do. We give our money, but only after we have purchased what we want. If the cost of our time or money is great, we usually hold back. When you stop to really think about it, what have you really sacrificed for God? What might He want you to sacrifice?

EXTRA READING  
2 SAMUEL 24



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HEBREWS 6:19-20

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The Spirit of the Lord spoke by me,  
His word was on my tongue. The  
King of Israel said, The Rock of Israel  
spoke to me: 'He who rules over men  
must be just, Ruling in the fear of  
God. And he shall be like the light of  
the morning when the sun rises, A  
morning without clouds, Like the  
tender grass springing out of the  
earth, By clear shining after rain.'  
Although my house is not so with  
God, Yet He has made with me an  
everlasting covenant, Ordered in all  
things and secure. For this is all my  
salvation and all my desire; Will He  
not make it increase? But the sons of  
rebellion shall all be as thorns thrust  
away, because they cannot be taken  
with hands. But the man who touches  
them shall be punished with iron and  
the splinter of a spear, And they  
shall be cast away like chaff.

2 Samuel 23

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