

12- BIBLE OVERVIEW

2 Samuel

This book tells us about the reign of King David. In 1 Samuel we read about the people clamoring for a king instead of the judges that ruled them. By asking for a human king the people were turning their backs on God. After all He was their king.

God gave them what they wanted. King Saul was the first king. He followed God at first, but it didn't take long for corruption to enter his kingship and he thought he knew better than God. So God had Samuel (the last judge of Israel, prophet, and priest) to anoint David as the next king.



2 Samuel picks up when Saul dies in battle along with his son Jonathan. Remember that Jonathan and David were very close friends. Jonathan helped protect David from Saul, who was jealous of David and wanted to kill him.

It is now time for David to ascend the throne, but the country was in disarray because of Saul's poor leadership. The southern part of Israel known as Judah accepted David as their king, but northern Israel was ruled by Ishbosheth and the military ruler Abner. The north and the south fight for seven and a half years until finally David unites the country and becomes king over all of Israel.



David had many accomplishments during his reign. He united Israel and had numerous military victories, establishing Israel as a strong and respected nation. He instituted Jerusalem as the capital. Not only was it the government capital, but it was also the religious center of the country.

After some mishaps, David brought the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem. The Ark of the Covenant was a gold covered box where the stone tablets with the Ten Commandments were kept. The Ark was kept in the inner part of the Tabernacle when the Israelites wandered in the desert.



Despite his great accomplishments David struggled with sin like the rest of us. He wanted another man's wife and had a loyal soldier killed so he could marry Bathsheba. He didn't discipline his children properly and it caused a lot of family discord that overflowed into the kingdom. He also took a census showing his pride in military strength instead of leaning on God's strength.

However, David was "a man after God's own heart." He was faithful and loved God. Despite the census debacle, most of the time, his trust was firmly planted in the Lord. He was often kind and compassionate. He showed mercy to Saul's family even though Saul tried to kill David. When he sinned his repentance was sincere and he accepted God's discipline.

2 Samuel ends with David building an altar to the Lord to stop the plague God sent because he took the prideful census. God answered David's plea.

Next week we will look at 1 and 2 Kings. These books start with David's death, and cover the remainder of the kings of Israel.

DEVOTION

Read 2 Samuel 12: 1-9 and 13

What did David want to do to the rich man in Nathan's story?

Why didn't David recognize himself in the story?

Do you think you might not see your sin sometimes? _____

Look up the definition of repentance and write it below:



When you do something wrong you should sincerely repent (turn away from) of your wrong doing.

PRAYER

Dear God, open my eyes to see my sin, and let me be like David and truly repent of my wrong doing. Amen

My name is _____ . I am

_____ years old. I am walking through the Bible with

_____ on this date _____.

FOR A TODDLER

What you need: Nothing extra today.

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Do you ever misbehave like the children in the above pictures? _____

Can you think of a time you misbehaved? What did you do?

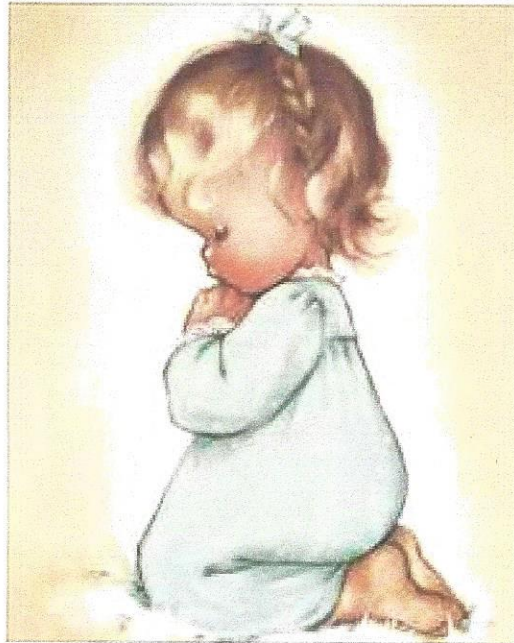
When you mom or dad disciplines you do you get mad at them? _____

Did you know that a famous king in the Bible named David did some bad things? God calls this sin, and He disciplined David. David knew he deserved to be disciplined and wasn't mad at God. Instead, David told God he was sorry and tried to behave better.

Are you like David? _____

PRAYER

Dear God, Let me be more like David and not get mad at my parents when they punish me, but instead be truly sorry for my sin. Amen.



My name is _____ . I am
_____ years old. I am walking through the Bible with
_____ on this date _____ .