



# BIBLE STUDY

## MAJOR CHARACTERS OF THE BIBLE



<https://campus.cru.org/college/bsu/community-group-material/>

**STUDY** **10**

**DAVID**

# DAVID

## OVERVIEW

### What Do I Need to Know About the Passage?

#### 1 SAMUEL 17: 1-58

The life of David is a powerful example of both deep faith and human weakness. David begins as a humble shepherd, chosen by God to replace Saul because of his heart rather than his outward appearance. His faith is clearly displayed in his defeat of Goliath, where he trusts fully in God's power rather than weapons or armor. After this victory, David gains favor in Saul's court, but Saul's jealousy turns dangerous, leading him to pursue David for years. Despite having opportunities to kill Saul, David refuses, demonstrating his respect for God's authority and his commitment to righteousness even under pressure.

When David finally becomes king, he leads Israel into a time of military success and national stability. He captures Jerusalem and makes it the political and spiritual center of the nation, and he shows a deep desire to honor God, particularly in his intention to build a temple. Although God does not allow him to build it, David prepares for it and remains devoted in worship, writing many psalms that express both praise and dependence on God. However, David's reign is marked by a major moral failure involving Bathsheba. His adultery with her and the arranged death of her husband reveal the seriousness of his sin. When confronted by the prophet Nathan, David responds with genuine repentance rather than denial, which becomes a defining moment in his spiritual life.

The article ultimately emphasizes that David's legacy is not one of perfection but of repentance and faithfulness to God over time. Though his sin brings severe consequences—especially within his family—David continually turns back to God with humility. He is remembered as a king who sought after God and trusted Him, even in failure. Most importantly, God makes a covenant with David, promising that his lineage would lead to an eternal king. This promise is fulfilled in Jesus Christ, connecting David's life to the larger story of redemption in Scripture.

### Group Context Questions

#### WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHEN, WHY AND HOW?

**Who:** is David in the Bible?

**What:** did David do in the Bible?

**When:** is David first seen in the Bible?

**Where:** is David at in the Bible?

**Why:** should we know about David?

**How:** does David and his story impact us?

### VOCABULARY WORDS

#### Kingdom of God

- Broadly speaking, the kingdom of God is the rule of an eternal, sovereign God over all the universe. More narrowly, the kingdom of God is a spiritual rule over the hearts and lives of those who willingly submit to God's authority.

### CONTEXT QUESTIONS

Allow your group to share some of their prior knowledge of who this character is and their significance. Familiarize yourself with this character so you can also answer. Make sure to do this in a way that is inclusive of those who may not have any prior knowledge.

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## Watch This Video With Your Group

VIDEO LINK HERE: [DAVID VIDEO](#)

This video talks of David as the priestly king, calling back to prior studies and ultimately pointing to Christ.

Allow your group to discuss what they gathered from the video. What stuck out to them? Eg. “If you were to take notes over this video what would be some of the main ideas you write down?”

## VIDEO

- Feel free to share these videos with your group so they can also watch. You may also find any other outside sources that you might think to be valuable to their understanding of the Word.

## What Are the Questions?

I SAMUEL 17: 1-58 (FEEL FREE TO BREAK UP THE READING.)

## LAUNCH

In what ways have you failed to trust in the promises of God: maybe his mercy, love, grace, commands of obedience, or maybe even commands to spiritual disciplines?

## I SAMUEL 17: 1-18

1. What is happening in this passage?
2. Where/who are the Israelites fighting? What is the nature of the conflict?
3. What will happen if Israel wins? What will happen if the Philistines win?
4. Who is Goliath and how is he described? Who is David and how is he described?
5. What is the significance of there being a valley in between the 2 armies? (note verse 8 and the action of “going down”)?
6. The Hebrew terms that are used to describe Goliath's armor (bronze scale armour) are the same words in Hebrew for serpent scales. This paints Goliath as a snake. What is the significance of this and how does it relate to Genesis 3:15 in our snake crusher series?

## I SAMUEL 17: 19-37

7. What was David's vocation? Why is this important?
8. What is the cause of the conflict between Eliab and David?
9. What is Saul's observation of David? What is his observation of Goliath?
10. What does David's response in verse 26 say about the Philistines and the Israelites?

## I SAMUEL 17: 38-58

11. What does David bring into battle? How does Goliath react to seeing his opponent?
12. Who does David achieve victory for?
13. What is the significance of David Striking Goliath in the head and then ultimately crushing his head? Does this point to anyone greater?
14. Why doesn't David bring any armour into battle? What does this mean?

# DAVID

## QUESTIONS

### What Are the Questions? (Continued)

#### ACTS 9: 17-19

#### NEW TESTAMENT CORRELATION

In light of this passage, how can we look at these New Testament passages and better understand the character of Christ? How can we use these passages and interpret scripture using other scripture? **Call back to Genesis 3:15 and Romans 16:20!**

#### ACTS 9: 17-19

15. What sticks out to you?
16. How might you think these stories are related?
17. How is the theme of “Kingdom” (eg. Kingdom of God) present in these passages? Kingdom of God vs kingdom of Satan?
18. How do we see Satan defeated in both passages? How does God use the Church to carry out the crushing of the serpent’s head? (David and Paul are used)
19. Where is Christ in both passages? How is He a greater priestly king?

#### APPLICATION

20. We can sometimes be like Eliab (David's older brother) and think we are better than others because of our position or status. Are you guilty of this? How can we change this with God's help?
21. We often fail to trust in God’s accomplishment in the cross for us when he defeated the serpent. As a result, we tend to cower in fear when troubles (sin, suffering, embarrassment) encroach upon us, rather than trusting God. How does Christ fix this problem? How is this shown in this passage?
22. When there are overwhelming troubles in your life, how do you solve them? Do you trust in your mediator or in yourself?

#### FALLEN CONDITION

“What do these passages reveal about our fallen condition?”

- Help your group understand and identify the broken state of humanity due to our sin and where we see that evident in these passages.

#### CHRIST CENTERED SOLUTION

“What do these passages tell us about Christ’s response?”

- Amidst our broken, sinful nature, what does Jesus offer as a solution? Where do we see a solution in these passages?

#### GRACE ENABLED RESPONSE

“What do these passages teach us about how we should live?”

- How should we live now with these two truths in mind? Develop a one or two sentence long summary of each section to form a summary of what you can learn from these passages.

### What Are the Answers?

1. Allow your group to discuss.
2. The Israelites are fighting the Philistines on two hills with a valley between them. Goliath is going before them asking to have a challenger and taunting Israel.
3. If Israel wins then they receive all of the Philistines and achieve victory, if the Philistines, then they receive all of the Israelites as slaves and achieve victory.
4. Let the group discuss, but make sure to note that Goliath is a giant and David is small and humble.
5. In order to fight they have to descend. Jesus in order to achieve our victory had to descend to the world.
6. Goliath should be considered as a snake and a serpent. This shows that it is in line with the serpent motif we read in Genesis 3, and Judges 4. Now in this story, we have another snake crusher (David) that points us to our ultimate snake crusher: Jesus.
7. He was a shepherd. This is important because it tells us that he was not wealthy or powerful, it also points us to Christ because Jesus is our Good Shepherd.
8. Eliab thinks that David is just prideful and wants to see that battle for himself.
9. His observation of David is that he is small and could not possibly fight. His observation of Goliath is that he is going to win because he has been a warrior since his youth and is large.
10. That the philistines are enemies of God and that God is with Israel.
11. David goes to battle with his shepherd staff and his sling. He continually mocks him and curses him by another pagan God (vs. 41-44).
12. All of God's covenant people. Why not just for God Himself? David is used to enact God's will, which is to bring forth His Kingdom on Earth and do so through His covenant people. They need protected and God will protect them.
13. Jesus Christ who crushed Satan's head!
14. David didn't wear Saul's armor in battle because it didn't fit him and he wasn't used to it; he chose his familiar shepherd's tools (staff, sling, stones) instead, signifying that his victory came from God's power, not human might or military technology, relying on his own proven experience and faith rather than imitating King Saul's style, teaching that we must use our unique gifts and trust God for our battles. He chose to trust his own proven experience and faith rather than conforming to King Saul's methods. The lesson is clear: we must utilize our own distinct gifts and place our trust in God to fight our battles.
15. Allow the group to discuss.
16. Again, allow the group to discuss and look for similar themes in the stories. Get them to notice the themes of kingdoms and scales (dragon or serpent). The removal of "scales" in David's experience, brings victory and establishment to God's people and the removing of scales from Saul's eyes brings victory and establishment for God's people.
17. The Kingdom of God conquers the kingdom of Satan in both stories. God uses David to bring forth His Kingdom and uses Paul in similar ways.
18. God chooses and uses the most unlikely members of His covenant family (Israel OT, Church NT) to crush Satan. Ultimately Christ crushes the head of Satan fully and finally, but uses David to crush Goliath (seed of the serpent) and Paul is set free from the grip of Satan.
19. Christ is present in both passages as He is the ultimate Serpent-crusher. He is the fulfillment of David as the Priestly King and He is the One who called Saul.
- 20-22. Allow group to discuss.

**What's Next?****DISCUSS WITH YOUR GROUP:**

Should we continue discussion on this passage or move on through the text next week?

Do you guys feel confident in your understanding of what was discussed tonight?

Any questions? (Allow anyone to come to you in private if needed)

**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

- [Who was David?](#)
- [David the Priestly King](#)

**Announcements****WHAT'S GOING ON?**

Where is Cru at this week?

What upcoming events do we have?

Any other announcements? Should be in the slack.

**Prayer****BREAK OFF AND PRAY**

Take this time as an opportunity to model prayer to those who are younger in their faith.

Provide opportunities for those who wish to pray.

Model different types of prayer like the ACTS model.