

Why did David not take the opportunity to kill Saul when he had the chance? Can you think of a time a leader you know "spared" someone who had treated him/her badly? Did this weaken that person's leadership? Have you ever done this?

How did David further God's mission of making his nation a light to the world?

## REFLECT

Do you aspire to be a leader? Why/why not? What traits of David's leadership do you possess in some measure? In what ways do you see God using these in your current areas of responsibility or influence?

## RESPOND

Consider different spheres of your life: home, work, church, community. Where do you find yourself thinking that something needs to be done? In what ways do you sense God calling you to serve by leading? What keeps you from doing so?

Thank God for the leaders you know. Ask God to give them the traits you appreciate in David's life.



# NAVIGATING THE BIBLE

The Bible is the revealed communication of the Creator of the universe to us, written by mere humans, yet perfected, protected and collected by God.

Napoleon Bonaparte  
"The Bible is no mere book, but a Living Creature, with a power that conquers all who oppose it."

## Episode 1: The Chance to Choose

### 1 Samuel 8

<sup>6</sup> But when they said, "Give us a king to lead us," this displeased Samuel; so he prayed to the LORD. <sup>7</sup> And the LORD told him: "Listen to all that the people are saying to you; it is not you they have rejected, but they have rejected me as their king.."

<sup>19</sup> But the people refused to listen to Samuel. "No!" they said. "We want a king over us. <sup>20</sup> Then we will be like all the other nations, with a king to lead us and to go out before us and fight our battles."

1 Samuel 16:7  
"The LORD does not look at the things human beings look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."



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## Episode 2: Forever King

David's reign would forever be looked to as the way a king of Israel should lead. All kings after him were evaluated on the basis of how they measure up to David.

### 2 Samuel 7:8-9,16

"Now then, tell my servant David, 'This is what the LORD Almighty says: I took you from the pasture, from tending the flock, and appointed you ruler over my people Israel. I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have cut off all your enemies from before you. Now I will make your name great, like the names of the greatest men on earth...Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever.'"

We know this promise was fulfilled in Jesus, Whose earthly heritage came directly from David (see Matt. 1:1, 12:23, 15:22 and 21:9)

## Episode 3: A House Divided

King after king in both Israel and Judah are guilty of idolatry and apostasy and all kinds of evil and wickedness. There are a handful of bright spots as some kings seek to obey God, but they are few.

### 2 Kings 22

<sup>2</sup> [Josiah] did what was right in the eyes of the LORD and followed completely the ways of his father David, not turning aside to the right or to the left...

<sup>11</sup> When the king heard the words of the Book of the Law, he tore his robes.

### 2 Kings 23

<sup>25</sup> Neither before nor after Josiah was there a king like him who turned to the LORD as he did—with all his heart and with all his soul and with all his strength, in accordance with all the Law of Moses.

### What we learn about God:

He works through people to accomplish His will.

### What we learn about ourselves:

We always have a choice.

### What we're encouraged to do:

Choose to let God lead our lives.

## NAVIGATING THE BiBLE...Part three: Judges and Kings LIFE GROUP STUDY

### RELATE

What was your favorite summer game as a kid?

Name three attributes you consider important in a good leader. Give a current example of a good leader.

What new insight or idea made an impression on you from this week's sermon?

### READ

#### David Saves a Town and Spares Saul: 1 Samuel 23-24

(Note: David has been anointed king but Saul is still in power.)

List the things that impress you about David's actions in this account.

Agree/Disagree: A good leader must first be a good follower.

Which three words best describe David's leadership style: cautious; reckless; decisive; brave; uncertain; confident; loner; people-pleaser; dictatorial; democratic; autocratic; aggressive; weak; militaristic; humble; patient; follower.

How would you describe David's relationship with his men? With God? With human authority?

From what you know of David's life, had he sought to be king? What motivated him to do what he was doing? Whose agenda was he following?