

2 Samuel

MICHAEL DEFAZIO • 12 SESSIONS

**NEXT
LEVEL**  **ONLINE**

OZARK CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

SESSION 1: Approaching 2 Samuel

SUMMARY: Session one sets the stage for our study of 2 Samuel by placing the book of 2 Samuel within its various contexts and thinking through how these help set a framework for reading it well.

NOTES:

Reading 2 Samuel in Context(s)

- 2 Samuel is part of the _____.
 - What do we believe about the Bible?
 - How does this shape our expectations when we read it?
- 2 Samuel is part of the _____.
- 2 Samuel is part of _____.
 - Overview of 1 Samuel –
 - Intro summary of 2 Samuel –

What should we label 2 Samuel? What should we look for?

Questions for Reflection and Discussion:

1. What do you actually believe about the Bible? Where did these beliefs come from?
2. How does your current view of Scripture impact the way you read it? Do you see agreement or mismatch when you compare your beliefs about the Bible to your engagement with it?
3. What are some of your favorite stories? What do you love about them?
4. What do you know about 2 Samuel? What are you eager to learn?
5. What role do you see God playing in your daily life?

SESSION 2: What Kind of King? (2 Samuel 1:1-2:7)

SUMMARY: Session two examines the opening scene of 2 Samuel in which David responds to the death of Saul, the previous (and first) king of Israel and his personal enemy. The question this text raises is what kind of king David will be, specifically in comparison to Saul. We will also reflect on how to connect David's royal responsibilities with God's calling on each of our lives.

NOTES:

Hearing the Story

- David learns of Saul's death (1:1-16)
- David leads Israel in lament (1:17-27)
- David is anointed King of Judah (2:1-7)

Reflecting on the Story

- Saul is gone. Will David be more of the same?
- Moving from David (through Jesus) to you...
- What kind of king or queen are you?

Questions for Reflection and Discussion:

1. What do you know about David? What do you think of him, and why?
2. If you were David, how do you think you would've responded to Saul's death?
3. What surprises you most about David in this story?
4. Do you understand the connection made between David, Jesus, and you?
5. Whether big or small, you are a person of influence. Are you stewarding your "kingdom" or "queendom" more like Saul or David?

SESSION 3: God's Mission and the World's Pain (2 Samuel 2:8-4:12)

SUMMARY: Session three examines the time when David ruled as king over a single tribe. This story focuses on the action of David's lead general Joab, who helped him but was also often a thorn in his side. It provides an opportunity to reflect on how God's mission engages a world that is far from ideal. We are encouraged because God's mission does not jump over the world's mess but rather moves through it, and we are warned not to allow the mess to creep in on us.

NOTES:

Hearing the Story

- Houses of David and Saul at War (2:8-3:5)
- Abner's Defection and Murder (3:6-39)
- Ish-Bosheth's Murder (4:1-12)

Reflecting on the Story

- This is a total...
- Encouragement: God's mission _____ the world's mess.
- Warning: Don't let the world's mess _____.
 - o Warning signs of what's to come?
 - o If your life comes crashing down...

Questions for Reflection and Discussion:

1. When you read stories like this in the Bible, what is your typical reaction?
2. Where in our world do you see some of the same messes that we see in this account?
3. How do you handle people in your life who both help and hinder you?
4. What do you make of David's portrait in these chapters? Do you think the video was too easy on him? Too hard on him? Accurate?
5. What are some things in your own life that could become a problem if you don't get them in check right now?

SESSION 4: From Rise to Reign (2 Samuel 5-6)

SUMMARY: Session four follows David's ascent to full kingship. Ever since we met David, he was singled out to rule, but so far he has been on the way to that destiny. Now he reaches it, and we can't help but wonder what sort of ruler he will turn out to be. This text will *begin* to answer that question, and along the way we get the remarkable and instructive story of Uzzah's death.

NOTES:

Hearing the Story

- 5:1-5 – David receives universal support
- 5:6-16 – David establishes a capital
- 5:17-25 – David quiets a persistent enemy
- 6:1-23 – David makes way for God's presence

Reflecting on the Story

- What sort of God dwells among us?
 - o A God who _____.
 - o A God who is not to be _____ with!
- God will not be _____.
- God will not be _____. (Galatians 6; Exodus 25:13-14; 1 Chronicles 15)

Questions for Reflection and Discussion:

1. Thinking about "rise to reign" as a metaphor for growing into what God has for us, where are you on this journey?
2. What can you learn from the various tasks David accomplished upon taking the throne?
3. Think about the first time you read the Uzzah story. What did you think of what God did?
4. Do you better understand why Uzzah was disciplined? How does this help put the story in a new light?
5. In the past, have you ever disobeyed God for a season and told yourself things would work out fine? How did that go?
6. Are you in such a season right now?

SESSION 5: David's Dream and God's Plan (2 Samuel 7)

SUMMARY: Session five covers what may be the single most important chapter of 2 Samuel with respect to the overall storyline of Scripture. Here God establishes a covenant with David that will forever mark God's dealings with Israel and humanity as a whole. We will learn about the covenantal structure of God's mission, noting characteristics of God's covenant(s), what is uniquely emphasized in this one, and how it all points forward to Jesus.

NOTES:

This chapter hits different...

God is establishing a _____ with David.

- The Old Testament is ordered by a series of covenants.
- General observations on the covenant(s) –

Characteristics of God's Covenant(s)

- Promised blessing...
- Providential purpose...
- Personal presence...
- Priority of grace...

Second Look at God's Covenant with David...

Questions for Reflection and Discussion:

1. Would you say you have a relationship with God? What does that mean (since, unlike everyone else with whom you "have a relationship," God cannot be seen or literally heard)?
2. What teaching have you received about the concept of God making covenants with people? How does what you have learned compare to what we see in 2 Samuel 7?
3. How is David's covenant similar to others in Scripture? How is it different?
4. Which of the "Characteristics of God's Covenant" are most personally encouraging to you today? Why?
5. How well do you intentionally *sit* and *receive* from God what only he can give?

SESSION 6: A Season of Faithfulness (2 Samuel 8-10)

SUMMARY: Session eight covers 2 Samuel 8-10, which is basically a series of victories for David and his men. We first see David faithfully leading Israel in battle and then we see his willingness to act with mercy and kindness toward potential enemies. We will learn from David's faithfulness, but we will also notice a deeper and even more important faithfulness revealed in these accounts.

NOTES:

Learning from David's Faithfulness

- David gave God _____.
- David shepherded _____ his people.
- David showed _____ to enemies.
- David guarded Israel's _____.

Celebrating God's Faithfulness

- Promises to David –
- Promises to Abraham –
- If God's faithfulness stretches all the way back...

Where do you find yourself in this story?

Questions for Reflection and Discussion:

1. How do you engage God differently during seasons of failure and seasons of success?
2. Which story in these chapters do you find most personally meaningful? Why?
3. Which of the lessons that we learn from David are most relevant to you in this season of life? What can you do to put into practice what the Spirit is drawing to your attention?
4. When you first read these chapters, did you most closely identify with Mephibosheth? Why or why not? Do you now see how he can serve as a symbol for you and me?
5. Why is it important that we don't just read Scripture to find "moral lessons"? Who in your life needs to be reminded of the truth of God's faithfulness? How will you remind them?

SESSION 7: David's Sin (2 Samuel 11-12)

SUMMARY: Session seven explores one of the most famous and tragic events of David's life. We will pay close attention to how the storyteller presents the narrative, taking care to learn as much as we can while focusing on the primary message being communicated. Perhaps the question is not whether we will fail, but how we will respond when we realize what we've done.

NOTES:

Hearing the Story

- Joab to Rabbah, David home (11:1)
- David and Bathsheba pregnant (11:2-5)
- Uriah put to death (11:6-25)
- Bathsheba mourns (11:26-27)
- Nathan confronts (12:1-14)
- David mourns (12:15-17)
- Child put to death (12:18-23)
- David and Bathsheba pregnant (12:24-25)
- David to Rabbah, back home (12:26-31)

Reflecting on the Story

- Many colorful characters...
- Focus is on David, specifically *his sin*.
 - o Sin breeds more sin.
 - o Sin brings suffering (to others).
 - o Sin makes us stupid.
 - o Sin follows a pattern.
- Why was David not rejected like Saul? Terrible as he was, what made David different?

Questions for Reflection and Discussion:

1. What is your initial reaction to this story? Why?
2. What important lessons can we learn from characters other than David?
3. Which of the points about sin are most relevant to you right now? What other things do we learn from this account?
4. Do you feel David got a just punishment? If you were David, how would that change your perspective on the situation? (If it's hard to think of yourself as David, why?)
5. How do you respond when confronted with your sin?

SESSION 8: David's House Unravels (2 Samuel 13-14)

SUMMARY: Session eight follows the tragic fallout of David's sin. On the one hand, David is restored to his place as king, but on the other hand things will never be the same. Nathan's prophecy about the sword not departing from his house proves true almost immediately. First Amnon rapes Tamar, then Absalom kills Amnon. Amnon in particular exposes the truth about what happens when we give into sin.

Hearing the Story

- David is restored as king...
- Three scenes:
 - o Amnon rapes Tamar
 - o Absalom kills Amnon
 - o Absalom's exile and return

Reflecting on the Story

- David restored but never the same.
 - o David's sins in David's _____
 - o David a new _____
 - o David another _____
- Note how Scripture trains us in wisdom!
- Warnings:
 1. Sin _____ pays off.
 2. Sin's consequences felt the worst by those we _____.

Questions for Reflection and Discussion:

1. We are all impacted by those who have gone before us. In what ways has your family history set you up for spiritual success? How has that same history presented obstacles?
2. Think about the story of your home church, town, state, country, etc. How have these community histories shaped the way you think about and follow Jesus for good and/or ill?
3. How do you tend to respond to being warned?
4. How has your life proven true the idea that "sin never pays off"?
5. Who will be hurt (in the future) if you give in to temptation and allow sin patterns to take hold in your life?

SESSION 9: David and Absalom (2 Samuel 15:1-19:8)

SUMMARY: Session nine follows the tension between David and his son Absalom, who conspired to the throne and effectively put Israel into small-scale civil war. While only God emerges as the hero in this story, we will contrast David and Absalom as kings/leaders/men. Then we will, as always, make sure our eyes stay open to the gospel.

Hearing the Story

- Absalom's conspiracy (15:1-12)
- David flees (15:13-17:23)
- Absalom's rise and fall (17:24-18:18)
- David mourns (18:19-19:8)

Reflecting on the Story

- A Contrast in Kings/Leaders/Men
 - o Goal: self or serve?
 - o God: to use or to submit?
 - o Methods: division or peace?
- Don't miss the gospel echo!
- If God is the hero, what is the message?

Questions for Reflection and Discussion:

1. What is the danger of presenting human characters in a story like this as examples to follow (or not)? Nevertheless, what is the value?
2. Which goal more often drives your action: building others up or pleasing yourself? How do you know?
3. How do we reconcile the call to spread peace with the knowledge that Jesus came not to bring peace but a sword?
4. This is one long story with many interesting scenes. Which scene most resonates with you, and why? What do you learn from that section?
5. Which of God's promises do you need to cling to right now?

SESSION 10: The Return of the King (2 Samuel 19:9-20:26)

SUMMARY: Session ten follows David's movements as he returns to Jerusalem once the threat of Absalom has been moved. After tracing the movements in this final section of chronological narrative, we consider how to read the various layers of significance in these events. We note in particular how David's "return from exile" speaks to Israel's history as well as the mission of Christ.

NOTES:

This section completes the chronological narrative of 2 Samuel.

- David's Return (19:9-43)
 - o Judah brings David home
 - o David retraces his steps (and interactions)
- Sheba's Rebellion (20:1-26)
 - o Notes on the fight...
 - o Observations on the resolution...

Reflections and Takeaways

- Remember to read these stories on multiple levels:
 - o Within itself –
 - o Within "Samuel" –
 - o Within the OT –
 - o Within Scripture –
- Takeaways:

Questions for Reflection and Discussion:

1. What stories can you think of that involve the return of a king? What do they have in common? What are some lessons you can draw from each?
2. Try to rearticulate (in your own words) the various layers of meaning presented in the video. Which are most or least clear? (If you are in a group, instruct one another in the Lord!)
3. With which of these layers do you resonate most directly? Why?
4. In what ways are you tempted to usurp Christ's authority in your life, in the church, in our world, etc.?
5. How do the actions of David help you better understand the work of Christ in your life?

SESSION 11: David's Reign in Retrospect (2 Samuel 21-24)

SUMMARY: Session eleven examines 2 Samuel 21-24, which is something like an “epilogue” for 1-2 Samuel. This section is set off from the rest and does not represent chronological continuation of the story but rather a retrospect on David's reign. We will look at each of the accounts, examine its literary structure, and focus in on the very center in order to hear the primary message, which is a call to Israel to center themselves on Torah meditation and obedience.

Order of Events:

- David ends a famine (21:1-14)
 - David's mighty men (21:15-22)
 - David's hymn of praise (22:1-51)
 - David's final oracle (23:1-7)
- David's mighty warriors (23:8-39)
- David ends a plague (24:1-53)

David's Hymn:

- Praise to God the Rock (22:1-4)
 - God's deliverance of David (22:5-20)
 - Reasons for God's favor (22:21-25)
 - Reflection on God's ways (22:26-29)
- God's deliverance of David (22:30-46)
- Praise to God the Rock (22:47-51)

Reasons for God's Favor:

- LORD, righteousness, cleanness (22:21)
 - Kept, guiltless (22:22)
 - God's law/decrees (22:23)
 - Blameless, kept (22:24)
- LORD, righteousness, cleanness (22:25)

Questions for Reflection and Discussion:

1. Look again at the six parts of this closing section. What lessons can be drawn from each individually? What is added to the message when we take them as a whole?
2. In what ways do you see David's life story echoed in your own? How are you like him? How are you different?
3. Who are your “mighty warriors”? (Those who have helped you be faithful to God.) In what ways can you honor them?
4. This section emphasizes meditating on and obeying God's instructions. Which is more of a struggle for you: making time to learn and meditate, or obeying what you know?

SESSION 12: The Books of Samuel in Scriptural Context

SUMMARY: Session twelve wraps up our study of 2 Samuel but looking at how both “books” of Samuel fit into their Scriptural context. We will first look back and note many of the parallels between the lives of Samuel and Moses. Then we will look ahead at where we see David in the prophets and especially the New Testament. We’ll examine many of the NT connections and reflect on how David helps us make sense of Jesus.

NOTES:

Looking Back (Samuel and Moses)

- Parallels:
 - Both are nurtured by women of great faith (Ex 1-2; 1 Sam 1-2).
 - Both have out-of-the-ordinary birth stories (Ex 1-2; 1 Sam 1-2).
 - Both were raised in environments outside their own homes (Ex 2:10; 1 Sam 1:24-25)
 - Both rejected the corrupt aspects of where they were raised (Ex 2:11-12; 1 Sam 2:22-26).
 - Both received initial revelation and call in the presence of objects on fire but not consumed (Ex 3; 1 Sam 3).
 - In both cases the revelation and call was introduced by double repetition of their name (Ex 3:4; 1 Sam 3:10).
 - Both functioned as judges (Ex 18:13; 1 Sam 7) and prophets (Dt 18:15; 34:10; 1 Sam 3:20).
 - They are the only two prophets in Genesis-Kings to be called “faithful” (Num 12:7; 1 Sam 3:20)
 - Both called to pronounce judgment on corrupt regimes oppressing the people of God (Ex 7-12; 1 Sam 3)
 - Both put a man to death (with their own hands) and then went into a self-imposed exile (Ex 3; 1 Sam 15)
 - Both had two sons (Ex 18:23; 1 Sam 8:2) but in neither case did their offspring play a major role in Israel’s story.
 - Neither was ever called a priest, but both built altars (Ex 17:15; 24:4; 1 Sam 7:17) before the LORD and in other ways acted as priests (Lev 8:14-29; 1 Sam 7:9).
 - Both wrote down commands that were deposited before God and used to guide the nation. (Lev 26:46; 31:9; 1 Sam 10:25)
- Point?

Looking Ahead (David and Jesus)

- David mentioned over 1000 times in OT...
- Mentioned 59 times in the NT, mostly in the Gospels and Acts (39+11), 4x in Paul, 2x in Hebrews, and 3x in Revelation.
 - Gospels –
 - Acts (1:16; 2:25, 29, 34; 4:25; 7:45; 13:22, 34, 36; 15:16) –
 - Paul (Rom 1:3; 4:6; 11:9; 2 Tim 2:8) –
 - Hebrews (4:7; 11:32) –
 - Revelation (3:7; 5:5; 22:16) –
- Point?
 - Key themes:
 - Who is Jesus?

Questions for Reflection and Discussion:

1. What are some key lessons you have learned from our study of 2 Samuel? (If you watched both, then 1-2 Samuel.) What are your favorite or least favorite stories, and how have you put into practice what we learn there?
2. Before this video, how would you have said that 2 Samuel fits into the overall story of Scripture?
3. Have you ever noticed the parallels between Samuel and Moses? Why do you think the Scriptural authors tell stories in ways that recall others?
4. What are your personal thoughts on David? Like him, hate him, both? Why?
5. What do we learn about David from the way he is talked about in the NT?
6. What do we learn about Jesus from how he is a “new and greater David”?

This video was made possible with support from:

