



CROSSROADS
CHURCH

AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART



THE LIFE OF DAVID
SUMMER 2026



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INTRO

The season of summer is my personal favorite. Not just because of the better weather and potential for some vacation time. I like summer because of the way our rhythms tend to change. I can get into a rut physically, spiritually or relationally and for some reason summer offers an opportunity to get out of the ruts!

That's my hope for our congregation this summer as we study the life of David together. David, like many people highlighted in the Bible, is not a perfect example for us to emulate. He is often considered the greatest, most unlikely, deeply flawed and successful King of Israel. He is also referred to as a man after God's own heart.

God's promise of redemption and restoration has always centered around chosen people. From Abraham and his sons, to Moses and beyond, the Master's plan is always a person. David is one of God's chosen people. Join us this summer as we learn together how we can become people after God's own heart.



Reid Robinette, Senior Pastor





WHO WAS DAVID

FROM SHEPHERD TO ANOINTED KING

David began his life as a young shepherd boy tending his father's sheep in Bethlehem. Despite his low status as the youngest son, the prophet Samuel privately anointed him as Israel's future king after God rejected King Saul. David first gained national fame by defeating the giant Philistine champion Goliath using only a sling and a declaration of faith in God. This victory earned him a place in Saul's court, where he served as a skilled musician to soothe the king's troubled spirit and as a highly successful military commander.

EXILE, UNIFICATION, AND THE GOLDEN AGE

David's popularity became his biggest problem. Saul's intense jealousy eventually forced David into exile, where he spent years fleeing for his life in the wilderness. Following Saul's death in battle, David was crowned king, eventually uniting the fractured twelve tribes of Israel under his singular rule. He conquered the fortress of Jerusalem, establishing it as the nation's political capital and the spiritual home for the Ark of the Covenant. During this golden age, God established the Davidic Covenant, promising that David's royal lineage and throne would endure forever—a prophecy that was fulfilled through Jesus Christ.

FALL, REPENTANCE, AND SPIRITUAL LEGACY

David's reign was not without severe moral failure, most notably his adultery with Bathsheba and the arranged murder of her husband, Uriah. When confronted by the prophet Nathan, David did not offer excuses but responded with deep, brokenhearted repentance, as recorded in Psalm 51. While he faced severe consequences, including tragic dysfunction and rebellion within his own family, his willingness to repent cemented his spiritual legacy. The Bible honors David not for sinless perfection, but as a leader with an unwavering heart for God, leaving behind a profound legacy of worship, faith, and divine restoration.



PSALM OF THE WEEK

ANOINTING

PSALM 23

COURAGE

PSALM 27

FRIEND

PSALM 133

FORMATION

PSALM 57

MERCY

PSALM 103

PASSION

PSALM 24

HOUSE

PSALM 86

KINDNESS

PSALM 41

SIN/REPENTANCE

PSALM 51

LAST CHOICE

PSALM 32

LAST WORDS

PSALM 72

SCRIPTURE MEMORY PROMPT

The scriptures are one tool God gives us that reveal truth and guide transformation. Beyond reading and studying God's word, memorizing scripture can provide an ever present opportunity for our faith journey. Psalm 23 is one of David's most well known writings and one of the most quoted passages in the Bible. It reminds us that God takes care of His followers, even in the midst of hard times. We all need this reminder! Take this summer to memorize Psalm 23.

PSALM 23

A psalm of David.

- 1 **The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.**
- 2 **He makes me lie down in green pastures,
he leads me beside quiet waters,**
- 3 **he refreshes my soul.**
 He guides me along the right paths
 for his name's sake.
- 4 **Even though I walk**
 through the darkest valley,
 I will fear no evil,
 for you are with me;
 your rod and your staff,
 they comfort me.

- 5 **You prepare a table before me**
 in the presence of my enemies.
 You anoint my head with oil;
 my cup overflows.
- 6 **Surely your goodness and love will follow me**
 all the days of my life,
 and I will dwell in the house of the Lord
 forever.



HIS ANOINTING

KEY VERSE: The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart. 1 Sam 16:7

GOD'S HEART

BIBLICAL TRUTH

- God's promise of redemption and restoration has always centered around chosen people. From Abraham and his sons to Moses and David the Master's plan is always a person.
- God consistently chooses the unlikely, the outsider, the overlooked, because he wants us not to trust in riches or talent or beauty or charm or charisma; he wants us to trust in him.

DAVID'S HEART

BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION

- How might being the youngest brother, initially overlooked and left in the fields during Samuel's visit, have influenced David's sense of identity?
- How do you think David processed the gap between being anointed as the future king and then immediately returning to the humble task of tending his father's sheep?



HIS COURAGE

KEY VERSE: “..for the battle is the Lord’s,
and he will give all of you into our hands”
— 1 Samuel 17:47

GOD’S HEART

BIBLICAL TRUTH

- The Red Sea, the walls of Jericho, the valley with one shepherd boy and one giant: there is an incredible pattern in Scripture. God fights for His people. Whatever battle you have in your life, there is good news. The battle belongs to God. Even better? He is going before you right now.
- This spiritual principle is at work: private faithfulness is what leads to public courage. Long before there is a Goliath, there are lions and bears, trials that prepare us for the battle ahead. That work is never wasted.

DAVID’S HEART

BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION

- David tells Saul about the lion and the bear before he tells him about Goliath. How might those quiet, hidden victories in the field (the ones no one saw!) have shaped his confidence in a moment everyone else only saw the impossible?



HIS FRIEND

KEY VERSE: After David had finished talking with Saul, Jonathan became one in spirit with David, and he loved him as himself. From that day Saul kept David with him and did not let him return home to his family. And Jonathan made a covenant with David because he loved him as himself. Jonathan took off the robe he was wearing and gave it to David, along with his tunic, and even his sword, his bow and his belt. 1 Samuel 18:1-4

GOD'S HEART

BIBLICAL TRUTH

- David had just defeated Goliath. His life was changing overnight. He was stepping into a calling bigger than himself, carrying pressure he didn't feel prepared for, and walking into conflict he didn't yet understand. God doesn't ask David to walk alone. He gave him an unlikely friend, Jonathan.
- Jonathan recognized the hand of God on David's life and chose covenant over competition. That's rare. Because most people want friendships that are convenient. God often gives us friendships that are transformational. Jonathan removes his robe, armor, sword, and belt. All symbols of identity, status, and royalty. In essence he says, I know who you are becoming, and I'm not fighting against what God is doing in your life.



DAVID'S HEART

BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION

- Imagine what this meant for David. One chapter earlier, he's forgotten in a field tending sheep, now he's standing inside the palace. Everybody knows his victory, but few understand the weight he's carrying. Except Jonathan.
- David needed someone who could remind him who he was, what God had called him to, and that he wasn't alone. And Jonathan becomes that person. The most unlikely friend becomes the most irreplaceable part of David's obedience.

MY HEART

BIBLICAL APPLICATION

- Who in your life strengthens your faith instead of pulling you away from it? Who tells you the truth when you need to hear it? Who celebrates God's calling on your life instead of competing with it? And maybe the bigger question is this: Are you becoming that kind of person for someone else?
- Everybody wants a Jonathan, but few people decide to be one. Maybe today your next step isn't finding better friends. Maybe it's becoming a better friend.
- Take a moment and write down the names of people who have strengthened your walk with God, and one way you can intentionally encourage someone this week.
- Then pray: God, thank You for the people You've placed in my life. Help me become the kind of friend who reflects Your heart, loyal, humble, encouraging, and faithful.

HIS FORMATION

KEY VERSE: May the Lord judge between you and me. And may the Lord avenge the wrongs you have done to me, but my hand will not touch you. 1 Sam 24:12

GOD'S HEART

BIBLICAL TRUTH

- Even though David was already anointed as king, he learned that he could not take the throne through his own force or on his own timing. He realized it was better to live in a cave in obedience to God than to sit on a throne through disobedience.
- David's time in the wilderness became a season of "worship in the waiting". He learned that seasons of difficulty are not wasted time but are necessary for God to develop, equip, and prepare a leader's heart.

DAVID'S HEART

BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION

- Why do you think the scripture included the description of David's followers?
- Why did David feel "stricken at heart" after he cut off the corner of Saul's robe? What did it reveal about his heart?



HIS MERCY

KEY VERSE: “The Lord rewards everyone for their righteousness and faithfulness. The Lord delivered you into my hands today, but I would not lay a hand on the Lord’s anointed.” 1 Sam 26:23

GOD’S HEART

BIBLICAL TRUTH

- Mercy is not given because someone deserves it. Mercy is given because it reflects the heart of God. Saul was guilty, dangerous, and undeserving, and yet David refused to take vengeance into his own hands.
- God’s mercy does not ignore justice; it trusts God with justice. David spared Saul because he believed God was the rightful judge. Mercy frees us from carrying the weight of revenge, bitterness, and payback.
- All mercy begins with the recognition that we are not innocent either. Saul did not deserve mercy, but neither do you or I. The mercy we give to others is rooted in the mercy God has first given to us.

DAVID’S HEART

BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION

- What does David’s refusal to kill Saul reveal about his trust in God’s justice and timing?



HIS PASSION

KEY VERSE: “He and all his men went to Baalah in Judah to bring up from there the ark of God, which is called by the Name, the name of the Lord Almighty, who is enthroned between the cherubim on the ark.” 2 Samuel 6:2 NIV

GODS HEART

BIBLICAL TRUTH

- God always wants to dwell with His People
- God always made a way for His people to be with Him

DAVID’S HEART

BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION

- It seems Saul had carried the ark into battle, using it more like a military good-luck charm than the sacred symbol of God’s presence
- David had a passion for God to be in His rightful place among the people

MY HEART

BIBLICAL APPLICATION

- How passionate are you to put God in His rightful place?
- When should you start to make that happen?
- List two places you need to put God First



HIS HOUSE

KEY VERSES: Now it came about when the king lived in his house, and the Lord had given him rest on every side from all his enemies, that the king said to Nathan the prophet, “See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells within tent curtains.” Nathan said to the king, “Go, do all that is in your mind, for the Lord is with you.” But on the same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan, saying, “Go and say to My servant David, ‘Thus says the Lord, ‘Are you the one who should build Me a house to dwell in?’” 2 Samuel 7:1-5

When your days are complete and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your descendant after you, who will come forth from you, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be a father to him and he will be a son to Me; when he commits iniquity, I will correct him with the rod of men and the strokes of the sons of men, but My lovingkindness shall not depart from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. Your house and your kingdom shall endure before Me forever; your throne shall be established forever. 2 Samuel 7:12-16 NASB



GOD'S HEART

BIBLICAL TRUTH

- God makes a promise to David's family line to always have someone on his throne forever. That line will establish the house, the kingdom, of God on earth. This covenant does not have any stipulations or caveats. God promises to do this with the expectation that this will happen with a king that follows God's way.
- The rest of the Old Testament drama centers around the questions, "Who is on the throne of David?" "Are they following the way of God?" and "Will God be faithful to his promise?" This promise is fulfilled in Jesus, from the line of David, who is the Son of God himself. He established his throne forever through his death and resurrection. He invites us to join him in his house today.

DAVID'S HEART

BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION

- Why does David wish to build a house for God?
- How do you think God's promise was different from what David initially wanted to do in building a house for God? How is this better than a house for God?

MY HEART

BIBLICAL APPLICATION

- In situations where you feel like you think you know what God wants you to do, what does it look like to let yourself be redirected by God?
- What do you think it means to be part of the house of God?
- Thank God for his faithfulness to this promise and others. Pray that you will be able to hear God's direction. Pray that you are humble to receive redirection where necessary.

HIS KINDNESS

KEY VERSE: “Don’t be afraid,” David said to him, “for I will surely show you kindness for the sake of your father Jonathan. I will restore to you all the land that belonged to your grandfather Saul, and you will always eat at my table.” 2 Samuel 9:7

GOD’S HEART

BIBLICAL TRUTH

- Mephibosheth did nothing to earn or deserve David’s trust. Still, David showed great kindness and mercy to him on behalf of the friendship and promise he made with Jonathan.
- Similarly God chooses to show kindness and mercy to us when we’ve done nothing to deserve it. David is a great example of what kingdom kindness looks like in the lives of believers.
- God’s love and kindness is not based on merit, it is based on promise. His kindness flows from faithfulness.
- God always seeks to restore what is lost and make things whole. When David’s heart was aligned with Gods, he sought to restore and raise up Mephibosheth



DAVID'S HEART

BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION

- What does this scripture reveal about David's character that he sought not to eliminate the threat of Saul's remaining line, but instead showed mercy?
- How might Mephibosheth's view of himself shape how he sees David's kindness and mercy?
- In what ways does David's actions show the heart of God?

MY HEART

BIBLICAL APPLICATION

- Who in your life might feel overlooked, disqualified, or less than, that you may be able to show kindness to this week?
- Where do you personally feel like Mephibosheth? Write down where God challenges those beliefs.
- Pray this week:
 - That your heart can align with God's.
 - That you can look for opportunities for kindness.
 - That you can see yourself the way God sees you.

HIS SIN AND REPENTANCE

KEY VERSE: Then David said to Nathan, “I have sinned against the LORD.”
2 Samuel 12:13

GOD’S HEART

BIBLICAL TRUTH

- David’s sin is exposed, which stops David from hiding from the sin. David then confesses his sin without excuse. God extends mercy. There are consequences to the sin but death does not get the final word.
- God does not ignore sin or pretend it doesn’t matter, but he also does not abandon the sinner who repents. God takes sin seriously and still refuses to abandon the sinner.
- God pursues the people he loves by bringing hidden things into the light. God doesn’t expose sin to humiliate; he exposes it because hidden sin cannot be healed.

DAVID’S HEART

BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION

- David had every reason to believe his sin was buried, but Nathan’s arrival makes clear that God saw everything. How does it change your view of sin to know that nothing is actually hidden from God?



HIS LAST CHOICE

KEY VERSE: David said to Gad, "I am in deep distress. Let us fall into the hands of the Lord, for his mercy is great; but do not let me fall into human hands."

2 Samuel 24:14

GOD'S HEART

BIBLICAL TRUTH

- God is both fully just and fully merciful. In the face of sinful decisions - even when they're carried out by a God-appointed King - God responds in fair judgment with an equal measure of mercy.
- God has a desire to cleanse the consciences of those who are willing to obey Him; however, forgiveness for sin comes with a consequence.
- God is attentive to the cries and please of those who are willing to put their trust in Him.

DAVID'S HEART

BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION

- In his distress, David acknowledges his sin and dreads bearing the consequences of his sin; how did his self-centeredness bring about harm to the Israelite people he was meant to lead?
- Why do you think David feared the hands of human hands yet recognized that mercy is found in the hands of the Lord?



HIS LAST WORDS

KEY VERSE: “So now I charge you in the sight of all Israel and of the assembly of the Lord, and in the hearing of our God: Be careful to follow all the commands of the Lord your God, that you may possess this good land and pass it on as an inheritance to your descendants forever.”

1 Chronicles 28:8

GOD’S HEART

BIBLICAL TRUTH

- At the end of his life David comes to realize that his actions have consequences. Even though he was chosen and anointed by God there were things he was unable to do because of the choices he made.
- In David's last words he is giving ministry away to the next generation and connecting our generosity to God's Kingdom.

DAVID’S HEART

BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION

- What do you notice about David's response to being forbidden from building the temple for the Lord?
- Knowing David's specific failures how do you think his challenge to “Be careful to follow all the commands of the Lord” was received.



FAMILY GUIDE

The story of David and the lesson we can learn from it aren't just for adults! Here are some ways that you can follow David's journey as a family and learn from his story together. Below are some activities we've listed to help make David's story fun, interactive, and teachable!

ACTIVITY 1: SLINGSHOT TARGET PRACTICE

Supplies:

- Plastic spoons
- Marshmallows
- Target (anything could work for this)

How:

- Use spoons to launch marshmallows at a nearby target to represent David's battle against Goliath. Bonus points if someone acts out being Goliath!

ACTIVITY 2: FOLLOW THE SHEPHERD

Supplies:

- Blindfold (Bandana, sleep mask, etc.)

How:

- Pick two people, one to be the "sheep" and one to be the "shepherd." Blindfold the "sheep" and have the "shepherd" guide the "sheep" by listening to the "shepherd's" voice to get to a goal location. Make sure to switch roles!

ACTIVITY 3: HEART DECORATING

Supplies:

- Paper or foam heart.
- Craft materials (pens, markers, pencils, paper, etc.)

How:

- David was described as a man after God's own heart. Decorate a paper heart to look like how you imagine God's heart to look! Or you could decorate your heart to look like what yours might look like if God were there too!

ACTIVITY 4: RUBBER BAND HARP

Supplies:

- Empty tissue box, preferably the longer ones.
- Rubber bands

How:

- David was very skilled at playing the harp! To be like David, place a few rubber bands around the tissue box and use the bands to play a fun song! If you want to adjust the sound, you can tighten the rubber bands by placing something underneath certain ones.

These activities can be a way to tie in a Bible study or just something fun for them to do during free time!

PSALMS JOURNALING PROMPTS

ANOINTING — PSALM 23

Where do I need to remember that the Lord is my Shepherd right now? Write about an area where you feel weary, afraid, uncertain, or in need, and name what it would look like to trust his care, guidance, and presence there.

COURAGE — PSALM 27

What fear, threat, or uncertainty is trying to shape my heart right now? Write honestly about what you are afraid of, then write a prayer based on what comfort and courage you find from this psalm.

FRIEND — PSALM 133

Where have I experienced the goodness of unity, friendship, or spiritual family? Write about the kind of relationships that bring life, and ask God where he may be inviting you to pursue peace, humility, or deeper connection with others. Write down names of people you would want to become closer friends with.

FORMATION — PSALM 57

What does faithfulness look like while I am still “in the cave”? Write about a season where you feel hidden, pressured, delayed, or surrounded, and reflect on how you can seek refuge in God before anything changes.

MERCY — PSALM 103

Where do I need to remember the mercy of God toward me? Write about the ways God has been compassionate, patient, forgiving, and kind to you, especially in places where you did not deserve it.

PASSION — PSALM 24

What would it look like for the “King of glory” to be welcomed more fully into my life? Write about the places in your heart, habits, priorities, or home where you need to lift the gates and make room for God.

HOUSE — PSALM 86*

How do I hold on to God’s promises when life feels confusing or unfinished? Write about a promise, a hope, or a prayer that feels delayed, and reflect on what it means to trust God’s faithfulness even when you cannot yet see the outcome.

KINDNESS — PSALM 41

Who around me is weak, overlooked, hurting, or in need of kindness? Write about how God may be inviting you to notice, honor, and care for someone who may not be able to repay you.

SIN/REPENTANCE — PSALM 51

Where do I need to come honestly before God without hiding, minimizing, or defending myself? Write a prayer of confession, asking God not only to forgive you, but to create in you a clean heart.

LAST CHOICE — PSALM 32

What am I carrying that confession could begin to heal? Write about the weight of hidden sin, shame, regret, or silence, and consider what freedom might come from bringing it fully into the light before God.

LAST WORDS — PSALM 72

What kind of legacy am I hoping my life would leave behind? Write about the people, places, values, and faith you hope would flourish because of your life and commitment to Jesus. Write down one thing you can do this week to reinforce that legacy.





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