



LIVING WAY BIBLE STUDY

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FOUR-STEP METHOD

Living Way Bible Study suggests this four-step method:

Welcome to Living Way Bible Study

1. PERSONAL - The student prays for guidance from the Holy Spirit and answers the Personal Application questions at home using only the Bible (no commentaries)
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2. SMALL GROUPS - The class meets for an opening and divides into small groups of 8-10 people. The Small Group Leader guides the group through the P.A. questions encouraging each to share their answers and add discussion.
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3. THE MESSAGE - The lecture or message is given by a Pastor or lay person who has researched the material and presents the study giving personal experiences and encouragement, but not merely duplicating the author's comments.
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4. THE NABBY DRIVE - The author's donations enable a continual and growing Bible study ministry for the help of the more diligent and the struggling as the student leaves the class. At the next class meeting, before answering the P.A. questions, the Small Group Leader will give a summary of the last study session and share, please do not miss this opportunity to share your thoughts and comments on the last study session.
If you have any questions or comments on the last study session, please do not miss this opportunity to share your thoughts and comments on the last study session. We are always eager to hear from you and appreciate your comments.

The first meeting of the class is an introduction to the study. Since the members of the small groups have no PERSONAL APPLICATION questions to discuss at the first meeting, they may use the time to get acquainted or to tell what they hope to receive by studying this course. At the first meeting the Lecturer presents background information about the course using the INTRODUCTION lesson as a guide.

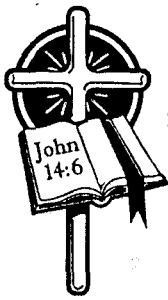
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Each lesson should be stapled together with the next lesson in the right hand corner of the page. To keep the lessons in order check the Bible text listed at the top of each page. The PERSONAL APPLICATION questions are attached to the author's narrative and will be the home study for the next class session.

for the next class session

With this 4-step method the student has the opportunity to study the particular section of Scripture covered by this lesson from four different approaches. This emphasizes the Bible text and gives the student a feeling of understanding and ownership for each section studied.



LIVING WAY BIBLE STUDY, INC.

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- educated in Lutheran grade school, public high school and two years of college.
- member of St Paul Lutheran Church of Des Peres (St. Louis, MO) for many years.
- now member of Hope Chapel Lutheran Church, Osage Beach, MO.
- active member of boards and committees. Taught Sunday School, Bible Classes and Vacation Bible School for many years. Sang in the "Lutheran Hour Choir".
- Trained and active in Evangelism and "Under Shepherds" program.

Bibliography for: FIRST SAMUEL

CONCORDIA SELF-STUDY BIBLE

MATTHEW HENRY COMMENTARY with comments of Thomas Scott

POPULAR COMMENTARY OF THE BIBLE: P. E. Kretzmann

THE EXPOSITORS BIBLE COMMENTARY

HALLEY'S COMMENTARY

WIERSBE'S EXPOSITORY OUTLINES ON THE OLD TESTAMENT

HOWARD F. VOS COMMENTARY

PEOPLE'S BIBLE COMMENTARY by John R. Mittelstaedt

THE WORKS OF JOSEPHUS (complete & unabridged)

SECOND SAMUEL

Lois Engelbart

In First Samuel, our study focused on the lives of three men: Samuel, Saul, and David. As we begin the study of Second Samuel, both Samuel and Saul are dead. Only David remains alive. Thus, it is his life that we will be studying.

When First and Second Samuel were written in Hebrew they comprised one book. As we begin our study of Second Samuel, the continuity between the two books will immediately become evident.

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The entire book of Second Samuel tells the story of David's ascent to the throne, and of his reign as king. The death of Saul ushered in David's kingship over Israel. Seven years later, David would become king over all of Israel.

Some of its citizens still followed what was left of Saul's family, and opposed David's leadership. Despite this opposition, David successfully worked to reunite Israel as a nation. Then with God's help, he also defeated the enemy nations which surrounded Israel.

After David became king over all of Israel, he chose Jerusalem as the capital city from which to rule. He personally brought the "Ark of God's Covenant" to Jerusalem, so that God's presence would be close to him. David recognized his need for God's help if he was to rule justly and righteously.

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As we examine the life of this remarkable man, let us remember that he was an important link in our Savior's lineage. Hundreds of years before Jesus' birth, Isaiah had foretold the Messiah's coming. "You, who bring good tidings to Jerusalem, lift up your voice with a shout...Say to the towns of Judah, 'Here is your God'." (Isaiah 40:9) The night that Jesus was born, an angel told the shepherds, "Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord." (Luke 2:11)

David is the only man in Jesus' lineage whose name Jesus used to identify Himself. Jesus was known to the people of His day, as well as to us, as the "Son of David."

The Authorship of Second Samuel

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The writer of Second Samuel remains unknown. There are only speculations as to its authorship. The Prophets Nathan and Gad are two possible authors. (1 Chronicles 29:29) While it would be a matter of interest to know the person whom God had selected to write this book, we are content in knowing its true Author. The apostle Paul tells us

that “All scripture is God-breathed.” (2 Timothy 3:16) Like the rest of the Bible, God Himself is the Author of Second Samuel.

Learning to Know David’s Heart through his Psalms

As we study the life of David, we would be remiss if we did not also look at the Psalms which he wrote during this time in his life. Both in his successes and in his failures, David allows us to look into the deep recesses of his heart through the Psalms which he wrote. At times, David’s Psalms ring of praise to God, Who blessed him and made him a successful ruler over Israel. But David also cried out to God from the valleys in his life. When he sinned, David pleaded with God for forgiveness and mercy, and God to be merciful and gracious to him.

Welcome to Living Way Bible Study

Thank you for your order! It is our prayer that the Holy Spirit will use this study to help you grow in your knowledge and appreciation of our God and His Word.

God truly was David’s strength and shield in both good and bad times, just as He is our strength and shield in good times, but also in times of trouble. Studying Second Samuel will make us more aware of those times in our own lives when our heart and mind overflow with praise to our Lord. *Persons should be stapled according to lesson number. honor who are copyright of these materials.*

God singled David out as a “man after His own heart.” David loved the Lord and set his mind and heart to follow after Him. Like many of us, David failed God miserably at times, but his heart was set to follow his Creator and Redeemer. David said, “O God, You are my God, earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for You... Because Your love is better than life, my lips will glorify You. I will praise You as long as I live.” (Psalms 63:1,3 & 4) Do David’s words reflect your feelings about your Creator and Redeemer?

Then you, too, are a “person after God’s own heart.”

If you have any questions or comments on this study or any part of it, please drop us letter, email or call us at our toll free number. We are always eager to hear from y appreciate your comments.

David’s success as king over Judah and Israel stands in sharp contrast to David’s failure as a father and as a family husband.

Sadly, we will see David succumb to adultery. Then, in his desperation to cover his sin of adultery, David became a murderer. Sin, when left unchecked, always leads to greater sin.

The “man after God’s own heart” was actually content for a while in his bondage to sin. So God graciously gave him a wake-up call. The prophet Nathan was God’s mouthpiece to bring David to his knees and back to Himself.

God does the same thing in our lives when we wrongly entertain sin. He sends a “Nathan” to wake us up, jar us out of our complacency, and bring us once again to His throne of grace as a repentant sinner. David said, “When we were overwhelmed by sins, You forgave our transgressions.” (Psalms 65:3) What a gracious God we serve! David knew the weight of sin, but he also knew the grace of God.

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Identifying with David

When God chose David to be His child, He saw all of David. He saw how much David loved Him, but He also saw the many times David would take his eyes off of the Lord and allow them to stray into sin. Similarly, when God chose each of us as His children, He saw the love which we have for Him, but He also saw the many times we would allow our eyes and hearts to roam into sin. Yet He still chose us, cleansed us, and now uses us to build His Kingdom, when we are surrendered to Him.

As we study Second Samuel, most likely we will identify with David in some manner:

- As he worshiped and praised the Lord with all of his being.
- As he succumbed to sexual temptation.
- As he cried out to God for forgiveness.
- As his children rebelled and brought great sorrow into his life.
- As he mourned for two of his sons who died violent deaths.
- As he mourned for his tiny infant son who was taken from him by death.
- As he became the proud parent of a baby boy who would one day ascend his throne.

One way or another, we can all identify with David as he made his way through this vale of tears to the glorious throne which awaited him in heaven.

Preparing our Hearts to Study Second Samuel

At the end of David's life, he said, "The Spirit of the Lord spoke through me. His Word was on my tongue." (2 Samuel 23:2) That is the Word we will be studying. God's Word.

David's beloved son, Solomon, passed on some advice to us about studying God's Word. He said, "When I was a boy in my father's house...he taught me...If you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding, and if you look for it...as for hidden treasure, then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God." (Proverbs 2:3-6, & 4:3 & 4)

Let's go treasure hunting as we begin our study of Second Samuel.

PERSONAL APPLICATION

As we open Your Word, make us aware that these are not man's thoughts. They are Yours, Heavenly Father. Plant Your Word deeply in our hearts, so that it may grow and produce beautiful fruit in our lives. Fruit that will attract those who do not yet know You as their Savior. Amen.

2 Samuel 1:1-10

1. Describe the outcome of the battle on Mount Gilboa. (1 Samuel 31:1-4)

2. What were David and his men doing while the Mt. Gilboa battle was taking place? (1 Samuel 30:3,8-20)

3. Who brought David news of the outcome of the battle at Mt. Gilboa? _____
Describe his appearance as he approached David.

4. Had David made any attempt to find out the results of the Mt. Gilboa battle with the Philistines? _____
5. What message did the young man from Amalek deliver to David?

6. Compare the young Amalekites description of Saul's death with the account in 1 Samuel 31:3-6.

- _____ Which account do you feel is most accurate, and why?

7. The young Amalekite brought Saul's crown and armband to David. What significance might that have had? _____

2 Samuel 1: 11-16

8. Describe David's reaction to the news which the young Amalekite brought him.

9. What two questions did David ask the Amalekite?

10. What punishment did David mete out to the young Amalekite?

11. What reason did David give for the severity of his punishment?

12. Who had failed to carry out God's command regarding the Amalekites?
(1 Samuel 15:1-3 & 7-9) _____
13. Do you think that the nationality of the man bringing David the news of the battle could have played a part in the severity of his punishment? _____

2 Samuel 1:17-27

14. David, the sweet Psalmist, wrote a lament after hearing the news of Israel's defeat at Mt. Gilboa. Who did he order be taught this lament? _____ Why might David have given such an order?

15. What curse did David call down on Mt. Gilboa?

16. Read David's lament, and make a list of the accolades he bestows on his best friend, Jonathan.

Next, make a list of the accolades which he gave to his enemy, Saul.

17. What does Jesus tell us to do in Matthew 5: 43-45?

How was David fulfilling what the Lord desires of us?

Share with your class a time when you were able to obey Jesus' command in Matthew 5:43-45.

18. After reading David's lament, state what you think David's greatest concern was.

19. What should be our greatest desire, as we live here on this earth as God's children? (1 Corinthians 10:31-33)

SECOND SAMUEL

Lois Engelbart

Introduction to Chapter One

As we begin our study of Second Samuel, David is at a low point in his life. After having been pursued by Saul, and Israel's army under Saul's command for years, David had fled to Philistine territory. The Philistine prince, Achish, not only had welcomed David and his men, he had given David his own city, Ziklag, in which to live. This is where David is residing as we begin this study.

Israel and the Philistines had once again entered into war against each other. The Philistines had no "Goliath" to frighten Israel this time, and Israel did not have David leading their army, shouting, "We are coming against you in the name of the Lord Almighty."

The battle did not last long. Israel's army was soundly defeated by the Philistines at Mount Gilboa. Saul and three of his sons were killed, and then mutilated by the enemy. Saul had turned his back on God so many times that God no longer gave him needed direction and strength. Saul's constant sin of disobedience brought judgment on innocent people. Saul's sons were slain, and the entire army of Israel was routed.

All the while that Israel was battling the Philistines, David and his men were fighting their own battle. Prince Achish had ordered David and his men to go to war with him to fight their own countrymen. But the Philistine commanders did not trust David, so Achish sent David home to Ziklag. When David and his men returned to Ziklag, they found an empty, burned-out city. Some Amalekites had come while he and his men were gone. They had burned David's city, and had taken all of the women and children captive.

After seeking the Lord's direction, David and his men pursued the Amalekites, defeated them, and regained their families. Every woman and child, and also their cattle and possessions, had been protected and cared for by God's gracious Hand. David returned with his men, women and children to his home in Philistine territory. David was tired and battle-weary, and now faced the job of reconstructing his burned city of Ziklag.

Because David was a "Man after God's Own Heart" (Acts 13:22)

- David was not anxious to see Saul hurt.
- David was not in a hurry to become Israel's king, although he had been anointed to be king many years earlier by Samuel.
- David was very laid-back when it came to his own power and honor, but...
- David was very zealous to defend God's honor and power.

David Mourns for his Countrymen (2 Samuel 1:1-5)

It is interesting that there is no mention of David sending men to Mount Gilboa to bring him news of the battle between Israel and the Philistines. God had graciously spared David from lifting his sword against his own countrymen. Even though David did not seek information about Israel's battle with the Philistines, news was brought to him of the outcome of the battle. The kingly crown and armband which Saul had worn for forty-two long and tiresome years, was also given to David.

It was not an Israelite that brought David the news of Israel's defeat, but rather an Amalekite. (I doubt that he knew that David's city of Ziklag had just been burned by a band of Amalekites as he approached David.)

God had sent Saul on a mission early in his reign as king. The mission was very clear, and very specific. He had been told to destroy all of the Amalekites. God had decreed that they be destroyed. Moses recorded God's Word regarding the Amalekites: "Remember what the Amalekites did to you...when you were weary and worn out...they cut off all who were lagging behind; they had no fear of God...You shall blot out the memory of Amalek from under heaven." (Deuteronomy 25:17-19)

Saul, like many of us, had not fully obeyed God's Word. Saul had decided to obey only the part of God's Word which appealed to him. He destroyed most of what the Lord had told him to destroy, but he had decided to save those things which appealed to him. Saul's sin of disobedience cost him dearly. The Lord rejected him as king over Israel. (1 Samuel 15:26)

Saul failed to realize that the sin we fail to destroy is the sin, which, in the end, slays us. (Warren Wiersbe)

The Amalekite's Testimony (2 Samuel 1:6-16)

The Amalekite that reported to David is neither named nor praised in the scriptures. His words and his actions are simply recorded. Part of the message that he brought was true. Saul and Jonathan were dead. But much of his story was fabricated to appeal to David. "Saul is dead. I helped him out of his misery by killing him. Here is his crown. You can now be king." But he didn't know David, and he didn't know David's God.

Scripture tells us that "there is a way that seemeth right unto men, the end of which is death." (Proverbs 14:12, K.J.V.) The Amalekite thought that what he was doing "seemed right". But the Amalekite did not know God's Word or God's heart.

David's immediate reaction upon hearing the news of Israel's loss was one of sorrow--great sorrow. He and his men tore their clothes, mourned, wept, and fasted. Death had taken the lives of hundreds of David's fellow-Israelites, and it had taken the life of his best friend, Jonathan.

But David also mourned for Saul, who had relentlessly pursued him, trying to take his life. Saul had been David's enemy. For many years, David had held himself back from harming Saul because Saul was God's anointed king.

David asked the Amalekite, "Why were you not afraid to lift your hand to destroy the Lord's anointed?" Then David pronounced judgment on him. David said, "...Your own mouth testified against you when you said 'I killed the Lord's anointed.'"

Most Bible scholars believe that the account of Saul's death which is recorded in First Samuel 31: 4 & 5, and First Chronicles 10:3-6, is the correct account—Saul took his own life; the Amalekite did not end Saul's life.

It is difficult for us to understand the severity and swiftness of David's punishment. David simply called for the Amalekite to be executed—immediately.

The death of the Amalekite is a picture of God's final judgment, which will come to all mankind. It will come swiftly and unexpectedly. (1 Thessalonians 5:3) God had pronounced His judgment on this Amalekite, and all Amalekites, many hundreds of years before. They were to be destroyed because of sin. Similarly, God has pronounced judgment on all mankind because, "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23) But we worship a merciful God, Who paid fully for our sins when God's Son, Jesus, died in our place on Calvary. Romans 3:24 tells us this good news. "We are justified freely by His grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus."

David's Lament (2 Samuel 1:17-27)

David must have immediately written the thoughts which God had given to him. He begins his lament with what was uppermost in his mind. He expresses his deepest concern. "Your glory, O Israel, lies slain on your heights." God's glory had been tarnished. God's glory was no longer revered by Israel's enemies. David wrote this lament not only to express his own sorrow; he wrote it to be learned and used by his fellow countrymen...and by us.

The words of Proverbs 24:17 had not yet been penned, but they were firmly written in David's heart as he wrote his lament. "Do not gloat when your enemy falls; when he stumbles, do not let your heart rejoice."

David's lament tells us just how much he loved his friend Jonathan. But David's lament also sings the praises of David's enemy, Saul. David was a man after God's own heart. He loved his enemies.

A thousand years later, Jesus, the Son of David, would say, "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I tell you; Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven." (Matthew 5:43-45)

David was a son of the Heavenly Father.

Conclusion

The Amalekite is a picture of this world's way of thinking. He expected to be rewarded for bringing David the news of Israel's loss and his own hand in killing David's adversary, Saul, and for bringing David the king's royal crown and armband. David shows us the heart of God. He mourned for his fellow countrymen—even those who were his enemies. He executed judgment on the wicked. Then he wrote a lament expressing his sorrow over God's glory being dimmed. He loved God, and he loved his fellow countrymen.

God's word tells us that "the present heavens and earth are...being kept for the Day of Judgment...But...the Lord is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish." (2 Peter 3:7-9) That is the heart of God! And--David was a man after God's own heart!

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Heavenly Father, help us as we run the race set before us. Keep our eyes fixed on You, the Author and Finisher of our faith. Amen

2 Samuel 2:1-7

1. King Saul was dead, and David had been anointed to be the next king of Israel many years earlier by Samuel. (1 Samuel 16:12 & 13) Do you think that David was anxious to assume his position as king? Give reasons for your answer.

2. Compare David's spiritual life when he left Israel to live among the Philistines (1 Samuel 27:1), with David's spiritual life now. (2 Samuel 2:1)

3. Share with your class a time when you asked the Lord for help in making a decision.

4. Which city did the Lord tell David to go to? Where was it located, and why would this be a good place for David to return to in Israel? (1 Samuel 17:12A)

5. The men of Judah came to Hebron after David had settled there. What was their purpose in coming to see David? _____
6. Why did David show kindness to the men of Jabesh Gilead? Make a list of godly qualities which David displayed by this action.

2 Samuel 2:8-11

7. Who was Abner? (1 Samuel 14:50,51) _____
8. What action had Abner taken which was certain to cause strife in Israel? State your opinion of why Abner took this action.

9. The men of Judah had made David their king, and God had anointed him to his position as king. Who made Ish-Bosheth king over the rest of Israel, and what does this action tell you about his character and his power?

10. Do you think that Ish-Bosheth was an effective king, or a puppet king? State the reason for your opinion.

2 Samuel 2:12-16

11. What action taken by Abner caused Joab to take troops to the pool of Gibeon?
12. What suggestion did Abner make, and what was the outcome of his suggestion?

2 Samuel 2:17-25

13. What action followed the death of all of the young men?
14. Who won the battle, and why do you think God gave them the victory? (Lamentations 3:25)
15. Who was Zeruiah, and who were her sons? (1 Chronicles 2:16)
16. What special ability had God given her son Asahel, and how did he choose to use it on this particular day?
17. Name a special ability the Lord has given you, and tell how you use it.
18. Do you think that Abner's warnings to Asahel were well-intentioned? Explain how Asahel died.

2 Samuel 2:26-32

19. Why do you think Abner called to Joab asking for a truce, and how did Joab respond? _____
20. Where did Abner and his troops return to? _____
21. How many men had Joab's troops lost, and how many men had Abner's troops lost? _____
22. Where was Asahel buried? _____
23. Who did Joab return and report to? _____
24. War is not something which God delights in; however, there are times when it is a necessary evil. What is your opinion of war?
