

SHARE THE BIBLE LESSON  
**WEEK 21**

**God makes David king**

2 Samuel 1:1–2:7



**DAY 1**

*David mourned and avenged Saul's death • 2 Samuel 1:1–16*

**READ** 

2 Samuel 1:1–16

**EXPLAIN** 

**The truth of 2 Samuel 1:1–16**

After spending years escaping from Saul, wouldn't you think that David would be glad to hear that Saul was dead? That's what the Amalekite messenger thought, too. He invented a story about helping Saul take his own life (1:6–10; 1 Sam 31:3–5), expecting David to reward him for his part in Saul's death. But David did not rejoice (2 Sam 1:12). He mourned for Jonathan, his close friend and fellow soldier. He also mourned for all those who had died in battle, as well as for the rest of Israel, now kingless and cowering before the Philistines. Even more amazing, David wept for Saul, his lifelong enemy. He imitated God in this, since God takes no pleasure in the death of anyone (Ezek 18:32). But David wasn't just sad. He was also shocked that the Amalekite messenger had not been afraid to harm Saul, God's anointed king (2 Sam 1:14). So David justly executed him based on the Amalekite's own testimony (1:16). Both in his grief and in his respect for God's anointed king, David proved his integrity. He was qualified to be Israel's next king.

**ASK** 

1. Who came to David with bad news?  
*An Amalekite messenger from Saul's camp.*
2. What did the messenger say?  
*Israel was beaten and Saul, Jonathan, and many Israelites were dead.*
3. Who did David weep for?  
*For Saul, for Jonathan, for God's people, and for all Israel. He was a good leader because he loved God's people and honored the kingship.*
4. Why did David kill the messenger?  
*David killed him because he said he killed God's anointed.*

**DISCUSS** 

1. Have you experienced the death of a friend, family member, or pet? Talk about the sadness that comes with death (Jer 9:1; 1 Thess 4:13).
2. Should you rejoice when bad things happen to your enemies (Prov 24:17)? Why is it wrong to rejoice over anyone's death (Ezek 18:32)? Should you rejoice in God's justice (Ps 58:10; Prov 11:10)?

## DAY 2

### David commemorated the dead • 2 Samuel 1:17–27

#### READ

2 Samuel 1:17–27

#### EXPLAIN

##### The truth of 2 Samuel 1:17–27

God gave music as a tool for us to express our emotion and help us remember. So David channeled his grief into a song to *commemorate, honor, and remember* Saul and Jonathan. He even taught this *lament*, this *song of sorrow*, to all the people of Judah. The song has three main themes. First, David lamented Israel's shame, showing again his deep love for God's people and God's glory (2 Sam 1:19–21), since enemies of God's people are also enemies of God (1 Sam 17:26, 45–47). Second, David honored Saul and Jonathan (2 Sam 1:22–23). He never mentioned Saul's failures. Instead, he remembered Saul's brave defense of Israel. Third, David mourned the deaths of Saul and Jonathan (1:24), and he expressed special love for Jonathan (1:26). Rather than hinting at anything inappropriate between them (Lev 20:13; 1 Cor 6:9), this verse shows how good and strong friendship can be when it is based on a selfless, fearless, and passionate love for God's glory. By mourning and honoring the past king, his friend, and his people, David once again proved that he would be a good king.

#### ASK

1. After David wept and fasted, how did he keep grieving?  
*He wrote a lament so that Israel would not forget.*
2. What is a lament?  
*A sad song.*
3. Who did David teach this sad song to?  
*The people of Judah.*
4. Why was it important for Israel to remember this sad day?  
*It would motivate them to fight the Philistines. It would also remind them that David was a worthy leader who loved his people.*

#### DISCUSS

1. David's lament, along with Lamentations and many Psalms, shows that it is good to thoughtfully express and remember sorrow. What are some different ways people express sorrow?
2. What are some ways you remember those who have passed away?

## DAY 3

### David honored God and man • 2 Samuel 2:1–7

#### READ

2 Samuel 2:1–7

#### EXPLAIN

##### The truth of 2 Samuel 2:1–7

Isn't it amazing that after waiting for so long to be king, David still kept waiting? He waited because he knew it was better to receive the kingdom as a gracious gift from God, instead of trying to take it his own way. Unlike Saul, David continued to seek God's word and obey it (2 Sam 2:1). As a result, David became king of Judah (2:2–4). While there, he waited seven more years

before becoming king of all Israel. During this time he continued to act with integrity instead of selfish ambition. Incoming kings would usually punish the supporters of the previous king. But David honored the people of Jabesh-gilead for risking their lives to honor Saul and Jonathan with a proper burial (1 Sam 31:11–13; 11:1–11). This proved once again David's loyalty to God's anointed, to God's people, and to God Himself. Finally, all Israel welcomed him as king (5:1–3). David shows us that it is always better to do what is right and wait for God to provide in His time (Isa 33:15).

**ASK** 

1. How did David know what to do next?  
*David asked God. David was very careful to obey what God said.*
2. Why did David honor the men of Jabesh-gilead?  
*He honored them because they had heroically rescued the bodies of Saul and Jonathan. David again showed his loyalty to Israel.*
3. Did God reward David's loyalty and patience?  
*Yes. David was made king of Judah at Hebron, then king of all Israel 7 years later.*

**DISCUSS** 

1. Have you ever had to wait a long time for something you really wanted? Was it difficult? Why is it important to patiently wait for God's timing?
2. What are different ways you can show your loyalty (reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, defending someone, attending an event, obeying, etc.)? How can you show your loyalty to God this week?

**DAY 4***Weep with those who weep • Romans 12:9-21***READ** 

Romans 12:9-21

**EXPLAIN** **The truth of Romans 12:9-21**

One day, when Christ conquers death, there will be no death or sadness (1 Cor 15:54; Rev 21:4). But until then, it is good to grieve over suffering and death. David did, and so did Jeremiah (Jer 9:1). Death is real. It is part of the curse (Gen 2:17). It is the result of sin (Rom 6:23). It is the final enemy to be destroyed (1 Cor 15:26). But as believers, we don't just mourn for those who have died. We also mourn with those who remain behind, whether or not we have been personally affected by their loss. To "rejoice with those who rejoice" and to "weep with those who weep" is an essential part of what it means to be a Christian (Rom 12:15). No matter your personal circumstances, Paul urges you to be sensitive and understand the joys, triumphs, sorrows, and disappointments of others. In so doing, you place yourself in their shoes: you experience their happiness, mourn their loss, and share their hardship. Personally enter into their situation so that you may truly sympathize with them.

**ASK** 

1. Why is it right to grieve over those who have died?  
*Death is sad. It is the result of sin (Rom 6:23).*
2. How do we weep and mourn with others?  
*We place ourselves in their shoes, allowing ourselves to feel what they're feeling.*
3. Do we still weep with others even when we're not sad ourselves?  
*Yes. We weep with others, no matter what our personal circumstances might be, in order that we might sympathize with them.*

**DISCUSS** 

1. Why did death enter the world (Rom 5:12)?
2. Do you know someone who is hurting right now? What are some practical things you can do to show your care and concern for those who are hurting?

# DAY 5

Jesus wept over Jerusalem • Luke 19:28–44

## READ

Luke 19:28–44

## EXPLAIN

### The truth of Luke 19:28–44

When David grieved over Saul, his lifelong enemy, he showed us that we also should grieve and not rejoice over the destruction of our enemies (Prov 24:17). Samuel and David both wept for Saul (1 Sam 15:35), and Paul wept for faithless Israel (Rom 9:2–3). Their sadness reflects God’s heart, since He takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked (Ezek 18:32). Even Jesus, as He rode into Jerusalem to the shouts of the multitude, wept over the city and its inhabitants. Though the crowds were filled with joyful praise, it would only be a matter of days before these same crowds would cry out for His death (Luke 23:21). So Jesus wept with deep sorrow and powerful sobbing, because He knew they were rejecting salvation. While the excited crowds shouted “peace in heaven,” Jesus knew there would be no peace (19:38, 42–44). There would only be divine judgment, for the people had rejected those things which lead to peace with God—repentance and faith. So while you should rejoice in God’s justice (Ps 58:10), you ought to grieve when people choose the way of sin and death.

## ASK

1. What was Jesus riding as He went up to Jerusalem?  
*A colt.*
2. Why did Jesus weep over Jerusalem?  
*Because most of the people had rejected Him and His message. They wanted peace, but they rejected the way to peace (repentance and faith in Jesus).*
3. Who would crucify Jesus only a few days after His triumphal entry into Jerusalem?  
*The same people who joyfully welcomed Him into the city.*

## DISCUSS

1. How do you respond when your enemies are mistreated?
2. God takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked. As a family, pray for a family member or friend who does not know Jesus as Lord and Savior. Ask God to rescue this person from their sin.

## NEXT WEEK

### God makes a covenant with David

2 Samuel 7:1–29

