



THE
KING OF

THE RISE & FALL OF DAVID

KINGS II

JOURNAL

SEASON TWO

“Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your steadfast love ...
Against you, you only, have I sinned
and done what is evil in your sight”

PSALM 51v1,4

INTRODUCTION

In **The King of Kings II** we are going to continue our series in the book of 2 Samuel and discover the drastic fall of King David.

The story of David is one of humility, faith and love – but also pride, greed and lust - all interwoven through a series of unexpected turns, great victories, and a tragic fall.

Remarkably, **The King of Kings II** will not only take us into the courts of David, but provide a window to the true and perfect king that was to come.

HOW TO USE THIS JOURNAL

1. READ

Within its pages, the scriptures are often likened to food. We need food for our bodies, and we need food for our spirits – and God’s word offers sustenance for life (Matthew 4:4). Just like food, we need it regularly – and if you follow this guide, you’ll get that. Schedule it in; commit to reading the passages each week.

2. REFLECT

As you read through the passages we encourage you to stop and reflect. You will find it really useful to keep a journal, writing down your questions and observations; this will help you go deeper, and really think through the passage. We’ve offered some questions for each week – but as a general rule, ask yourself what each passage teaches you about God, and what it teaches you about yourself.

3 . RESPOND

God's word is powerful, and so we read it expectantly, eager to see how God will use each passage to teach, correct, reprove, train and equip us (2 Timothy 3:16-17) for life with Him. A great first response is always to pray; God is speaking to you, so respond to Him! Write down your prayers in a journal; this will help clarify what God is doing within you – and will, in time, provide a wonderful record of God's faithfulness. Beyond that, try to find practical ways to respond – things you need to **stop** doing, and things you can **start** doing.

4 . REMEMBER

When God gave His people His commandments in the Old Testament, He wanted them to be 'on (their) heart' – taught to their children, spoken about at home, on the road, in the evening, in the morning (Deuteronomy 6:5-8). Memorising God's words keeps them present in our hearts and minds throughout the day, allowing His truth to shape everything we do. We've provided a key memory verse in this guide and each week select words will be removed from the verse to help you memorise it.

DAVID & MICHAL

2 SAMUEL 6v12-23

1. READ

- 2 Samuel 6:12-23
- 1 Samuel 18:17-30
- 1 Samuel 19:8-17
- Exodus 37, 40 & 1 Chronicles 13

2. REFLECT

- What is the significance of the Ark of the Covenant?
- What does David's dance before the Lord reveal about his heart, and the heart of worship?
- In what sense is Michal her 'father's daughter'?

3. RESPOND

4. REMEMBER

¹ Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. ² Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!

– Psalm 51:1-2

DAVID & NATHAN

2 SAMUEL 17v1-17

1. READ

- 2 Samuel 7
- 2 Samuel 8
- 1 Corinthians 2
- James 1:5-8
- Proverbs 3

2. REFLECT

- What is the significance of the Covenant God makes with David?
- If God is so keen to bless David, why do you think He does not permit him to build the temple?
- What does it look like for us to seek God's blessing this week?

3. RESPOND

4. REMEMBER

¹ Have _____ on me, O God, _____ to your steadfast ____; according to your abundant _____ blot out my transgressions. ² _____ me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!

– Psalm 51:1-2

DAVID & MEPHIBOSHETH

2 SAMUEL 9v1-13

1. READ

- 2 Samuel 9
- 2 Samuel 10
- Psalm 20
- Psalm 21
- Romans 3:21-31

2. REFLECT

- How does David's act of grace foreshadow the grace that is to come?
- What does friendship look like to you and do you pursue friendships of the quality and depth that Jonathan and David had?
- How did Mephibosheth understand his identity? And in light of Romans 3:21-31, how do you understand your identity in Christ?

3. RESPOND

4. REMEMBER

¹ Have _____ on me, O God, _____ to your
_____ _____; according to your abundant _____ blot
out my transgressions. ² _____ me thoroughly from
my _____, and cleanse me from my sin!

– Psalm 51:1-2

DAVID & BATHSHEBA

2 SAMUEL 11v1-26

1. READ

- 2 Samuel 11
- 2 Samuel 12
- Psalm 32, 33, 15, & 103
- Psalm 51
- Acts 17:28-34
- Luke 1:67-79

2. REFLECT

- For decades David had shown himself to be a great man of God, what factors brought him to fall in such a drastic way?
- David's sin was more than adultery and murder; it involved considered and secretive planning. Are there layers to your decision making and planning that need redeeming by God?
- What aspect of your character do you think Jesus is redeeming in you right now?

3. RESPOND

4. REMEMBER

¹ Have _____ on me, O God, _____ to your
_____ _____; _____ to your abundant _____ blot
out my transgressions. ² _____ me thoroughly from
my _____, and _____ me from my sin!

– Psalm 51:1-2

DAVID & TAMAR

2 SAMUEL 13v1-21

1. READ

- 2 Samuel 13
- 2 Samuel 14
- 2 Samuel 15 & Psalm 3
- 2 Samuel 16 & Psalm 7
- 2 Samuel 17:1-24
- Ephesians 6:1-4

2. REFLECT

- How do you think David could have responded better in 13:21?
- What does this situation say about David's relationship with his children?
- How can you honour your parents this week?

3. RESPOND

4. REMEMBER

¹ Have _____ on me, O God, _____ to your
_____ _____; _____ to your abundant _____ _____
out my transgressions. ² _____ me thoroughly from
my _____, and _____ me from my _____!

– Psalm 51:1-2

DAVID & ABSALOM

2 SAMUEL 17v24-18v18

1. READ

- 2 Samuel 17:24-18 & Psalm 4
- 2 Samuel 19
- 2 Samuel 20-21
- 2 Samuel 22-23 & Psalm 18
- John 11:28-36
- Hebrews 4:15

2. REFLECT

- How is God involved in David's saga with Absalom?
- What has God taught you through hardships in your life?
- To what extent do you live your life in recognition of God's redeemed future?

3. RESPOND

4. REMEMBER

¹ Have _____ on me, O God, _____ to your
_____ _____; _____ to your abundant _____ _____
out my _____. ² _____ me thoroughly from
my _____, and _____ me from my ____!

– Psalm 51:1-2

DAVID & JOAB

2 SAMUEL 24^{v1-25}

1. READ

- 2 Samuel 24:1-17
- 2 Samuel 24:18-25 & Psalm 79
- 1 Chronicles 21:1
- Revelation 21:1-8

2. REFLECT

- How does 2 Samuel 24 challenge your understanding of God?
- Arriving at the end of 2 Samuel, why do you think David was remembered as a man after God's own heart?
- How does David's life point us to Jesus?

3. RESPOND

4. REMEMBER

¹ Have _____ on me, O ____, _____ to your
_____; _____ to your _____
out my _____. ² _____ me thoroughly from
my _____, and _____ me from my ____!

– Psalm 51:1-2

WRITE YOUR OWN PSALM

Working our way through the life of David gives us a great opportunity to reflect not just on the story of David's life, but on the expression of his faith. The Bible gives us a particularly rich glimpse into the narrative of David – we see his triumphs, trials, and tragedies as his life is recounted to us by the biblical commentators. But unlike many of the other people we meet throughout the Scriptures, we get a unique look into David's inner life. Of the 150 Psalms, David is attributed to writing 75 of them. These Psalms provide us with a window into his thoughts and desires – his wrestle with God's justice and mercy in the face of his enemies, his inner turmoil of being betrayed by close friends, his fear and anxiety when running for his life, and his conviction of sin before a holy and mighty God.

Often, these Psalms are not simply general reflections on ambiguous events, but are embedded in specific moments in David's life. In the Psalms we see his grief and his gratitude, his sorrow and his steadfastness, his doubts and his dreams, his worries and his worship, his fear and his faithfulness.

The Psalms give us an insight into what it looks like to truly worship God throughout all of life – giving glory to Him through life’s triumphs, and trusting in His goodness in the midst of life’s trials and tragedies. We see how the truths of who God is and what He has done for us is an anchor for the soul.

Writing your own psalm is a great way to learn from the Psalms how to express to God openly and honestly what is going on in your heart and your mind. The Psalms teach us how to have faith and trust in God, keeping our eyes fixed on Him and worshiping in all the ups and downs of life.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Consider the following Psalms, and how they might relate to you in your current circumstances.

- Psalm 55 – Being betrayed by someone you used to be close to.
- Psalms 13 & 42 – Trusting God in the midst of depression and despair.
- Psalm 18 – Deliverance from enemies.
- Psalm 63 – Seeking God in times of wandering through the wilderness.
- Psalm 51 – Coming face to face with your sin in repentance before a holy God.
- Psalm 32 – Finding joy in repentance.
- Psalm 103 – Encouraging your soul to praise God.
- Psalms 10 & 57 – Finding safety and protection in God from a powerful predator.
- Psalm 8 – A song of praise and worship.

2. Listen to ‘Enduring Hardships with the Psalmist’ by David Powlinson – available at sovereigngracestore.com

3. Consider what is currently on your heart.

How can you express that to God?

What is currently going on in your life?

What are you feeling?

What are you afraid of?

What consumes your mind?

What do you need to repent of?

What are you thankful for?

How will you praise God today?

How will you trust God today?

How do the promises of Christ meet you right now?

Try to be specific.

4. Share your psalm!

Perhaps you could share your psalm with your Gospel Community, at one of our Sunday services, or request to publish it as a blog post on our website.

GUIDELINES

Howard D. Vanderwell¹ provides the following helpful guidelines for writing a psalm:

- Write from the standpoint of faith; trusting God no matter what.
- Try to write in poetic form, not prose; verse form, not paragraph.
- Write with candor and honesty. The psalmists have taught us that pain and struggle can be freely expressed to God.
- Allow our feelings and emotions to show through, because faith is more than knowledge and facts.
- Try to use figurative speech, including metaphors and similes like the psalmists used.
- Write reflectively after sorting through our own experiences.
- Write as New Testament Christians, for we know the Messiah has come.

¹ <http://reformedworship.org/article/march-2014/writing-your-own-psalm>

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