



Anglican
Church of Noosa

DAVID

The Triumph and Tragedy of a Leader

Connect Groups

At the Anglican Church of Noosa, the primary avenue for discipleship is in a Connect Group.

We strongly encourage everyone to be involved because these groups are specifically designed to help us grow as disciples.

The normal pattern for a Connect Group time is to have three sections: connecting with each other, connecting with the Word and connecting with God through prayer - in any order.

We need time to relate to one another by connecting personally. Depending on the members, this can be done in a variety of ways.

As we get into the Word, we examine its truth and relevance in order to apply it to our lives. Scripture is explored, explained and discussed, and the goal is to minister to each other's lives through what is learned, not necessarily to finish all the material.

Prayer is a vital part of a Connect Group's time together. Leave plenty of time so your prayer is not rushed. This is not just an 'opening' or 'closing' prayer, but a time for everyone in the group to take specific requests to God, in a simple and conversational way. This is where the action is! The goal is to create a space where people feel enabled and comfortable to pray, and can see God at work.

David - a brief intro...

1 and 2 Samuel are really one narrative. In fact, in the Hebrew text, the two books were only one.

1 Samuel tells how the people of Israel ask for a king and God gives them Saul. Saul goes astray so God anoints David as his successor. David has to live several years on the margins, anointed as God's king but living as a fugitive.

2 Samuel tells the story of David's kingship and his triumphs and tragedies as King. He is presented realistically, shown as a man with great ability and great charm, but with very obvious weaknesses and failings.

David was Israel's greatest king, but his reign certainly wasn't free of trouble.

We can be thankful that God overruled in Israel's history and provided a faithful and promised King from David's line.

Week 1 - Loyalty to God's Anointed

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Introduction

Think of a sporting, work or community group you have belonged to.

What did it mean to be loyal to that group or organisation?

2 Samuel 1:1-27; Acts 2:22-36

1. What was your first reaction to the story of the Amalekite's report about Saul's death?
2. Why did the Amalekite think he was bringing good news to David?
3. Read 1 Samuel 31:3-6. What new light does this report throw on the story we have read? Has there been a time in your life when you jumped to a conclusion but when new information came to light you changed your opinion?

4. Was David justified in the capital punishment he dealt out to the Amalekite?

5. The Jewish faith saw David as a prototype of the coming Messiah. In what ways does Jesus fulfil this understanding and in what ways does he transcend it?

Refer to Acts 2:22-36 and any other New Testament passages you think might be relevant.

6. Why is loyalty to 'God's anointed' so much more important than how we behave?

7. The sermon began and ended asking the question: "What does it mean to obey God?" What does it mean for you to obey, and be loyal to God's anointed, king Jesus?

Prayer

- Give thanks for our anointed one – King Jesus
- Confess when you have not been his loyal subject as you would have liked to have been
- Ask for grace to serve him faithfully in your current situation

Week 2 - Waiting for God's Time

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Introduction

Describe a time when you had to wait patiently for something you really wanted to happen?

e.g. Christmas when you were a child, exam results, a job offer after an interview, going on a major holiday.

2 Samuel 5:1-25; Matthew 21:1-11

1. What are the three reasons the tribes of Israel give for wanting David as their King?
Which of these qualities do you think is most important? What other qualities do you think are important for a leader?
2. What can we learn from the Jebusites' attitude to the defence of their city?
3. v.11 The King of Tyre's offer of help to build the Palace was seen as confirmation that God had established David as king. Is there a time when you have sensed God's confirmation of circumstances in your life?

4. vv.17-25 In two battles against the Philistines David gets specific direction from the Lord about how to conduct the battle.
How do we discern God's will today?

5. Jesus is described as the son of David.
In what way is Jesus like David?
In what way is Jesus superior to David?

6. Describe a time when things haven't worked out the way you hoped and you had to wait patiently for God to show the next step?

7. Share a time when you felt God using you in his mission to redeem the world. You may have been part of a church outreach event or helped an individual to come to faith or grow in faith.

Prayer

- Pray for an opportunity this week to be a witness to God's redeeming love in Christ.

- Pray for God to show us more specifically how we can love and serve the Noosa region because of Jesus.

Week 3 - Respecting God's Holiness

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Introduction

What movies have you seen that give a good representation of the holiness of God?

Have you had an incident in your life which has helped you see God's awesomeness?

2 Samuel 6:1-23

1. Why do you think getting the Ark back to Jerusalem was so critical for King David?
2. What mistakes did David make on his first attempt to bring the Ark into the city?
3. Are we right to be angry with God when He acts in ways we don't understand or like? How might our obedience or disobedience help or hinder outcomes?

4. Do you think the way you worship shows the amazing holiness of God?
How could we better express God's awesomeness as we worship?

5. Read 1 Chronicles 15:11-15. What does this tell us about David's second attempt to bring the Ark to Jerusalem?

Hebrews 10:19-23; 12:25-29

6. What is the new perspective we get from Hebrews? Is that helpful for you?

7. How is Jesus different from both Uzzah and David?

Prayer

- Ask God to help you wrestle with the tricky passages of Scripture, and not to dismiss them as too hard.

- Praise God for his awesomeness, power and almighty nature, and thank Him that He has come near in Jesus.

Week 4 - Accepting God's Plan

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Introduction

Share a time when God had a totally different plan to you. How did you react?

2 Samuel 7:1-17

This chapter marks a key moment in the Bible story. It starts with David wanting to do something for God. Instead, God will do something for David.

1. Why does David want to build a house for God?
2. Why does God want to build a house for David?
3. What do you think Nathan's role is? Did Nathan get it wrong in the beginning?

4. Read Acts 2:22-36

Why is this moment in history so important?

2 Samuel 7:18-29

David responds to God in prayer and praise. It seems he had an intimate conversation with God.

5. Do you have a similar personal relationship with God?

Do you take initiative to spend time with Him?

6. What can you learn from David's response that you can apply in your life?

Acts 7:44-50

7. Does God need us to build a house for him?

8. How can we resist the urge to want to limit God or keep him in one place?

Prayer

- Use the Word and promises of God to shape your prayers today
- Spend some time simply praising the everlasting King

Week 5 - Shame

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Introduction

Share a time when you have struggled with temptation, and won.

Share a time when you have struggled with temptation, and lost.

2 Samuel 11

1. What was David's first mistake?
What should he have done?
2. How can we help each other with temptation today?
3. v.6 What was it that moved David to action?

4. List all the ways David used his power badly.
Where do we see abuse and misuse of power today?

5. How does Uriah's honour impact David?

1 Corinthians 10:11-13

6. How can God's faithfulness help us when temptations become overwhelming?

7. We need a king who can resist the temptations that come with power.
Who fulfils those requirements?

Prayer

- Pray that you will have strength to overcome temptation when you need it

- Pray for each other to be able to bring all things to God, knowing that there is nothing we can hide from him.

Week 6 - Rebuke

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Introduction

When have you had to have a difficult conversation? How did it go?

2 Samuel 12

Throughout his sin and its cover-up, David has been in charge, but now God takes control and sends Nathan.

1. How does the story Nathan tells mirror David's sin?
2. What repeated ideas in vv.7 & 8 show the goodness of God towards David?
3. What lessons might we learn from Nathan's rebuke about how to talk to people about the Gospel?

v.13 From time to time we grasp the enormity of our sin, and it can be a crushing realisation.

David has come to that point.

4. What did David do? What is striking about his confession?

5. Does it seem too easy for God to forgive David? What is the price David has to pay? [v.14 is the judgement; but also see vv.15-17]

6. David's price was paid by his son. David lives but his son will die.
What does David's greater Son do for us?

Psalm 51

7. Psalm 51 was written by David in the aftermath of this incident. Share what encourages you about David's genuine heart repentance. Is that how you think about your sin before God, or are you hoping God won't notice?

Prayer

- Spend time in quietness allowing the Holy Spirit to convict you afresh of your sin
- Thank God together for the forgiveness of sin He freely gives us in Christ.

Week 7 - Lament

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Introduction

Has there been a time when you have experienced family or close colleagues conspiring against you?

How did it feel?

2 Samuel 18

1. The troops are concerned for David's safety, but what is David's chief concern?
2. How is God's will seen through the battle?
[2 Samuel 17:14]
3. How does the obvious emotion and tension throughout the battle impact you?

4. Absalom's rebellion ends badly because he defied the Lord's anointed. Where do you see people defying the Lord's anointed today?

5. What is the significance of the way Absalom is buried? [see Joshua 7:26; 8:29; 10:27]

6. What does David's mourning tell you? v.33

Psalm 2

The warning of this Psalm is a warning for us all.
But the promise is for all as well!

7. Who are we to take refuge in?
How does that help us to escape the coming judgement?

Prayer

- Pray for people you know who are living in rebellion to Jesus

- Ask God to continue bringing new insight to you and all your group from David's life and legacy

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