



LIGHT TO LIVE BY

A DAILY BIBLE
READING AID

**Book 9 of 24: 1&2 Samuel
(& Proverbs 24-25)**

Month: _____

Light to live by: A daily bible reading aid
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All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are from the English Standard Version ^(ESV). All underlining, italics, insertions, brackets, [], and other forms of emphasis, are ours.

For any suggestions or edits, please email: oneaimallgod@gmail.com

For other booklets in this series, visit: www.oneaimallgod.org

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A daily structure for time with God

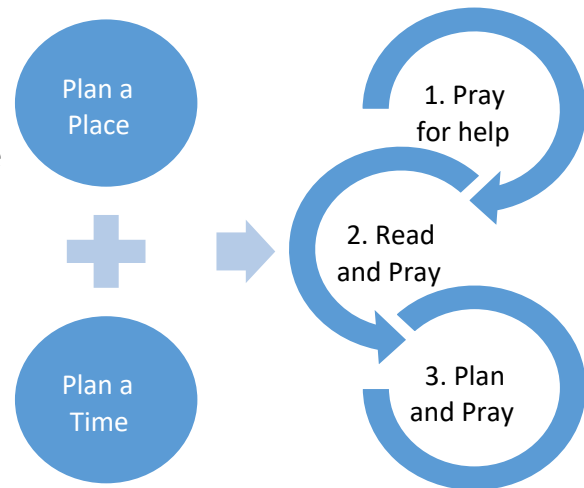
Try to follow this structure each day to help you grow and be challenged as you read God's word. Try to get into a habit of doing it in this way and it will help you to be consistent. Plan and pray for discipline in this area and try to figure out what works best for you.

Plan a place

Find a place that is free of distraction, quiet, private and that works for you. Jesus often withdrew to a desolate place to pray (Luke 5:16).

Plan a time

Plan a time (try to aim for 1 hour) in the day that works for you, is quiet, free of distractions and is a time when your mind is clear. Set alarms to remind you to do it. Jesus would withdraw in the early morning (Mark 1:35, Luke 6:12).



And then each time you spend time with God, do the following steps:

1. PRAY for God's help to understand and apply what you are going to read. Seek for God's Spirit and Word to convict you and that Satan wouldn't snatch the word from you. Pray the prayers found in Psalm 119, like Psalm 119: 10, 17-18, 27, 29, 33-34, 36-37, etc.

2. READ AND PRAY the passage. Pray that the things in the passage would be true for yourself and others. Pray that God would pierce you with His Word in the things you need challenging in. Pray for understanding as you read and praise God for what you read.

Also, as you read and pray, be sure to do it in the following ways:

- **Slowly:** Take your time! The slower you go the more you can grow! Now you won't have time to do this with everything, so pick certain passages or verses to read slowly and study.
- **Carefully:** Read verse by verse and word by word (even letter by letter and stroke by stroke for it is all God inspired as Matthew 5:18 shows).

- Thoughtfully: Mediate on God's word! Think about the verses, words and structure. What is the authors purpose and main point? What comes before and after this passage? How does this passage relate to other parts of the bible? What is repeated or emphasised in the passage? What does it challenge in your life?
- Vocally (out loud): This can really help you concentrate and think through what you are reading. Also, most books of the bible were written and designed to be read out loud.
- Humbly and Honestly: Accept the truth of God's word for what it says and let it pierce your life. Don't diminish God's truth in any way. Repent when rebuked by the passage and seek God's forgiveness and strength to change.
- Asking Questions: Ask questions about everything and pray them to God. Read the passage as though you are a five-year-old, asking why, why, why about everything? Write down the questions you have and seek answers from the passage, context, other parts of the bible or other resources. Ask what does the passage teach you about God, humanity, sin, the gospel story, how God desires for you to live, etc.

3. PLAN AND PRAY to apply it:

What attitudes, actions, emotions or thoughts has the passage challenged in you today. Plan who you need to talk to, what you need to do today to apply this and pray for God's help to do it. Be sure to make plans of how to apply it. If we don't plan things, they don't happen. Be sure that you are not just a hearer, but a doer of the word.

Also have a focused time of prayer to ask God for what you have read to be true for yourself, family, friends, those at church and others you know. There is a prayer section at the end of this booklet which allows you to have a list of prayer points and people you pray for. Also use this time to praise God for how he is growing you, confess sin, repent, pray for your spiritual walk, ask for opportunity to share the gospel, etc.

MEMORISE a verse or key challenge: You can then use this during the day to MEDITATE on it and allow it to continually grow you. This will also allow you to share the good things God is teaching you with others and be equipped for the moments we must speak God's word into the lives of others. You won't be able to remember the whole passage, so just pick one idea, phrase or verse for each day.

Resources

See the separate “preface and overview booklet” (on oneaimallgod.org) for articles on why I have written this booklet, why you should commit to reading God’s Word and an overview of the reading plan.

Resources for further study:

1. Use the helpful hints and questions in this book to help you dig at God’s word. Try not to read these or look at these questions until AFTER you have done your own thinking and reading.
2. ‘How to read the bible book by book’ by Fee & Stuart.
3. The ESV Study Bible.
4. The ESV background introductions which are all available online.
5. The Gospel Coalition online courses on books of the bible.
6. Good Sermon websites (Desiring God, Grace to you, Ligonier, Truth for life etc)
7. Bible.org, Bible Hub, Bible study tools, Bible web app.
8. Bible project overview videos (though it is helpful to be aware of the following things the article called “Review: The bible project – brilliant but flawed” on the Gospel Coalition website.
9. Buy a simple commentary. See the background section of each book for recommendations.
10. Also, throughout this booklet there will be recommended resources for further study.

Tips to help you memorise God’s Word:

- Read the verse out loud 8-10 times and then say it from memory several times. It’s amazing how quickly you can remember things just doing this.
- Then do this with another verse and add them together. Say it through a few times.
- Keep reviewing them every spare moment you have. Use the tear page at the back of this book to write the verse down and put it in your pocket to review it during the day. And keep reviewing them later down the track even after they have been learnt.
- Know, understand and apply the verse you are trying to learn. When you see why the verse is important, it will help you learnt it!
- Structure the verses and concepts in your mind. Connect it with images, stories or other things to help you remember.

- If you're creative, then form the verse into a drawing, story or song.
- Listen to "If my words abide in you" on the Desiring God website to see the importance of memorising scripture.

Extra tips for reading God's Word:

1. Come to God's word hungry to know Him and eager to see the beauty in Christ and wonder of God's wisdom. Pray that God would make His Word your delight.
2. Seek accountability with others as you read. You could also meet once a week or message daily to share what you're reading.
3. This plan isn't enough, so try to soak yourself in God's word. Ideally on top of this reading plan, you should try to pick a book of the New Testament and then read, study and memorise it for the month or more. Try to set aside another time later in the day or night to do this and to read other Christian books and do your own further studies.
4. Journal out your thoughts, prayers and how you plan to apply what you have learnt. Writing things out can help you think through things. However, be sure to focus on your relationship with God and focus on remembering things so you can keep thinking on them. (You may need to use your own journal as there isn't a lot of space in this booklet).
5. Don't stop reading and praying until God has blessed you with something and encouraged you. Plead with Him for this!
6. Which Translation? For accuracy and ease of reading, I recommend using the English Standard Version (ESV). For further study, you can then compare it with the NIV, NASB, NKJV or NLT.
7. In the end you need to do what works for you, but here is a pattern you could follow for your devotional time with God:
 - a. Morning: read and pray (20-40 min), memorise (5 min), further study (5 min).
 - b. Night: review the mornings readings and pray (10 min), focused study of a passage, read Christian books/devotions (20 min).
8. Be intimate with your God. Be someone who walks with God. To effectively grow in your relationship with God, you need hear from Him in His word, and also speak much to Him. "Praying in the closet and in the Spirit" on Desiring God is a great sermon to help grow your prayer life.



Day 1: Background of 1 & 2 Samuel

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OPTIONAL: Quickly read through/listen to the entire book of 1&2 Samuel to get a feel for its flow, structure and key themes. Record your observations below. *(Use a spare day if you need extra time to do this)*

What has occurred in the lead up to this book?

What characters does this book focus on? Try to structure the book briefly according to this?

Helpful Hints

- Situation/Background:
 - 1 and 2 Samuel is originally one book whose original author is unknown.
 - Samuel's death is recorded in 1 Samuel 25, and so he clearly has not authored the entire book.
 - The book of Samuel records how Israel gets Saul as their king, and then transitions to the kingship of David.
- Themes: The key theme throughout the book is the Davidic kingship that God is setting up, which is part of God's salvation plan.
 - God's providence
 - Davidic covenant (God makes covenant with David and his family)
 - Messianic promises (Throughout the book we are left waiting for the true anointed one that will come in David's line).
 - God as the true king.
 - Throughout the books we see the power of God over people and kingdoms. Nothing can stop His sovereign will.
- Tips to help you read it:
 - As you read 1 and 2 Samuel it is good to compare it with 1 Chronicles which records similar stories.
 - Lookout for the theme of the worship of God in his dwelling place.
 - Lookout for covenants made with David and his dynasty.
 - This book tells of the history of Israel through the story of their king, as this was a common practise in the ancient Near East.
- How does this book shine the gospel and fit in the story of the bible?
 - David is chosen by God even though he has moral failures. However, one day a ruler will come through him who will deliver the Israelites and bring blessing to all nations.
- Purpose: The book prepares people to see the kingship of David and how this is God's chosen King.

Recommended Resources

- 1&2 Samuel by Baldwin (Tyndale Series)



Day 2: 1 Samuel 1:1-2:11

Rd Proverbs 24:1-4. What must we be careful with who we are around?

What does this passage teach us about prayer?

What do we learn about vows in this passage? What role should they play in our prayers and life?

What prayers has God answered in your life? Use Hannah’s prayer in chapter 2 to guide how you praise God.

Helpful Hints

- Hannah is a great model to follow for prayer and dependency on God. She prays in specific ways, with sincere heartfelt pleas (1:10-11) but also she prays aiming to bring God glory with her requests and perseveres in prayer (1:12). Also, once God answers her prayer, she is quick to thank Him and praise Him for all that He has done.
- Hannah keeps to her vow and shows how it is important to do this if vows are made. We must never take vows lightly.

PLAN & PRAY



Day 3: 1 Samuel 2:12-4:1a

Rd Proverbs 24:5-7. What blessings are there in having wisdom?

Why are the sons of Eli going to be killed? Who is responsible for this?

How is Eli able to accept the hard news that comes in chapters 2-3? (see 3:18)

Helpful Hints

- The sons of Eli are a real contrast to Samuel. They are worthless men who do not know God (2:12). They had no respect for their father, and one of the reasons they are like this is because God desires to put them to death (2:25). However, Eli is also held responsible for not restraining his sons (3:13). Furthermore, in chapter 2:30 God says, “those who honour me I will honour, and those who despise me shall be lightly esteemed.” Thus the sons own actions have brought these consequences.
- In 3:18 we see that Eli accepts these hard things because he has a right view of God.
- Chapter 3 shows some great principles of a servant attitude in Samuel and the need to be careful to not miss when God is speaking. Regularly pray “speak, LORD, for your servant hears” (3:9) before you come to read God’s word.

PLAN & PRAY



Day 4: 1 Samuel 4:1b-7:17

Rd Proverbs 24:8-9. In what ways do you sin by planning to do evil?

What do we learn about God's presence and character in these chapters?

What does Samuel serving as prophet, judge and priest point us to (7:3-17)?

Helpful hints:

- Israel is defeated and it shows that God is not among them. They thought they could force God's presence to be among them by bringing the ark, but they were wrong. How do we try to just manipulate God for our service?
- Certainly in this story we see how no other god is like the LORD.
- In chapter 5-6 we see how God doesn't need humans to help Him. He is not dependent on people, but is able to bring the ark back without the working's of the Israelites. He does not need help, for He indeed is the helper for Israel (7:12).
- Just as Samuel interceded for the Israelites, Christ intercedes for us. This should encourage us to call out to him in prayer for the spiritual needs we have.

PLAN & PRAY



Day 5: 1 Samuel 8-10

Rd Proverbs 24:10-12. In what ways will we be held accountable for other people?

Why does God allow the Israelites to have a king, though He knows it is dangerous for them?

Helpful Hints

- In 8:10-18 these Israelites are warned about the consequences of what they want, but they are foolish and stubborn, still wanting it. In what areas has God warned you through His word, yet you are foolish and fall into these temptations. Pray God would help you properly see the consequences of certain actions so that you will heed to His word.
- In chapter 9 we see the providence of God to bring Saul to Samuel.
- In 9:16, we see that God sees the needs of His people because of their cries to Him. What an encouragement for us to be people of prayer!
- God allows the Israelites to have a king and He is in control and chooses the king for them (10:17-27), even though He warns of the great consequences they will face. A king is part of God's plan (Gen 49:10), but the Israelites are going about it in a foolish and selfish way (1 Sam 8:20). Even in our lives God will allow us to make foolish decisions and face the weight of their consequences so that we will learn to trust Him. Pray that God would teach you to trust Him and the warnings He gives.
- In chapter 10 we see how God is able to transform people and empower them as He does with Saul. We must have this to be fit for God's service.

PLAN & PRAY



Day 6: 1 Samuel 11:1-13:22

Rd Proverbs 24:13-14. Why must we eagerly pursue wisdom?

Why should we be motivated to obey the Lord (see 12:6-25)?

What was wrong with Saul's sacrifice and what are the consequences (13:1-22).

Helpful Hints

- Israel conquers not because they have a king, but because the Lord works salvation for them (11:13).
- In chapter 12, Samuel reminds the people that obedience will bring about great blessing, but if they disobey, God's hand will be against them. This is why they are encouraged to "only fear the LORD and serve Him faithfully with all your heart. For consider what great things He has done for you" (12:24). We also must aim to fear the Lord and faithfully obey Him but it is only on the basis of all that He has done for us, for why we do this.
- Saul's faith was tested in chapter 13, but he was impatient and the result is the loss of his dynasty.

PLAN & PRAY



Day 7: 1 Samuel 13:23-15:35

Rd Proverbs 24:15-16. Why should we desire to be righteous?

How is Saul foolish in 14:24-46? In what ways do you do rash foolish things like this?

Why does God reject Saul and regret making him king (15:1-35)?

What is wrong with Saul's repentance (15:17-35)? Why is it not accepted by God?

Helpful Hints

- 14:6 shows how numbers and human strength does not matter when it is God who is working for us. We may doubt our abilities or resources to achieve something for God's kingdom, but we must remember that our Lord is able.
- Saul thinks he has obeyed God and blames the people for the sin that has been committed (15:20-21), which he should take responsibility for as king (15:17-19). He doesn't accept his sin and when he finally does, he blames others (15:24), and he just wants to get out of the negative effects that his sin has brought (15:25, 30). What type of repentance are you displaying in your life? How does it need to grow?

PLAN & PRAY



Day 8: 1 Samuel 16-17

Rd Proverbs 24:17-18.

How should we treat our enemies? Why mustn't we try to bring about justice?

Why is David confident and able to defeat Goliath?

Helpful Hints

- We must never remember that God is concerned about the heart and He sees what is deep within us (16:7).
- 16:14 shows the sovereignty of God and how He takes His spirit and even gives harmful spirits.
- In 16:14-23, we see how music had powerful effects on Saul. Music can impact us for good and for evil. We must ensure the music we listen to encourages us to live for God's glory, and doesn't develop anger, impurity or sensuality in us.
- David is able to stand against Goliath and defeat him because he knows that the Lord will deliver (17:37). David doesn't depend on his own strength or abilities, but he knows that God can use the weakest and most unlikely circumstances, because God is the one who is fighting (17:45-47). David displays a deep faith in God and through this dependence on God's strength He is able to defeat Goliath. We must grow to have a deep faith in God like David did. Though something for God's service may seem foolish, impossible or we may think we are unable, remember to trust the Lord of all things who uses those who are weak.

PLAN & PRAY



Day 9: 1 Samuel 18-19

Rd Proverbs 24:19-20. Why should we not fear or be jealous of the wicked?

What can we learn David and Jonathan about true friendship?

How is David protected against Saul?

Helpful Hints

- David and Jonathan are loyal and bonded in love, even though David would be taking Jonathan's place as the next king. There was no jealousy between them, but a mutual care.
- Saul became jealous of David because of the attention he was receiving (18:6-7). This leads to him being angry and against David (18:8-11). We need to not be hungry for self-glory, but instead rejoice when the work of God is being done, though it may not be you doing it. Saul should have rejoiced that the Philistines were being defeated.
- The Lord was with David (18:12) and this is why he remains safe. God keeps bringing deliverance for David (19:20-24), though God also uses many people to help David. In life we need to focus on being sure the Lord is with us, and also aim to be surrounded by godly people.

PLAN & PRAY



Day 10: 1 Samuel 20-22

Rd Proverbs 24:21-22. Why should we fear the LORD and the king?

How can you model the friendship of David and Jonathan in your life?

Why is it okay that David eats the Holy Bread which is only for the priests?

What brings about the horrible killing of the priests of Nob?

Helpful Hints

- In chapter 21, David eats the consecrated bread which normally would not be done. However, it was necessary and fine because God looks at the heart, rather than legalistic conformity (see Mark 2:23-28).
- David lies to Ahimelech in chapter 21 and we may think this is small and harmless, but look at what it brings about in chapter 22. We must never justify little sins, because they can have great consequences. Also, this horrid act of the priests being killed is a fulfilment of 1 Samuel 2:31-33.

PLAN & PRAY



Day 11: 1 Samuel 23-24

Rd Proverbs 24:23-25. Why must we be honest and willing to rebuke?

What guides David's decision concerning Keilah?

Why does David spare Saul's life?

Helpful Hints

- Like David, our decision making should happen by consistently inquiring of God as to what he desires. We need to take everything to God in prayer and seek wisdom in His word.
- God is so clearly in control and brings about an attack from the Philistines the moment that David and his men are surrounded by Saul (23:15-29).
- David spares Saul in chapter 24 because he is the Lord's anointed and so he has been put in place by God, like any authority. David also spares Saul because he trusts in God's time and that God will bring about vengeance. How do you at times take matters into your own hands when you should be trusting God's timing and that He will one day bring about justice?

PLAN & PRAY



Day 12: 1 Samuel 25

Rd Proverbs 24:26-27.

What does v27 teach us about priorities?

How is Nabal a fool and how does Abigail display great wisdom?

How does David respond to Abigail after she has brought gifts and stopped his anger (25:32-34)?

Helpful Hints

- Nabal's name meant fool and he was foolish in his character. Nabal is proud of his possessions and selfish (25:11). His possessions have been protected by David and they are given to him by God, yet he is proud and holds onto them. How are we foolish like Nabal? How can we avoid this?
- Abigail is a woman of wisdom. She sees the destruction that will come and appeases David's anger and rescues her household by her wisdom.
- In 25:32-34, we see David praise God and thank Abigail for the wise qualities she has displayed and because she has kept him from shedding blood. We should rejoice and praise like this when we see good qualities in others.
- In 25:36-39, we see how God deals justly and destroys Nabal for his foolishness.

PLAN & PRAY



Day 13: 1 Samuel 26-28

Rd Proverbs 24:28-29.

How should we deal with those who wrong us?

Why doesn't David kill Saul when he has the opportunity?

Why does David flee to the Philistines in chapter 27?

Helpful Hints

- All throughout David's encounters with Saul, we see how he never takes matters into his own hands, but trusts God (e.g. 26:11). David also has a great respect for those who God has appointed.
- In chapter 28 we see how Saul is a hypocrite and does what he has told others not to do. How are you hypocritical?
- In 26:21, Saul realises the great mistake he has been making and confesses his foolishness. Unfortunately, Saul realises this when he nears the end of his life. May we never get to the end of our life and look back with regret, confessing our foolishness.
- David flees in chapter 27, because he still fears Saul. David has just displayed great faith in God, but now he decides to seek security from the Philistines rather than continuing to trust God (27:1). How are you also guided by life's circumstances rather than God's promises?

PLAN & PRAY



Day 14: 1 Samuel 29-31

Rd Proverbs 24:30-34. What characterises a sluggard?

What do we learn from chapter 29 and the tricky situation David has gotten into?

How does David respond to the deep trial that he faces in 30:1-15?

Helpful Hints

- Because David had sort refuge from the Philistines, he is put in a tricky situation in chapter 29. But God removes David from this for He does not test us beyond what we can bear (1 Corinthians 10:13). Also here is a good reminder to not be yoked to unbelievers (2 Corinthians 6:14) for it will eventually lead to situations that would require us to compromise our convictions.
- In chapter 30, David has lost everything and this drives him to inquire of God and depend on Him (30:6, 8). When we face the deepest of trials, we need to that it is in these things that God grows us.
- In 30:16-31 we see those who had captured back the spoil from the Amalekites are proud and think they have a right to it all (30:22). They fail to recognise that it is in fact God who has given the victory (30:23) so it is all His, and they have forgotten the other tasks necessary to allow them to go and fight (30:24). How are we proud and selfish in our lives, when it is only by the help of God and others that it was possible?

PLAN & PRAY



Day 15: 2 Samuel 1:1-3:5

Rd Proverbs 25:1-3. Why does God conceal things?

Why does the Amalekite lie? Why is it not worth deceiving people?

What do we learn about David's friendship with Jonathan from 1:17-27?

Helpful Hints

- The Amalekite thinks he will get in David's good books by lying about killing the king. However, his lie catches him out and he faces the consequences for it. This is often the case with lying and deception.
- David displays a deep anguish over Saul and Jonathan. In particular his distress for Jonathan shows the deep friendship they had and the love they had for each other.
- David had been promised to be king years ago (1 Samuel 16), but he must continue to wait. We must always trust God's promises even when they aren't fulfilled straight away. God often will cause us to wait on Him to grow our faith.

PLAN & PRAY



Day 16: 2 Samuel 3:6-4:12

Rd Proverbs 25:4-5. We need to get rid of what is useless to have something useful. How does this apply to you?

What can we learn from David in how he doesn't take matters into his own hands to become king?

What do we see in David's character throughout these chapters? How do we need to grow in these areas?

Helpful Hints

- In chapters 3-4, we see David continue to trust God and not take matters into his own hands to be the ruler of Israel or aim to bring about things on his own strength. He is willing to wait for God's timing in all this and he doesn't feel as though he needs to do wrong to bring about God's promises. People stood in the way of his kingship, but he still loves them and won't remove them. How do you deal with people that stand in the way of your pursuits?
- In 3:39 we see how David is a man of gentleness and he trust in God to deal justly. Also, in 4:9-12 we see how David deals with justice, just like God is just (3:39).

PLAN & PRAY



Day 17: 2 Samuel 5-6

Rd Proverbs 25:6-7a. What benefits does humility have?

Why does David gain victory over the Philistines?

What does 6:5-15 show us about God?

Helpful Hints

- In 5:18, 23 it says that “David inquired of the Lord”. Even though he was a mighty man in battle and the king of Israel, he recognised his dependence on God. How do we need to grow in how we inquire of God?
- In 5:17-25 God gives victory and yet the people go after idols. Such is the nature of our evil hearts, to turn from our God who is so good to us and delivers us, and instead pursue what is worthless.
- The holiness of God is made manifest in His anger against Uzzah who touched the ark which was a symbol of God’s presence. God is set apart from us and holy, yet His presence can bring such blessing.
- In chapter 6 we see how God is worthy of great celebration. David dances before the Lord with all his might and he doesn’t let anything hinder his celebration of God (6:14, 21-22).

PLAN & PRAY



Day 18: 2 Samuel 7-9

Rd Proverbs 25:7b-10.

Why is it important not to be hasty?

How does David view himself and God?
Are we like this?

How does David treat Mephibosheth? How does this story remind us of Christ and what He did in His ministry?

Helpful Hints

- In 7:18-29, David sees how he is so unworthy of God's goodness and grace. In response David praises the greatness of God and how there is none like Him.
- David displays kindness and justice to Mephibosheth. David's mercy to the grandson of His enemy reminds us of the way that Jesus sought out those who were lost and sick. Christ came to save sinners who are spiritually lame and he brings us into his eternal feast though we deserve none of it.

PLAN & PRAY



Day 19: 2 Samuel 10-11

Rd Proverbs 25:11-13.
How can our words
achieve good?

Why things lead to David falling into this sin? What should have he done to fight it?

How does David deal with his sin? Why is this way of dealing with sin not worth it? How are we like this?

Helpful Hints

- Hanun is foolish and fails to see the wonderful mercy of David. Instead he shames the servants of David and in turn faces the consequences of his blindness.
- David's laziness (11:1) puts himself in a dangerous situation. He even walks on the roof top at a time he would have known was bathing time (11:2). This leads to temptation striking, and instead of fleeing at the first sign of temptation (11:2-4), he pursues after it. Then instead of repenting of his sin, David tries to cover up what he has done and this leads to even greater effects. Certainly, it is far better to acknowledge sin straight away, or more damage will be done and we will grow hardened to sin and fall deeper into it.
- David's sin is a reminder of how even the greatest men of God fall, but God is not going to let him get away with such evil (11:27).

PLAN & PRAY



Day 20: 2 Samuel 12

Rd Proverbs 25:14-15. Why is patience and gentleness so powerful?

How does Nathan address David's sin?
What can we learn from this?

How does David respond to Nathan's rebuke?

Helpful Hints

- David doesn't repent of his sin until he is rebuked by Nathan. It is sad to see that he himself isn't convicted of his wrong, but this does show us the deep need we have for godly people in our lives.
- David's sin is described as a despising of God's word, and all sin is characterised by this. Why would we hate the living words of God.
- In 12:13, David is given the wonderful hope of having his sin put away/passed over. How can this be when David has committed such horrible sins and deserves punishment. This is only possible by the work of Christ (Romans 3:23-26).
- When David's sin is addressed, he immediately acknowledges his sin and how it is against the LORD (12:13). See Psalm 51 for a full picture of the repentance that David had for this sin.
- David face severe consequences for his sin, one of them being the death of his child. Yet in the process of his son's death, he prays and pleads with God for he knows the power of prayer (12:16-18, 22). Do we pray like David in urgent situations?

PLAN & PRAY



Day 21: 2 Samuel 13-14

Rd Proverbs 25:16-17.

What principle do these verses teach us?

What does Amnon's sin teach us about the nature of sin and fighting it?

Why does Joab want to convince David to welcome Absalom back?

Helpful Hints

- Amnon's sin shows the depths of our sinful hearts. He commits wilful sin with no consideration for others, but only for himself. How do we display such selfishness when we sin?
- Amnon's fall into sin shows what happens when lust and wrong desires are not battled and brought under control. We need to be careful with our thoughts and fight sin at the first sign of it. (The lead up to Absalom murdering Amnon also teaches us the same thing).
- In chapter 14 Joab sends a woman to try and convince David to bring Absalom back for he knows he has a heart for him (13:39, 14:1).
- Study 14:13-14 and see how it reminds us of the work that Christ has done.

PLAN & PRAY



Day 22: 2 Samuel 15:1-16:14

Rd Proverbs 25:18-20. Why must we be appropriate in how we deal with people?

Why is so much turmoil going on in David's family?

How does David display faith when he flees Jerusalem (15:13-37)?

Helpful Hints

- Here in these chapters we see David face the consequences of his sin with Bathsheba, and we see a fulfillment of the words "the sword shall never depart from your house" (12:10). Though David's sin has been forgiven, there are still consequences in this life for it. It will be the same for us!
- Absalom was foolish and sought a position that God had not planned for him to have. In the end this doesn't work out well for him but ends in him being killed. We must not be driven by envy or selfish gain, but instead trust the place that God puts us in and never pursue higher positions for selfish gain.
- David accepts the words of Ziba, but this is rash and he doesn't confirm the story with Mephibosheth. Later this does happen, and it reveals the deception of Ziba (2 Samuel 19:24-30). We need to not just take people's word, but search out a matter and hear both sides.

PLAN & PRAY



Day 23: 2 Samuel 16:15-19:8a

Rd Proverbs 25:21-22.

How should we deal with our enemies?

How do we see God at work throughout these chapters?

How does David display a deep faith in God throughout these chapters?

Helpful Hints

- Throughout all that is happening in these chapters, we see that God is at work (17:14). God ordains what happens and this should be a great comfort for his people. God does as he pleases and no man can hinder his purposes. Surely 18:9 is a great picture of God's providence in all that has been happening.
- Absalom had sort to exult himself, but it eventually leads to his destruction. God is just and does not let him get away with his rebellion.
- David feels pain of the lose of his son and has a great care for him. Even though Absalom had been against him, David cares for him and loves those who hate him (19:6). David trust God will do what is right and so he never tries to remove Absalom.

PLAN & PRAY



Day 24: 2 Samuel 19:8b-20:26

Rd Proverbs 25:23-24. Why do we need to guard our tongues?

How does David resemble Christ in chapter 19?

Why does Joab kill Amasa? What should we learn from this.

Helpful Hints

- Shimei had committed great sins, but David pardons him and displays great forgiveness. Read Romans 5:8 and reflect on how David's forgiveness is a picture of what Jesus has done.
- The wise woman of Abel stops the city being destroyed because of one mans rebellion. Pray that God would give you wisdom to bring peace in situations and stop great destruction.
- Joab kills Amasa because he has been promoted and Joab is full of jealousy and envy. As Christians we need to learn to rejoice when others are lifted up and not let the dangers of envy settle into our lives.

PLAN & PRAY



Day 25: 2 Samuel 21:1-23:7

Rd Proverbs 25:25-26.
How should we be bringing good news?

Why does David need to make things right with the Gibeonites?

How does David's song in chapter 22 show a deep trust in God?

Helpful Hints

- Back in Joshua, the Israelites made a vow with the Gibeonites, but Saul broke this and David discovers this is why they are facing a famine (21:1). Israel have faced severe consequences for this (21:1, 15), and so David seeks to make amends for this vow. Honesty is highly regarded by God, and if we make a vow we must keep it!
- 22:2-4 really show the deep trust David has in God. This deep trust is founded on the relationship he has with God and because of all that God is to him. David recognises that he owes everything to the faithfulness and grace of God. Meditate on 22:2-4 and pray this as your own prayer. Reflect on the character of God that we see in this chapter.

PLAN & PRAY



Day 26: 2 Samuel 23:8-24:25

Rd Proverbs 25:27-28. Why is self-control important?

Why did David have mighty men around him?

Who is working to bring about the census of Israel's soldiers (see chapter 24 and also 1 Chronicles 21:1-17)?

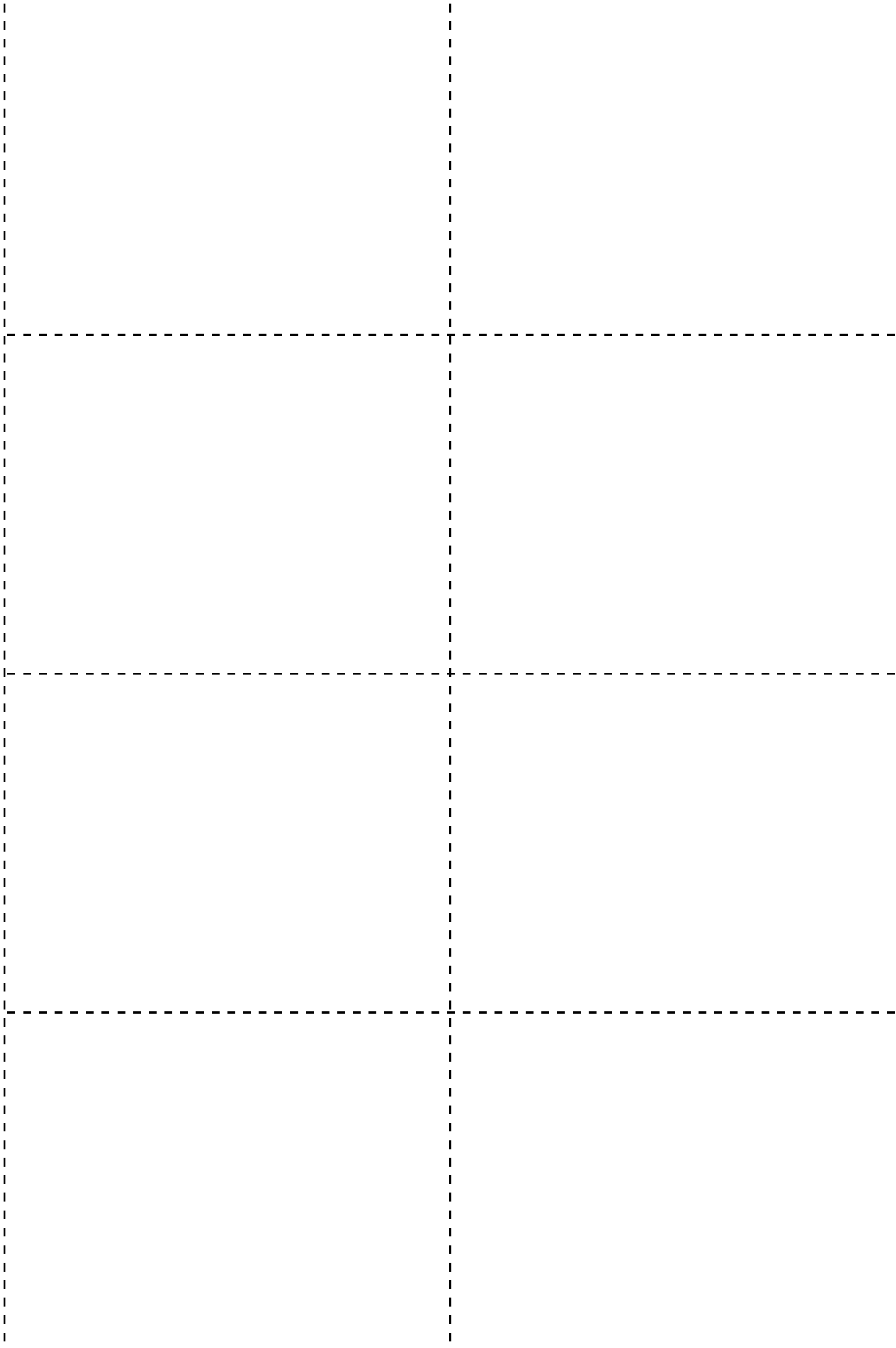
Helpful Hints

- 23:6-7 is a picture of those who do not put their trust in God.
- David was a mighty man who achieved great things for God and won many battles for Israel. Certainly he was able to do this because his trust was in God and He gave him the strength. But also, David was a powerful leader because of the mighty men he was surrounded by. We need to be certain to surround ourselves with godly people to fight in the Christian life.
- In chapter 24 we see David seek to trust his own strength and desires to count His army. Yet God incites David to do this and when we compare this with 1 Chronicles 21:1-17 we see Satan incite David. God has planned works through the evil of Satan and the sin of David.

PLAN & PRAY

Spare Days

You can use these spare days each month for catching up, reflecting on what you have read or to study a passage you have read in detail and even memorise it.





**LESSONS
YOU HAVE
LEARNT
THIS
MONTH**