
Engage

Dear Lord, I embrace my accountability to You, Lord. Forgive us for when we have lived as though we will not have to give an account of what we said and did. We recognize you, Lord, that we are accountable for how we treat others. In Jesus' Name, Amen.





SERMON SUMMARY

Note to Word Facilitator: The sermon notes below is a summary of the sermon. You may choose to further summarize it according to the needs and context of your CG members. The goal is not just to go through it “verbatim” but to prepare well, allowing members to recall and engage the message in the best possible way.

King David: Experiencing Blessings and Brokenness

#10: Light & Darkness

Pastor Benny Liew

(2 Samuel 24)

Reading 2 Samuel 24:1-4

Again the anger of the Lord burned against Israel, and he incited David against them, saying, “Go and take a census of Israel and Judah.” So the king said to Joab and the army commanders with him, “Go throughout the tribes of Israel from Dan to Beersheba and enrol the fighting men, so that I may know how many there are.” But Joab replied to the king, “May the Lord your God multiply the troops a hundred times over, and may the eyes of my lord the king see it. But why does my lord the king want to do such a thing?” The king’s word, however, overruled Joab and the army commanders; so they left the presence of the king to enrol the fighting men of Israel.

2 Samuel 24:10-17

David was conscience-stricken after he had counted the fighting men, and he said to the Lord, “I have sinned greatly in what I have done. Now, Lord, I beg you, take away the guilt of your servant. I have done a very foolish thing.”

Before David got up the next morning, the word of the Lord had come to Gad the prophet, David’s seer: “Go and tell David, ‘This is what the Lord says: I am giving you three options. Choose one of them for me to carry out against you.’”

So Gad went to David and said to him, "Shall there come on you three years of famine in your land? Or three months of fleeing from your enemies while they pursue you? Or three days of plague in your land? Now then, think it over and decide how I should answer the one who sent me." David said to Gad, "I am in deep distress. Let us fall into the hands of the Lord, for his mercy is great; but do not let me fall into human hands."

So the Lord sent a plague on Israel from that morning until the end of the time designated, and seventy thousand of the people from Dan to Beersheba died. When the angel stretched out his hand to destroy Jerusalem, the Lord relented concerning the disaster and said to the angel who was afflicting the people, "Enough! Withdraw your hand." The angel of the Lord was then at the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite. When David saw the angel who was striking down the people, he said to the Lord, "I have sinned; I, the shepherd, have done wrong. These are but sheep. What have they done? Let your hand fall on me and my family."

Introduction

In summing up the book of 2 Samuel series, we see that Chapter 1 to 10 of the book of 2 Samuel is about the triumphs, blessings and victories while chapter 11 to 23 talks of David's troubles and brokenness. The final chapter now talks about his sins and the darkness in his life as he caused the death of 70,000 people. Yet when David saw the light in the midst of his darkness, he repented and took upon himself the responsibility of his sin and prepared for God's judgement upon himself and his family. Yet God had been merciful with David and His people.

This final chapter gives us three lessons.:

1. Always keep your spiritual guard up *2 Samuel 24:1, 1 Chronicles 21:3, James 1:13-14*

David had experienced so many trials and victories which caused him to let his spiritual guard down when he had become self confident instead of relying upon God. By proceeding to carry out the census without seeking God, he had angered God as Israel belongs to God. David was tempted by Satan as he was enticed by his own evil desire. He had disobeyed God. It resulted in the loss of 70,000 lives!

2. Always be responsible for your actions *2 Samuel 24:10. 16-17*

King David felt conscience-stricken with his actions and sincerely confessed. He claimed full responsibility for his action and pleaded to God to punish him and not his innocent subjects. When we realise we have been tempted and sinned, we should own up and confess to God. We do not fear but be repentant as we seek His

forgiveness for we are made righteous in His sight because of the price Jesus paid for our forgiveness. Only those who are unfaithful and have unrepentant hearts are fearful of the consequences of the wrath of God.

3. Always offer sacrifices (to God) that cost you something *2 Samuel 24:18-24, Hebrews 6:10*

Sacrifice should be a genuine wholehearted one and should cost us something. It is a posture of our heart to God. Giving up our own sinful life may cost us pain or discomfort yet it sets us free and draws us closer to God. God will not forget our sacrifice when we serve Him through our sacrifices, through sharing and showing His love to our neighbours in the community. The place of sacrifice bought by David was significant. Similarly, Abraham had brought Isaac to Mount Moriah to be the perfect sacrifice in obedience to God. The first temple of God was also built by his son King Solomon on this site. Ultimately, Jesus is the perfect sacrifice for the forgiveness of our sins. The greatest cost was paid by God's only begotten Son.

BIG IDEA: Repent from your sin and be a people after God's heart.

Conclusion

Be vigilant and keep your spiritual guard up always. Throughout the 24 chapters in 2 Samuel we see God's presence in everything that King David does. We see the wonderful attributes of David when he walked in the light and when he turned away from God and lived in darkness that caused so much collateral damage. We see a man after God's heart living in the light turned into darkness yet God's faithfulness and forgiveness was upon him when he sought God again. As such, we need to repent from our sin and be a people after God's heart. Let Jesus be the centre of our lives.

Chuck Colson, considered as one of President Nixon's henchmen, was convicted of the Watergate scandal. He repented and took full responsibility for his actions while in prison after reading "Mere Christianity" by C.S Lewis and was convicted in his heart to repent. He admitted his guilt and God restored him to be a light in the darkness for prisoners. He started a Prison Fellowship. His life became a living testimony of repentance and God's love for all who are broken and lost. Let us, too, reflect on our lives and look to God to have freedom and breakthrough in our lives.

Contributed by Michelle Chuah

Series' Sum Up

It had started well. David, chosen by God, was finally anointed king after Saul's death. Throughout this sermon series on 2 Samuel, we have heard over and over again that David is known as the man after God's own heart. *Really?* We might have wondered about it every time David committed a sin. He was idle, avoiding the frontlines of war. He killed a man intentionally to cover his sin of adultery. He turned a blind eye to his children's immorality and misdoings. He conducted a census on God's army. Wanting the worst of David would be our flaw. Are we to be so prideful to see the sawdust in others' eyes when there is a plank in ours?

Yes, David had brokenness in his life, but rather than focusing on those things, we should look at the brighter side. He has done a lot of good too. He united the two kingdoms, Judah and Israel. He conquered Jerusalem, now known as the City of David. He was granted the Davidic covenant in which God promised him the future lineage leading to an everlasting kingdom.

David, above all, showed us what it means to have a repentant heart. A heart of worship that is humble and faithful to the One who is merciful and just. Though marred by brokenness, David did live a blessed life too. The next book, 1 King speaks of his death. After 40 years of reign over Israel, he died peacefully at 70 (although there was still an on-going power struggle and unresolved issues among his relatives). It had ended, *somewhat* well.

"David's devotion to God and his capacity for repentance shows what it means to be a man after God's own heart, constantly pursuing a relationship with Him, even in failure." (John Stott)

"David was blessed not because of his victories, but because he was a man who understood the grace of God. In his highs and lows, he found refuge in God's love."
(Max Lucado)



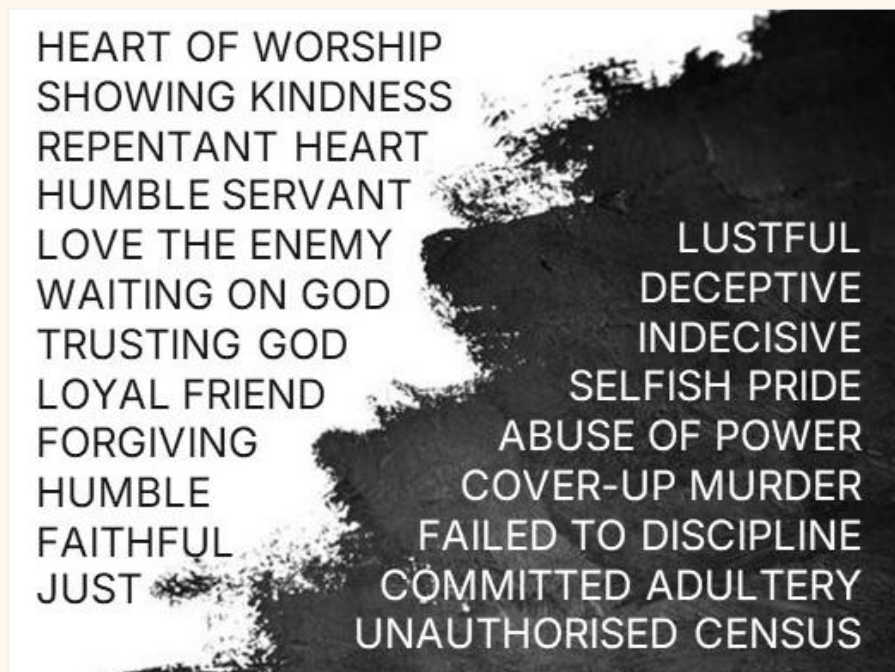
APPLICATION

Note to Word facilitator:

As you prepare for this session, this is a great time to pray that the Holy Spirit will guide you to use the questions efficiently. You can select, modify or entirely create your own questions, according to the needs of your CG, especially if you feel that there are too many questions than required for the allocated time. The questions below are crafted with a certain flow in mind. You could use these towards the end or insert them in between your own sermon reflection and summary.

Suggested Icebreaker Activity/Questions

- Have you ever enrolled for National Service before? Share your experience/opinion about our Malaysian National service.
- What is a census? Do you know when the last National Census was conducted in Malaysia? Were you part of this census?



Suggested Word Introductory Questions

- The list in the picture above tells us about the 'Light & Darkness' of King David's life. Which phrase about him stands out the most to you? It could be a positive trait that you want to aspire to or a negative trait that you hope to overcome in the near future.
- Do you feel your life is similar to King David, going through seasons of blessings and brokenness? What lessons have you gained from the sermon series on the book of 2 Samuel?

Suggested Questions linked to the Sermon:

- Have you faced any situation that tempted you to compromise on your faith or integrity? What were the consequences of your misdeed?
- Name some practical ways how you would be able to keep your spiritual guard up in your business dealings, relationships with colleagues or in social life.
- Are you making sacrifices that involve a great cost to you? How do you feel about it? Is it worth the cost?
- As followers of Christ, how are you taking responsibility for your actions and being a witness to God for integrity, righteousness and justice?
- Do you think perhaps that others, especially pre-believers, see God in every situation of your life? Are there things that you need to lay down before God, to confess and seek forgiveness, and to repent and turn back to God?

Question Bank *(Extra questions that you can use to bring your discussion further as you see fit):*

- Share an occasion when you were confronted by someone, or when you felt a conviction in your heart that you were sinning out of pride. Why do you think the sin appealed to you and you proceeded to do what you ought not to do? Did you heed or overrule the advice?
 - How are you using the gifts that God has given to you? Are you serving Him in a ministry within the church or community where you are placed in? What is your posture - whether you are serving or not serving yet?
 - Reading David's account, we may be wow-ed by his action of sacrifice (insisting to pay for a significant piece of land and building an altar on it), how far would you be willing to be a living sacrifice for God? [eg. serve full-time in church, or be a NSP, be a missionary, volunteer under SCCD, sponsor a Metro / Watoto kid, etc)
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SERMON REFLECTION



Photo by Angelina Litvin on Unsplash

The Engage team is taking a break from sermon reflections based on the
2 Samuel: Experiencing Blessings & Brokenness series.

We are open to having new writers / huddlers join us. You may consider starting out
as an observer.

If you are interested, please email one of us:

Pr Benny Liew (benny.liew@dumc.my) or
Wendy ML Tan (minlitt76@gmail.com) or
Darren Lim Jit Aun (darrenjalim@gmail.com)

GO MISSIONAL

Note to CGL: Inspire and encourage the Cell Group members to participate in the activity suggested below (from our CrossFields, Missions department) together to cultivate a culture of being a missional church.

CrossFields **GO** to **GROW**



Caleb Brownhill
YWAM Perth

WAVES OF MODERN MISSIONS
13 October 2024

CrossFields

INTRODUCING THE SPEAKER



Caleb Brownhill
YWAM Perth

Caleb and his family serve with Youth With A Mission in Perth and have been part of many different mission initiatives over the years. Currently, Caleb serves as one of the Directors of YWAM Perth. One of Caleb's great passions is leadership development for the purpose of training, evangelism, mercy ministries, and frontier missions. He expresses this passion through his role as Training Director of YWAM Perth and loves seeing young leaders equipped and released into God's call on their lives!

Missions Seminar



13 October 2024



2.00pm - 4.00pm



Hall 3, Dream Centre



Sign up here: bit.ly/CFseminar_oct2024



PRAYER

Note to CGL: You (or someone you assign this portion to), may lead by praying OR reading these prayers together as a CG during worship.

Lord God of compassion,

Whose will is for peace built on righteousness,

We pray for peace in the countries that are involved in conflict and war today;

For an end to all hostilities,

For comfort and help for all who suffer,

And for reconciliation between the leaders and the people,

We rebuke and bind the works of the devil,

Through Jesus Christ,

The Prince of Peace.

Amen