

Lesson
8

David: Man after God's Own Heart

David Is Crowned King and David Returns the Ark

Teacher Preparation

1. Study **Lesson 8, pp. 73–83.**
 - Scripture **2 Sam. 2–7**
2. **Visuals** to use in class.
 - Memory Verse Visual **8**
 - Teaching Visuals **23–25**
3. Have **Focus**, Ls 8 ready to distribute after lesson (1 per student).

Opening Sequence (optional)

Greet teens as they arrive; assistant takes attendance.

Welcome Comments

Prayer Teacher

Announcements Notes

Songs *Ah, Lord God* p. 2 #5
Grace Greater Than Our Sin p. 8 #3
Sooner or Later p. 20 #9

Prayer (Choose 1 or 2 teens to pray.)

Memory Verse

Class read 3x. Say verse 2x.

GALATIANS 6:7
BE NOT DECEIVED;
GOD IS NOT MOCKED:
FOR WHATSOEVER
A MAN SOWETH, THAT
SHALL HE ALSO REAP.

Verse Visual 8

Lesson 8

Part 1: David Is Crowned King

David seeks God's will

Though God had promised David that he would one day be king over Israel, David did not seek to be king. After King Saul and his son Jonathan were killed in battle, the whole country of Israel was overrun by enemies, and the nation was in great confusion!

David probably wanted to take his men and go to battle against Israel's enemies, but he was learning to wait for God's timing instead of taking matters into his own hands. He remembered his former mistake and the problems that resulted when he fled to the land of the Philistines and did not wait for God.

David wisely prayed, and God told him that he should go to Hebron, a city in the southern part of Judah. David, his men, and their families left Ziklag and quietly moved to the city of Hebron and waited to see what God would do next.

David is anointed king of Judah

When the men of Judah heard that David had returned to Hebron, they came and anointed him their king. Since David was from the tribe of Judah, Judah felt a kinship with him. David reigned over the tribe of Judah for seven years and six months. He did not run ahead of God by trying to take over the leadership of the other tribes of Israel, but he continued to wait patiently for God's timing.



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As he was waiting for God's timing, he was learning to be patient. We need to learn this lesson, too. David wrote, *"Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart"* (Psa. 27:14). David learned that it is always wise to wait for God. Do you get in a hurry sometimes and run ahead of God, trying to work out your problems on your own? That is very easy to do, but God wants us to learn to wait for Him.

After King Saul died, Abner, who had been the general of Saul's army for many years, decided that Ishbosheth, Saul's son, should be the next king of Israel. Of course, it was not his decision to make; it was God's decision. Abner helped Ishbosheth set up his reign as king at Mahanaim on the east side of the Jordan River. Thus Ishbosheth reigned over all the tribes of Israel except Judah, while David reigned over Judah.

But Abner wanted Ishbosheth to rule over all of Israel, even the tribe of Judah. So he brought some of his warriors across the Jordan River to Gibeon, a place north of Hebron, and there Abner battled with the tribe of Judah. But David's men, led by Joab, were much stronger than Abner's men, and after a severe defeat, Abner's men finally gave up and fled.

Asahel chases Abner

As Abner and his men fled from battle, Asahel, a brother to Joab and Abishai, chased after Abner, intending to kill him. Asahel was one of the swiftest runners in all the land, and Abner knew it. Looking back, he shouted to Asahel, *"Turn thee aside from following me: wherefore should I smite thee to the ground? how then should I hold up my face to Joab thy brother?"*

Abner knew that he could easily kill Asahel, but he did not want to get into trouble with Joab, Asahel's brother. Asahel refused to stop chasing Abner, however, so Abner killed Asahel with his spear.

When Joab and his brother Abishai saw that Abner had killed their brother Asahel, they were more determined than ever to defeat Abner. Joab and his men pursued Abner and his army until the sun went down.

In the fading daylight, Abner and his troops stood on top of a hill and called to the men chasing them, *"Shall the sword devour for ever? knowest thou not that it will be bitterness in the latter end? how long shall it be then, ere thou bid the people return from following their brethren?"* With that, Joab realized how wrong it was for Israelites to fight each other; he blew his trumpet and commanded his soldiers to give up the pursuit.

Joab's army marched back to Hebron, while Abner returned with his troops to Mahanaim. Nothing had really been solved by this battle, except that many of God's people had been killed. Of these, 360 were Abner's men and 20 were Joab's men, including Joab's brother Asahel. As the war between David and the descendants of Saul continued, David became stronger and stronger, and the house of Saul grew weaker and weaker.

Abner, Saul's general who had made Ishbosheth king, eventually became angry with Ishbosheth. He remembered that God had promised David that he would be the next king over Israel. The more Abner thought about it, the more he realized that he was on the losing side. He decided he would desert Ishbosheth and join David.

First, he sent messengers to David to offer his help in bringing all the tribes of Israel under David's rule. *"Make thy league with me, and, behold, my hand shall be with thee, to bring about all Israel unto thee."* He also went to the elders of Israel and encouraged them to make David their king, reminding them that David had delivered the people from the Philistines and that the Lord had said David should be the next king.

Abner visits King David

Then Abner took twenty men with him and visited David in Hebron. David treated Abner royally and made a feast for him and his men, and Abner offered to bring all of Israel under David's leadership.

"I will arise and go, and will gather all Israel unto my lord the king, that they may make a league with thee, and that thou mayest reign over all that thine heart desireth."

After David had made an agreement with Abner, David sent Abner away as his friend and ally. At last God's promise to David would be fulfilled.

As soon as Abner and his men left David, Joab returned from a battle. When Joab heard that Abner had visited David and that David had sent him home as an ally, Joab became furious.

Without telling King David what he was going to do, Joab sent messengers to bring Abner back to Hebron.

Joab strikes Abner

When Abner arrived back in Hebron, he was totally unprepared for what was to happen. Joab took him aside by the city gate, pretending that he wanted to speak with him. Then, with a quick thrust of his sword, Joab stabbed Abner in the side, killing him instantly.

When King David heard that Joab had killed Abner, he was greatly distressed. David declared, *"I and my kingdom are guiltless before the LORD for ever from the blood of Abner the son of Ner. Let it rest on the head of Joab, and on all his father's house."*

David mourns for Abner

David commanded his people to tear their clothes, dress in sackcloth, and to mourn the death of Abner. All the people followed King David's example and joined in mourning for Abner's death. David refused to eat any food that day until the sun went down. The people were pleased that their king was righteous and not bloodthirsty. They knew that David had not planned Abner's death. David himself followed Abner's coffin and lamented over his death even though Abner had been David's enemy for years.



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Ishbosheth is slain

After Abner's death, Ishbosheth was tragically murdered by his own men, and the Israelites were without a leader. The elders of Israel came to Hebron and officially asked David to be their king, saying, *"Behold, we are thy bone and thy flesh. Also in time past, when Saul was king over us, thou wast he that leddest out and broughtest in Israel: and the LORD said to thee, Thou shalt feed my people Israel, and thou shalt be a captain over Israel."*

David is anointed king of Israel

King David made an agreement with the elders of the tribes of Israel, and they anointed him as their king. This was the third time that David was anointed: first, Samuel anointed David king when he was still a shepherd boy; second, after Saul died in battle, the tribe of Judah anointed David king over Judah; and now the rest of the tribes of Israel anointed David king over all the tribes of Israel. Though David had waited a long time for this to happen, he knew that God had kept His promise. David was now the king of Israel as God had promised. David reigned over Israel for forty years: seven years and six months he reigned over Judah, and thirty-three years he reigned over all Israel and Judah.

David conquered the city of Jerusalem from the Jebusites and made it the capital of Israel. With its central location, it made an ideal capital. David built up the city and fortified it, as well as made it beautiful. David became Israel's greatest king. What was the secret of his success? God was with him and blessed him mightily, because David was a man after God's own heart. One of the great characteristics of his life was that he never took revenge on his own personal enemies. He learned to let God take care of his enemies, and he found that God always did, in His own time and in His own way. God wants us to do the same. He has said, "*Vengeance is mine, I will repay*" (Romans 12:19).

As David learned to wait for God's timing, so we need to learn to wait for the Lord. And we need to let God take care of any enemies that we might have. When we try to get back at people who wrong us, we sin against God.

Part 2: David Returns the Ark

The Ark of the Covenant

After King David set up his capital in the city of Jerusalem, he decided to bring the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem. Since the Ark of the Covenant was a part of the Tabernacle furniture and it represented the presence of God in the midst of His people, it was sometimes called the Ark of God. God had given specific laws regarding how it should be transported; the Levites were to lift it up by the poles attached to it and to carry it on their shoulders.

Many years before, the Ark of the Covenant had been captured in battle by the Philistines. Because strange calamities befell those who kept the Ark, the Philistines became afraid of it and returned it to the land of Israel. For twenty years, the Ark of God had rested in the house of a priest named Abinadab. King David announced that he was going to bring the Ark of God to Jerusalem.

David plans to return the Ark to Jerusalem

David organized a magnificent procession to bring the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem. Besides a great company of priests, Levites, and ordinary citizens, 30,000 soldiers came to escort the Ark of the Covenant to the city of Jerusalem. Since David and the Israelites had not read God's instructions regarding transporting the Ark, David arranged for the Ark to be transported to Jerusalem on a brand new cart (or wagon), pulled by oxen and driven by Abinadab's sons. They covered the Ark as the law of Moses had commanded and began to make their way toward the capital city. As the procession moved along, the enormous crowd, especially David, rejoiced triumphantly.

Uzza touches the Ark and dies

Suddenly, the oxen stumbled, and Uzza, one of Abinadab's sons, reached out with his hand to steady the Ark. As he did so, Uzza collapsed on the ground. God had struck him dead. Everyone was startled and horrified. Uzza had reached out to touch the Ark of God, and now he was dead.

Word of the tragedy quickly passed through the procession, and the rejoicing of the people turned into fear and shock. David was especially dismayed. He felt responsible, for it was his idea to bring the Ark of God to Jerusalem. Now he was afraid to continue the procession. Thus David left the Ark of the Covenant at the house of Obed-edom the Gittite, instead of bringing it into the city of Jerusalem.

David and the leaders of Israel could not understand why God had struck Uzza dead for touching the Ark. At that time, they did not realize that they had disobeyed God's laws concerning transporting the Ark. They began to realize anew that God is holy. They had forgotten how holy God is and how important it was to follow His laws concerning the Ark. God used the death of Uzza to teach David and the people of Israel a great lesson.

It is also a lesson for us. We cannot treat lightly the things of God. We must remember to approach God only in the way He says, otherwise we incur His anger. In the Bible we are told that the only way we can come to a holy God is through the blood of Jesus Christ.

The Ark of God stayed in the house of Obed-edom for three months. During this time, God greatly blessed Obed-edom and his family in many ways to show His approval for those who obey His laws.

When David heard how the Ark had been such a great blessing to Obed-edom and his family, David longed more than ever to bring the Ark to Jerusalem. Before doing so, however, he and others searched the Scriptures diligently to find the correct way to transport the Ark of the Covenant.

They found that the law of Moses commanded that the Ark was to be carried on the shoulders of the Levites, not on a cart drawn by oxen. They realized that this had been their mistake before; now they would transport the Ark correctly. David knew that God would bless them if they transported the Ark according to His plan.

David returns the Ark correctly

So David again organized a great procession, but this time the Levites carried the Ark of God on their shoulders as God had commanded. God demonstrated through this that His presence was never to be carried on a cart but on the shoulders of men; in other words, God always uses men to represent Him before other men. This taught the people that the Levites (God's special servants) were the ones chosen to represent His presence to the people of Israel.

A spirit of joy and celebration filled Jerusalem. Musicians played trumpets and other kinds of instruments, and the people shouted as the Ark passed by them. David was as excited as a child as he led the procession. The Scriptures state that he danced before the Lord with all his



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might; much like a little child jumping up and down with excitement.

The Levites sacrificed oxen and other animals to the Lord all along the processional route. By doing this they were asking God's forgiveness in case there was some other law that they had overlooked in transporting the Ark.

The Levites carried the Ark all the way into Jerusalem, where they placed it in the Tabernacle. Then David offered burnt-offerings and peace-offerings before the Lord. After that, David had food distributed to all the people.

Almost everyone in Jerusalem shared in David's joy—all except for one person. From her window, David's wife Michal, who was the daughter of King Saul, watched with disgust as the procession entered Jerusalem. She did not share in David's enthusiasm for the return of the Ark of the Covenant, and she was very disturbed as she watched her husband in the procession.

When she saw her husband, King David, dancing before the Ark, she despised him. She thought he was acting foolishly, more like a servant, or a child, than a king. After the celebration ended and David returned home, she criticized him for what she considered unsuitable behavior for a king.

"How glorious was the king of Israel to day!" she said sarcastically.

"It was before the LORD," David answered her, *"which chose me before thy father, and before all his house, to appoint me ruler over the people of the LORD, over Israel: therefore I will play before the LORD."* David let Michal know that when he was before the Lord, he did not look upon himself as a king, but as a child or a servant; therefore he felt his actions were very appropriate since they were unto God. David was sure that God accepted him, and he felt that his people also understood his heart and appreciated him. He regretted that his wife did not understand his lowly position before God. We see from this that David was a very humble man. Michal's criticism of her husband was unjust and wrong. Not only did

David feel the scorn of her criticism, but God also saw her criticism. As a result, the Scriptures state that she never had any children.

God gives David a promise

David enjoyed great peace in his realm because God had given him victory over the Philistines. As David thought about the blessing of God on his life and on his kingdom, he remembered the Lord's house, the Tabernacle. David lived in a beautiful palace while the Ark of God stood in a tent.

Now that the Ark of the Covenant was in Jerusalem, David felt it was time to build a larger, more beautiful and permanent house for the Ark of God to rest in.

So David sent for Nathan the prophet. He told Nathan that it had come into his heart to build a beautiful temple for the Ark of God to show God his great love. *"See now, I dwell in a house of cedar,"* David said to Nathan, *"but the ark of God dwelleth within curtains [a tent]."*

The prophet Nathan thought David's idea was very good and encouraged him to pursue it. *"Go, do all that is in thine heart; for the LORD is with thee,"* he said.

Later that night, however, Nathan received a message from the Lord. The Lord told Nathan to instruct David not to build a house for Him. Instead, God said that He would build David a house.

Nathan told David all that God had said. This house that God would build for David would not be a building of cedar, for David already had that. Instead, it would be a ruling family that would continue to rule over Israel and would play a very special part in God's plan for the world. When David's reign over Israel ended at his death, God said that his son would succeed him as the next king and that he would build a beautiful temple for God.

"He shall build an house for my name, and I will stablish the throne of his kingdom for ever."

God said that someone from David's family would continue to reign over Israel *for ever*; this meant that from

David's family, the Messiah (Jesus) would be born. This promise was fulfilled when Jesus was born in the city of David to be our Savior.

Imagine how David must have felt when the prophet Nathan gave him this message from God! It took away the disappointment of his not being able to build a temple for the Lord, and he felt very privileged to know that the Messiah (Jesus) would come from his family and would one day rule over God's everlasting kingdom. Jesus is the eternal king, Who will reign forever and ever. If you have received Jesus as your Savior, then you, too, are a part of God's great kingdom.

Prayer

Review **Galatians 6:7**.

Sing *Grace Greater Than Our Sin*
p. 8 #3

Distribute *Focus 8*.

GALATIANS 6:7
BE NOT DECEIVED;
GOD IS NOT MOCKED:
FOR WHATSOEVER
A MAN SOWETH, THAT
SHALL HE ALSO REAP.

Verse Visual 8