



## LESSON 21

*God makes David king*

2 SAMUEL 1:1-2:7



**God supports those who act with integrity.**



***“Then David...mourned and wept and fasted until evening for Saul and for Jonathan his son and for the people of the LORD and for the house of Israel, because they had fallen by the sword” (2 Sam 1:11–12).***

## Supporting Truths

1. Those who act with integrity love others.
2. Those who act with integrity grieve deeply for others.
3. Those who act with integrity honor their own leaders.
4. Those who act with integrity oppose evil schemes.
5. These who act with integrity set an example for others.

## Objectives

1. List the people David loved.
2. List those David grieved for, and describe how David grieved.
3. Give two examples of how David honored Saul.
4. Explain why David was right to execute the Amalekite messenger.
5. Describe what Israel should have learned from David's example.

# STUDY THE BIBLE LESSON

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## Lesson Summary

David's joy and relief when he finally became king were mixed with grief over the deaths of Saul, Jonathan, and countless Israelites. An Amalekite messenger thought the news of Saul's death would be welcomed by David, but David executed him for claiming to have killed Saul, the Lord's anointed. Instead, David wrote a sad song to remember Israel's defeat and the deaths of two of Israel's greatest warriors. Even then, with his enemy removed, David patiently waited upon God to solidify his kingship.

## Spotlight on the Gospel

God chose David to be the beginning of a line of kings that would eventually culminate in the arrival of the Messiah. David followed God's plan with integrity, and God established him as king. However, even more than David, the Messiah would live with integrity, love God's people, and be an example for all to follow. But the Messiah did what David could never do. While David grieved for the dead, the Messiah died and rose again in order to raise the dead and conquer death itself.

LAST WEEK



God judges between  
David and Saul  
*1 Samuel 24:1–22*

THIS WEEK



God makes David king  
*2 Samuel 1:1–2:7*

NEXT WEEK



God makes a covenant  
with David  
*2 Samuel 7:1–29*

UNITED KINGDOM



# Lesson Commentary

## *God supports those who act with integrity.*

David was a king after God's own heart. Instead of killing Saul when he had the chance, David left vengeance to God and patiently endured (1 Sam 24). Then, when Saul was killed in battle against the Philistines (1 Sam 31), David again responded righteously. Instead of rejoicing at the death of his enemy, David grieved deeply for Saul, for Jonathan, and for all Israel. David's actions reveal a man of **integrity**—a man of honesty and sincerity who was blessed by God and who became a blessing to God's people.

### David mourned and avenged Saul's death (1:1–16)

David had recently returned from defeating the Amalekites (1 Sam 30:1–20) when a messenger arrived with bad news: Saul and Jonathan were dead, and Israel's army was badly beaten (2 Sam 1:1–4). The messenger thought that David would interpret this as good news, so he invented a story about helping Saul take his own life (1:6–10; 1 Sam 31:3–5). He probably thought David would be happy that Saul was dead, and he hoped to gain a reward for bringing David Saul's crown and bracelet.

But David did not rejoice. He wept all day and did not eat anything. All his men wept and fasted with him (2 Sam 1:11–12). A few chapters earlier, David had prayed for God to take vengeance against Saul (1 Sam 24:12), but this did not stop David from weeping for him. He mourned for the Lord's anointed, who came to such a miserable end as a result of his own disobedience. He mourned also for Jonathan, his close friend and fellow soldier. He mourned for all those who had died in battle, as well as for the rest of Israel, now kingless and cowering before the Philistines.

David's grief was good. He was right to grieve over the dead, as Jeremiah also did (Jer 9:1). Death is real, being part of the curse (Gen 2:17). It is the result of sin (Rom 6:23), the final enemy to be destroyed (1 Cor 15:26). So it is fitting to mourn when people die. One day, Christ will conquer death (1 Cor 15:54), but until that day, we mourn for those who have died.

While it seems obvious that David would grieve over the death of Jonathan, his best friend,

David's grief went far beyond the memory of Jonathan. David grieved also for God's people and for all of Israel. It

is good to grieve when

God's people suffer loss (Amos 6:6). If we love God, then we will also love His people and weep with those who weep (Rom 12:15; 2 Cor 11:29).

Even more amazing, David grieved over Saul, his lifelong enemy. Rather than rejoice over the destruction of our enemies (Prov 24:17), we ought to grieve over the fate of the wicked. Samuel and David both wept for Saul (1 Sam 15:35), Jesus wept for unrepentant Jerusalem (Luke 19:41), and Paul wept for faithless Israel (Rom 9:2–3). God Himself takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked (Ezek 18:32).

It is good to consider death and sorrow, since it awakens us from the here and now and reminds us of things eternal (Eccl 7:2). Grief drives us to God for healing (Ps 147:3). It also teaches us how to comfort others (2 Cor 1:3–4). Grief trains our eyes on heaven where Jesus will one day put an end to all sin and death and wipe away every tear (Rev 21:4).

David's loyal love for God and God's people also produced a healthy fear. David was shocked that the Amalekite messenger had not been afraid to harm Saul, the LORD's anointed king (2 Sam 1:14). The Amalekite's lack of fear caused him to act foolishly, and David executed him based on his own testimony (1:16).

By his grief and his vengeance, David proved that his love for Israel and its king was genuine. And by his loyal love, he would eventually win the trust of the people (5:1–5). When we are going through difficulty, it is easy to focus on ourselves and ignore the hardship of those around us. But David grieved, even for his enemy.

**THINK ABOUT IT**  
Christian grief mingles sadness with hope (1 Thess 4:13).



# STUDY THE BIBLE LESSON

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## David commemorated the dead (1:17–27)

David then wrote a song to **commemorate**, to honor and remember, Saul and Jonathan. He even taught this **lament**, this song of sorrow, to his troops.



### THINK ABOUT IT

David's lament, along with Lamentations and many of the Psalms, shows the value of thoughtfully expressing and remembering sorrow.

The song has three main themes. First, David lamented Israel's shame, showing once again David's deep love for God's people (1:19–21). This also shows his continuing commitment to God's glory, since enemies of God's people are also enemies of God (1 Sam 17:26, 45–47). Second, David honored Saul and

Jonathan (1:22–23). He never mentioned any of Saul's failures. Instead, he remembered how Saul and Jonathan bravely defended Israel together. Third, David mourned the deaths of Saul and Jonathan (1:24).

The bond between David and Jonathan was noble, loyal, and selfless. Their union was stronger than anything either of them had experienced with women. Yet their devotion to one another was pure—there is no hint of inappropriate behavior, despite what some may say. Both David and Jonathan were committed to God's law, and God's law is very clear concerning homosexuality (Lev 20:13; Rom 1:26–28).

With this song David again proved his righteous character as he ascended to the kingship. He showed all Israel that he loved Israel, that he was not a traitor, and that the kingship was sacred. By honoring Saul, David secured the honor of the kingship that would soon be his.

## David honored God and man (2:1–7)

After grieving, David still refused to rush ahead with his own plans. All along he refused to take the kingdom for himself. He waited for God to give the kingdom as a gift of His grace. As before, David sought God's word and obeyed

it (2 Sam 2:1). As a result, David was made king of Judah at Hebron (2:2–4).

David was not yet king of all Israel, but he continued to act with integrity instead of selfish ambition. He heard that the men of Jabesh-gilead had marched all night and risked their lives to give Saul and Jonathan a proper burial (1 Sam 31:11–13). It was a debt of gratitude to Saul, who had once saved the inhabitants of Jabesh-gilead from brutal mutilation at the hands of Nahash the Ammonite (1 Sam 11). Incoming kings would often punish the supporters of the previous king, but David honored the people of Jabesh-gilead, showing once again his loyalty to God's anointed, to God's people, and to God Himself.

David would continue to act righteously and wisely as he worked to gain the support of the rest of Israel. Ishbosheth and his general, Abner, challenged David's right to be king, but this did not stop David from publicly mourning Abner's death (3:31–39) or from executing Ishbosheth's assassins (4:5–12). Finally, all Israel welcomed him as king (5:1–3).

David's descendant possesses integrity and righteousness that far surpasses even that of David. Jesus refused to take His rightful place as King in the wrong way (Matt 4:8–10). He grieved for His people and for the fate of the wicked (Luke 19:41). His kingdom also begins small (Isa 11:1). But one day He will return and reign on the throne of David over the whole world (Ps 2:9; Rev 19:5). We also will reign with Him, if we will hold fast to love, faith, service, and endurance to the end (Rev 2:19–26). Until then, we should weep with those who weep, walk by God's word, and live with integrity.

### THINK ABOUT IT

People of integrity have nothing to do with evil schemes.



# Lesson Outline

*God supports those who act with integrity.*

## AGES 3–5 LESSON OUTLINE



1. David honored Saul by killing the Amalekite messenger (1:1–16).
2. David was sad that Saul and Jonathan were dead (1:17–27).
3. David obeyed God’s word and became king (2:1–4).
4. David honored Saul by honoring the men of Jabesh-gilead (2:4–7).

## AGES 6–11 LESSON OUTLINE



1. David mourned and avenged Saul’s death (1:1–16).
  - David returned from defeating the Amalekites (1:1).
  - An Amalekite said he had killed Saul (1:2–10).
  - David wept for Saul, Jonathan, the LORD’s people, and all Israel (1:11–12).
  - David executed the Amalekite for killing the LORD’s anointed (1:13–16).
2. David commemorated the dead (1:17–27).
  - David taught his troops a song of lament (1:17–18).
  - David grieved over Israel’s shame and loss (1:19–21, 27).
  - David remembered Saul and Jonathan’s honor (1:22–23).
  - David called the daughters of Israel to weep for Saul (1:24).
  - David himself grieved for Jonathan (1:25–26).
3. David honored God and man (2:1–7; 3:31–39; 4:5–12; 5:1–3).
  - David sought and obeyed God’s word (2:1–3).
  - David was anointed king of Judah (2:4).
  - David honored the men of Jabesh-gilead who buried Saul (2:5–7).
  - David patiently gained the trust of all Israel (3:31–39; 4:5–12; 5:1–3).



# TEACH THE BIBLE LESSON

God makes David king • 2 Samuel 1:1–2:7



## Lesson Questions

*Use these questions to teach or to review this week's lesson.*



### Ages 3–5 Lesson Questions

1. **Who brought David bad news?**  
The Amalekite.
2. **What did the Amalekite say he had done to Saul?**  
He said he killed Saul.
3. **What did David do when he heard this bad news?**  
David cried and wrote a sad song. David also executed the Amalekite.
4. **When David did what God said, what happened to David?**  
David became king.



### Ages 6–11 Lesson Questions

1. **Who died?**  
Saul, Jonathan, and many Israelite soldiers died fighting the Philistines.
2. **Why did David kill the Amalekite?**  
David killed him because he said he killed Saul, God's anointed.
3. **Who did David weep for?**  
He wept for Saul, for Jonathan, for God's people, and for all Israel. He was a good leader because he loved his friends, his enemies, and all God's people.
4. **After David wept and fasted, how did he keep grieving?**  
He wrote a lament, a sad song, so that Israel would not forget.
5. **Why was it important for Israel to remember this sad day?**  
It would motivate them to fight the Philistines. It would also remind them that David was a worthy leader who loved his people.
6. **How did David know what to do next?**  
David asked God. David was very careful to obey what God said.
7. **Why did David honor the men of Jabesh-gilead?**  
He honored them because they had heroically rescued the bodies of Saul and Jonathan. David again showed his loyalty to Israel.
8. **What did David do when his enemies Abner and Ishbosheth were murdered?**  
He mourned for Abner publically. He executed the men who murdered Ishbosheth. David was a leader with integrity, so he wanted nothing to do with evil actions, even if it helped him defeat his enemies.

# Lesson Activities

Choose from the following ideas to introduce, illustrate, and apply this week's lesson.

AGES 3–5



## THE DEATH OF THE RIGHTEOUS

Today's lesson covers the death of both Saul and Jonathan. Ask the children why people die. Explain that God warned Adam and Eve that if they sinned by eating the forbidden fruit, they would die (Gen 2:16–17). Since that time, all people have sinned and so all people die (Rom 3:23; 1 Cor 15:22). You can review some of the great characters of the Bible who all died: Abraham, Isaac, Joseph, Moses, Joshua, Samuel, and David, for example.

## INTEGRITY

Today's lesson is about David, a man of "integrity." Illustrate this concept by wearing one or more dirty clothing items along with your fresh, clean clothes. For example, underneath your clean dress pants could be a pair of filthy socks. Or you might choose to wear a dirty, smelly hat with your freshly pressed suit. Explain that integrity means that every part of your life is pleasing to God.



## PUPPET SKIT

Present to the class a skit involving three puppets. Single out one puppet as "evil." While participating in an activity, this "evil" puppet injures himself. The other two puppets then rejoice over his injury, saying that he got what he deserved because he is wicked. Discuss with the children why rejoicing in the suffering of the wicked is wrong. Also discuss what the right response would have been in this situation.

## FALSE REPORT

**Materials:** Crown; bracelet; additional objects that may enhance the lesson, such as torn clothes, dust (or flour), and weapons of war (sword, spear, shield, bow).

**Directions:** Instruct a child or another teacher to interrupt the beginning of the lesson by bringing a crown and bracelet to you in front of the class. Have him tell you the news of Saul's death, as the Amalekite did in 2 Samuel 1:1–16.



## DAVID BECOMES KING TIMELINE

*See Year 2 Craft Book, Book 1.*

**Materials:** Craft sheets, yarn, hole punch, and crayons.

**Directions:** Pre-cut pictures from craft sheets and punch holes in designated places. Have children color the pictures. Assist them in putting them on the string in the correct order, as shown below.

*David Becomes King Timeline*  
*See Year 2 Craft Book, Book 1*





# TEACH THE BIBLE LESSON

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AGES 6–8



## FUTURE REUNION

Show the class a picture of a beloved family member who has passed away and is now in the presence of the Lord. Share with the class your joy over the thought of one day being reunited with this individual in the presence of Jesus (2 Cor 5:8).

## JUST ONE DROP

Open a bottle of water and ask if anyone in the class is thirsty. Set the water bottle down and pull out a small water dropper filled with water. Tell the class that it is filled with water you collected from the toilet (don't actually fill the dropper with toilet water!). Put one drop of "toilet water" from the dropper in the water bottle and ask again if anyone is thirsty. Use this illustration to explain the concept of "integrity." Explain that integrity is being whole and undivided (like an "integer" in math). There is not even one drop of deceit or trickery. A person with integrity is honest and sincere in every part of their life. Tell the class that today's lesson is about a man with integrity.



## A SAMARITAN'S LOVE

Read the story of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25–37). After the story, identify similarities between the Samaritan's love for the injured Israelite and David's love for wicked Saul.

## WEEP WITH THOSE WHO WEEP

Ask the class to identify things that are commonly associated with funerals (flowers, black clothing, eulogies, tissues, etc.). Tell the class that almost every funeral or tragedy is attended by other people who desire to pay their respects to the dead and comfort the family. Explain that gathering together during times of hardship is a great encouragement to those who sorrow. Read Romans 12:15 to the class and talk about the need to be sensitive to the situations of others—whether they be rejoicing or weeping.



## DAVID REPLACES SAUL AS KING

See Year 2 Craft Book, Book 1.

**Materials:** Craft sheets, brads, cardstock, scissors, glue, and crayons.

**Directions:** Have children color and cut out the pieces from the craft sheet. Connect the pictures of Saul and David with a brad, as shown below. Glue the crowns in the appropriate places, according to where each king's head comes to when the pictures pivot.

David Replaces Saul as King  
See Year 2 Craft Book, Book 1



AGES 9–11



INTRODUCE

**OBITUARIES**

Ask the children if they know what an obituary is. Bring in some obituaries from a local newspaper and read them to the class. Make sure that at least one of the obituaries expresses the hope of a Christian who has passed into eternal glory through faith in Jesus Christ. Ask the children what happens when a Christian dies. Then ask them what happens when a non-Christian dies. Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18 and talk about the hope that Christians have even as they grieve over beloved friends and family who have died.

**ABOVE REPROACH**

The overarching requirement of a church leader is that he be “above reproach” (1 Tim 3:2). This does not mean that he is sinless; it means that no one can legitimately accuse him of any wrongdoing. In other words, there is no obvious, deliberate sin that can be seen in his life. In today’s lesson we’re going to see a man who (at this point in his life) was above reproach. David refused to tolerate evil, even going so far as to punish those who did evil in order to please him (2 Sam 1:13–16).



ILLUSTRATE

**CLARIFYING TERMS: THE RIGHTEOUS AND THE WICKED**

The Old Testament uses the terms “righteous” and “wicked” in more general terms than the New Testament. Noah (Gen 6:9) and Abraham (Gen 15:6) are both said to be righteous, although we know they still sinned. To be righteous is to be in a right relationship with God and includes both faith and obedience toward God. The wicked are those who reject God’s means of relating correctly to Him—in the Old Testament, via the law, the priests, the prophets, and the sacrifices. No one is righteous in the absolute sense of being perfectly sinless before God (Isa 64:6). However, in Jesus Christ we can become the righteousness of God (2 Cor 5:21).

**OBITUARY FOR KING SAUL**

Write a pretend obituary for King Saul and share it with the class. Emphasize David’s faithful love for Saul in spite of his wicked behavior.



APPLY

**LIFE CHECKPOINT**

An obituary summarizes the life of a person after their death. But what would others say about our life right now? Ask the children to write a personal “checkpoint” summarizing the content of their lives up to this point. Ask the children to finish their life summary by explaining the direction they want their lives to go from here. After the activity, ask if there are any children who would like to share what they have written with the class. You might consider writing one for yourself and sharing it with the class.