

## Small Group: DAVID

### CATCH UP

This section is designed for each person to share their experiences from last weeks' application. This should be an encouraging time and not a time to shame someone for not doing their assignment - simply let a couple of people share how their project went. Be sure to encourage the group to talk about their struggles, oppositions, and defeats as well as their successes.

### WARM UP

Take turns sharing personal experiences from a time you had a funny EPIC failure (This can be an embarrassing moment, a crash-and-burn, or a project at school that went horribly wrong.)

Extra Exercise – take turns sharing some funny epic failures you watched on Tik Tok.

### READ UP

- 1 Samuel 17
- Psalm 51

David was the youngest of eight brothers. Can you imagine how crazy their dinner table was! He was also an accomplished musician and a shepherd boy who got very good at defending his sheep from wild animals - think lions and bears. I know, right?

When Samuel, the prophet of God, came to anoint the new king of Israel from David's family, his dad, Jesse, showed him all the boys except David – he was, after all, the youngest and the one least likely to be king material. Samuel knew none of the boys in front of him was the right one to be king. When Samuel asked about any other sons, Jesse sent for David. Samuel saw David and knew right away - this is the kid God wanted as the next King of Israel. David was chosen by God to be the king, and his life would never be the same.

Except it was.

After that moment, David went back to tending sheep and writing songs. Even with this massive calling on his life, David would have to experience many years of painful training before he would actually become king.

David turns up again in the scriptures when he goes to the battlefield to deliver food for his soldiering brothers. Goliath, a massive, nine-foot-tall Philistine soldier has been taunting the army of God and taunting God. A wave of holy anger welled up inside David, and he could not stand for it. He declared that if no one else would take on this Philistine, he would fight Goliath to honor God. Obviously, the courage of this young boy shocked everyone – even his brothers mocked him and his courage. But, King Saul was willing to give David a shot. He provided his own military equipment to face Goliath, but David refused it.

Can you imagine the fear and excitement mixed with holy discontent that was running through David's veins?

David overcame his doubts, fears, and the expectations of the people of Israel and walked to the battle line armed with what he was trained in as a shepherd – a sling, a few smooth stones, and a confidence that God would give him victory over Goliath. A cocky Goliath laughed at him and mocked him until David charged the battle line and planted one smooth stone in Goliath's head – sending him to the ground dead. He overcame doubts, fears, and expectations of others and used what he was good at to honor God.

But, even faithful giant-killers have moments of weakness and lapses in judgment.

David went through a dark season in his life— when he should have been with his troops fighting in battle, he chose to stay in the comfort of his home. On his balcony, David saw a beautiful girl and made a bad choice to pursue her. To cover up his sin, he sent her husband, one of his first men, into the heat of battle where he gets killed – at David’s orders.

King David - the man chosen by God to lead Israel, the man who defeated the giant Goliath for God’s honor, a man God called “a man after my own heart” – abandoned his love for God in pursuit of a lustful and selfish relationship which led to murder. David stumbled when He took his eyes off of honoring/pursuing God and turned to honor himself and the temporary pleasures he wanted.

We all can relate, can’t we? There are many times we lose our focus on God in pursuit of temporary pleasures and faithless attitudes.

The good news is that God is always ready to realign us to Himself. 1 John 1:9 tells us, *“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”* He is ready and willing to give out second chances - even to guys like David who committed adultery and murder.

Psalms 51 is David’s confession before God. He asks for a clean heart and a renewed spirit - one that focuses on honoring and serving God. This same promise is there for us! God wants each one of us to pursue His heart just like David. The question is – are you willing to confess your sins and be restored in the right relationship with God?

### **TALK UP**

1. David lost focus on God when he saw the beautiful girl (Bathsheba) – what are areas that distract you in your focus on God?
2. How can David commit adultery and murder and yet still be called “a man after God’s own heart”?
3. Re-read Psalm 51. Pick out some words and phrases that characterize a heart willing to confess to God and ready to get back in a right relationship with Him.

### **ACT UP**

This week take time to think through and write down things that tend to be a spiritual distraction for you. Write your own prayer like Psalm 51 between you and God.

### **PRAY UP**

Pray for each other, focusing on those spiritual distractions. Ask God to reveal those weak areas and give you the strength to own them.

### **GATHER UP**

Before everyone leaves, make sure you confirm next weeks’ meeting day and time – and confirm those who can make it.