

## Course Description

### Choices That Matter: Studies in the Life of David

How relevant can it be to study the life of a Iron Age barbaric chieftain with a talent for poetry? Really? Because from a purely historic point of view, that is who King David was. Yet, there is a reason that David's story is the most extensively narrated single story in the Bible. We know more about David than any other person in the Bible. Why is that?

In all of David's successes and failures, highs and lows – in his fighting, praying, loving, sinning, anger, deviousness, generosity, and especially his dancing and writing of poetry – David met God. Every event in David's life was a confrontation with God, and David is called in Scripture, “a man after God's own heart.” David teaches us that *humanness* and *earthiness* is not a barrier to knowing God. Rather, it is the means through which we truly experience God. There is nothing that happens in our lives that God can't and doesn't use to work his goodness.

Take moments to read through the topics we will be studying in the story of David, listed below. People and their problems haven't changed much, have they? Even today, centuries after David lived, we still need to see and experience all that David's story teaches us.

#### Part 1: Samuel, Saul and David

- 1 Hannah's Story – *Turning Sorrow to Joy*
- 2 Samuel and Eli's Sons – *Making Wise Choices*
- 3 The Ark and the Philistines – *Superstition vs. Faith*
- 4 Israel Demands a King – *Winning the Battles*
- 5 Saul Anointed, Samuel's Farewell – *God the Model Parent*
- 6 Saul's Unfaithfulness – *Decision-making Under Stress*
- 7 David's Secret Anointing – *Self-Worth That Matters*
- 8 David and Goliath – *Weapons Against Fear*
- 9 Saul Attacks David – *Victory over Jealousy*
- 10 Jonathan and David – *The Gift of Friendship*
- 11 Events at Nob – *Overcoming Selfishness*
- 12 David pursued by Saul – *Benefits of Forgiveness*
- 13 Nabal and Abigail – *Dealing With Hostility*
- 14 David Spares Saul's Life – *Letting God be God*

#### Part 2: David the King

- 15 David Retrieves the Ark – *Superstition vs. Faith II*
- 16 God's Covenant With David – *Following God's Best Plan*
- 17 Mephibosheth's Story – *Keeping Promises*
- 18 David and Bathsheba – *Overcoming Temptation*
- 19 Amnon, Tamar and Absalom – *Dealing with Family/Heartache I: Disappointment & Discouragement*
- 20 Absalom's Conspiracy and Death – *Dealing with Family/Heartache II: Rejection*
- 21 David Grieves a Son's Death – *Dealing With Family/Heartache III: Losses*
- 22 Temple Plans – *Security for Life*
- 23 David's Final Words – *Philosophy for Life*