

FLAWED HERO

THE LIFE OF DAVID

WEEK 7

July 4/5, 2015

Compassion of the King



This sermon study is designed to be used the week after the sermon it supplements. Before using the study in your life group, it might be helpful to work through the questions on your own before your group meets. The purpose of this guide is to help facilitate discussion and to help your group, collectively and individually, grow closer to Jesus.

SERIES OVERVIEW

Every hero has flaws, even the ones we read about in the Bible. In the life of David—a king of Israel and a man after God’s own heart—we see a hero with glimpses of greatness and wounds of pride. Through David’s failures, challenges, and triumphs, we see a greater Hero. The hero was not David, but God Himself. God humbled David and pointed people back to the one, true, King.

MAIN TEXT

2 Samuel 9, ESV

GETTING STARTED

What did you do for the Fourth of July? What was your favorite moment of the weekend?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Read 2 Samuel 9 out loud as a group. Why was David looking for someone in Saul’s family? What were the risks in inviting Mephibosheth to eat at his table?
2. What might’ve Mephibosheth been thinking when he was summoned to see David? What typically happened to the prior king’s descendants after a change in leadership?
3. Your character is never tested more than when you have something to lose, and you have to choose between your word and a way out. Have you ever had to keep your word even though it wasn’t the most convenient or easiest thing to do? Share with the group.
4. What did David restore to Mephibosheth? What was Mephibosheth’s response to David’s compassion? What can we learn from his response?
5. In this passage, there are many similarities between David and Jesus and Mephibosheth and us. What similarities stick out between David and Jesus? In what way(s) can you relate with Mephibosheth?
6. This weekend, we learned that the gospel offers an oasis instead of a desert, royalty instead of condemnation, restoration instead of repossession. When you say, “I can’t pay for that,” Jesus says, “I already did.” Do you have a process of reminding yourself of the gospel each and every day? If so, what is it? If not, do you want one? Discuss as a group how to keep the gospel in perspective each day.

NEXT STEPS

David was not afraid to reach across tribal lines and love people like Mephibosheth, who were very different from him. Jesus behaved the same way, interacting with sinners, tax collectors, and people who would ultimately betray Him. We are called to do the same thing.

In what way(s) are you being challenged to show love and kindness to someone who is very different from you?

Do you feel like it is countercultural to follow Jesus right now? How can we practically and intentionally show love and acceptance instead of hate and rejection?