

A SIX WEEK
SPIRITUAL GROWTH JOURNEY

**AFTER
GOD'S
OWN HEART**

Hello Church Family,

I am looking forward to all that God does during this season as we journey together through the life of David.

My prayer for you as you dive into Scripture over the next several weeks will be that you experience the presence of God in a new and fresh way. I am praying that the Holy Spirit will speak truth, love, and hope into your life each day as you encounter the wonderful and amazing Word of God.

Please join me in praying for God to challenge and change us through His Word.

Blessings to you, my friend.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ja Roberts", written in a cursive style.

James Roberts
Senior Pastor

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How to Use this Book

Welcome to our study of the life of David! For the next six weeks, we will focus on three things as a church:

- Attend service weekly (Thursdays or Sundays)
- Join a group
- Spend time individually with God each day

To get the most out of this journey, we encourage you to participate in all three. This book is a tool to help achieve these goals.

For each one of the six weeks, you will find the following resources here:

- A space for sermon notes
- That week's Group Guide (basis for your group discussion)
- A sample S.O.A.P. written by a staff member to start off your week
- A S.O.A.P. passage and guide for each of the remaining days for you to use in your time with God (with a day off to catch-up if you need it)

We have designed each week of this book to begin on Sundays. If you want to start on a different day of the week - no problem! Also, if you have found another model helpful and beneficial in engaging Scripture, please feel free to use that! S.O.A.P. is just one of many tools which help us to see what is happening in a biblical passage and how God might want us to apply that to our lives.

Make this book your own! Not everyone's journey looks the same, but what is important is that we are all moving toward God together and with intentionality.

The S.O.A.P. Devotional Tool - How To

Sometimes it can be hard to know how to get something out of reading your Bible. We don't want to just read, we want the words to transform us, give us hope, guidance, and help us become more like Jesus. The S.O.A.P. tool is one way to help dig in deeper.

What does S.O.A.P. mean?

S– *The S stands for Scripture*

As you read that passage for each day, be on the lookout for words or phrases that strike you. Take a few minutes to physically write them down, making yourself slow down and take them in.

O– *The O stands for observation*

Ask yourself questions like: What is happening in the passage? Who is the audience? What do you learn about God and people? Are there any examples, promises or commands to note? Sometimes it can help to record these things in a bullet list.

A– *The A stands for Application*

This is an opportunity for God's Word to become personal. Reflect on the following: what is God saying to me? How can I apply what I just read to my own personal life? What changes do I need to make? Is there a step of faith that I need to take?

P– *The P stands for Prayer*

Prayer is two-way communication with God. What do you sense God may want you to take away from your time? A step you need to take? Ask Him for help and encouragement if you need it. Use this time for confession and repentance if you need to, in order to restore your intimacy with him.

Other Tips For Your Devotional Time

You can expect that your S.O.A.P. devotional time will take about 15-20 minutes each day. It isn't a strict rule to be followed, but a model that you can use to interact with God. Some days might be easier than others, some days might involve more insight than others.

Please reference the S.O.A.P. examples as a template for how others have used this tool. Everyone brings their own style and personality to this tool. That's good! This is your time with God; it doesn't need to be done in a rigid and rote way.

The most important part is that you exercise these spiritual muscles. God will speak! All we have to do is be willing to spend time with him.

It can be helpful to decide ahead of time where and when you will spend this devotional time in Scripture and with God. If it helps to decide and commit to that here and now, go ahead! You may want to share these with your group for accountability and encouragement.

The place I will spend my time with God each day for the next 6 weeks:

The time I will spend my time with God each day for the next 6 weeks:

An Overview of 1 & 2 Samuel

After God's Own Heart is the topic of this 6-week Spiritual Growth Journey. We will be digging into the stories of David found in 1 & 2 Samuel. Here is an overview of those books of the Bible to help give some context for our daily study.

Authors and Dates:

1 Samuel: Scholars are undecided, but many think it was Samuel himself that authored these words. These books contain the stories of Samuel, Saul and David. It is believed to be written between 1100 B.C. – 1011 B.C.

2 Samuel: The Prophet Nathan or the Prophet Gad are believed to have written this book between 1010 B.C. – 970 B.C.

Key Themes:

1 Samuel

- Samuel was God's appointed prophet who exercised leadership and advisory roles to the people of Israel.
- God speaks through Samuel to call the people of Israel back to himself. They refuse and demand a king.
- Saul disobeys God and the people of Israel begin to struggle
- Other themes include how David was chosen and why, Samuel anointing David, David's victory over Goliath and David sparing Saul's life not once, but twice

2 Samuel

- The Ark of the Covenant is brought to Jerusalem
- God promises to establish a throne forever through David
- David's adultery with Bathsheba leads to murder
- Nathan the Prophet confronts David

WEEK ONE

GOD LOOKS
at the
HEART

Week 1: God Looks at the Heart
Sermon Notes

What stood out to me...

What I have questions about...

One thing I learned about God...

One thing I learned about people...

How I can apply what I've learned...

How I'm going to pray this week...

Week 1: God Looks at the Heart

Group Guide

Break the Ice (15 Minutes)

- What are you hoping to get out of this six-week experience?
- Is there anything you're nervous about as we begin this group?
- Where is "home" for you?

Check In (10 Minutes)

- What is one way that you are hoping to grow in your faith during this time?
- Pray, thanking God for those present and asking God to lead your discussion.

Learn Together (15 Minutes)

Read 1 Samuel 16:1-13

- Why does Samuel hesitate to go to Bethlehem? How does God calm his fear?
- What does it say about Jesse's estimation of his youngest son that he didn't even bother to have him appear before Samuel?
- How do you think David's brothers felt when they were passed over?
- What do we learn about God from this passage?

Act On It (15 Minutes)

- On what basis do you typically tend to judge people?
- Why do you think our culture favors physical appearance over the character of the heart?
- How does God's choice of David encourage you in your current stage of life or career?
- What is one personal takeaway from this passage for you?
- How can you take a step toward that this week?

Week 1: God Looks at the Heart
Sunday Example S.O.A.P.

Passage: 1 Samuel 16:1-5

Author: Tim Lucas, Director of Discipleship and Small Groups

Scripture:

The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul, since I have rejected him from being king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil, and go. I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." And Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears it, he will kill me." And the Lord said, "Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.' And invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do. And you shall anoint for me him whom I declare to you." Samuel did what the Lord commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, "Do you come peaceably?" And he said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord. Consecrate yourselves, and come with me to the sacrifice." And he consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

Observation:

- Samuel mourned for Saul the King because he did not carry out God's instructions
- Samuel was fearful of obeying what God said
- Samuel was uncertain about what the outcome would be if he did follow God's word to him
- The Lord then gave further instruction that directed Samuel to make a sacrifice/offering
- Samuel exercised faith and trust in the Lord and carried out his instructions in spite of his fear and uncertainty of what the future would hold.

Application:

Something that stood out to me was Samuel's hesitancy to follow what the Lord had told him. Samuel didn't object for no reason, he truly believed that Saul would take his life if he found out. Many times in my own life I like to know the outcome with certainty before I am willing to exercise my own faith and follow God's leading in my own life. I want my 'yes' to be 'yes', without hesitancy or delay when you call me.

Prayer:

Lord, thank you for loving me and speaking to me personally. Help my faith to increase and my trust level to deepen in you, especially when you call me to things that seem outside of my control. Time after time in my life you have provided for me. You are faithful, lead me to a greater dependence and obedience in my daily walk with you.

Observation

Application

Prayer

Observation

Application

Prayer

Observation

Application

Prayer

Observation

Application

Prayer

Observation

Application

Prayer

WEEK TWO

A COURAGEOUS HEART

Week 2: A Courageous Heart
Sermon Notes

What stood out to me...

What I have questions about...

One thing I learned about God...

One thing I learned about people...

How I can apply what I've learned...

How I'm going to pray this week...

Week 2: A Courageous Heart **Group Guide**

Break the Ice (15 Minutes)

- If you could only eat one food for the rest of your life, what would it be and why?
- Are you a morning or a night person?
- Would you rather have more time or more money, why?

Check In (10 Minutes)

- Would anyone like to share something that stood out to them during their time with God this week?
- Pray and ask God to guide your discussion.

Learn Together (15 Minutes)

Read 1 Samuel 17:12-26 and 17:41-50

- Why were the Israelites helpless against Goliath?
- In your opinion, what made David think he could beat Goliath?
- Why didn't David wear Saul's armor?
- Sometimes when we are familiar with a story, we can miss the real meaning. Why do you think that is, and what should we take away from this passage?
- As a group, find some parallels between this story and the story of Jesus' resurrection.

Act On It (15 Minutes)

- How do you tend to react when your abilities are questioned?
- What 'giant' are you facing in your life right now?
- Is there anything holding you back from taking a bold step in that battle? If so, what is it?
- What do you need most for the battle and how can we pray?

Week 2: A Courageous Heart
Sunday Example S.O.A.P.

Passage: 1 Samuel 17:41-47

Author: Kylee Larson, Pastor of Communications and
Thursday Night Services

Scripture:

Meanwhile, the Philistine, with his shield bearer in front of him, kept coming closer to David. He looked David over and saw that he was little more than a boy, glowing with health and handsome, and he despised him. He said to David, "Am I a dog, that you come at me with sticks?" And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. "Come here," he said, "and I'll give your flesh to the birds and the wild animals!"

David said to the Philistine, "You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This day the Lord will deliver you into my hands, and I'll strike you down and cut off your head. This very day I will give the carcasses of the Philistine army to the birds and the wild animals, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel. All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the Lord saves; for the battle is the Lord's, and he will give all of you into our hands."

Observation:

- A large part of how David accomplished this amazing task was to trust in who he was. He didn't wear the armor that didn't fit him. He fought with what he knew and who he was.
- One of the reasons David didn't feel like he needed to be anything other than himself was that he understood who God was.

- It seems that David is easily able to draw from his own history and story to see how he has been equipped for this moment.
- David almost seems naïve to me. It seems he doesn't know he should be afraid. Is this part of what it means to have a childlike faith?
- It's interesting to me that once Goliath was dead the whole Philistine army lost faith and ran away. Were they scared, or did all their hope lie in the power of one person?
- I am also struck by David's humility in v. 58. He is so sure of himself in the prior verses, and so confident while he fights Goliath, and he is still able to speak with humility at the end.

Application:

I was encouraged through this Scripture to work on balancing fear and confidence. I tend to go back and forth between two extremes: being over-confident in myself and then being very under-confident in myself. God offers a third option: be confident in Him, who He has made you to be, and the places He has brought you and is bringing you. It's reminding me of the saying, "God doesn't call the equipped, He equips the called." Mostly today it comes down to trust. I am going to put a post-it note up where I can see it in my office that says TRUST to remind me of this lesson from God day to day.

Prayer:

LORD Almighty, I don't call you that very often. But I call you that today in trust. I spend so much time fighting battles that make sense to me, but when I look at things from your level, they don't make sense at all! Help me know what battles to fight. Help me follow Your lead. Help remind me that You have made me exactly who I am for exactly this season. I want to be part of Your story, God. Help me please, keep attuned to it. Amen.

Observation

Application

Prayer

Observation

Application

Prayer

Observation

Application

Prayer

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Application

Prayer

Observation

Application

Prayer

WEEK THREE

A HUMBLE HEART

Week 3: A Humble Heart
Sermon Notes

What stood out to me...

What I have questions about...

One thing I learned about God...

One thing I learned about people...

How I can apply what I've learned...

How I'm going to pray this week...

Week 3: A Humble Heart

Goup Guide

Break the Ice (15 Minutes)

- Have each member finish this statement: "One fact about me that might surprise you is..."
- Which childhood chore was your least favorite? What is your least favorite now?
- Would you rather be without internet for a week, or your phone?

Check In (10 Minutes)

- Would anyone like to share something that stood out to them during their time with God this week?
- Spend some time in prayer asking God to be present with you during the meeting.

Learn Together (15 Minutes)

Read 1 Samuel 24:1-13

- Why does David not kill Saul?
- Do you think Saul's repentance is sincere here?
- How do you see God at work in this passage?
- What is one thing that personally stuck out to you?

Act On It (15 Minutes)

- David knew God's will for him was to be king, but the "how" was less clear. He could have taken a shortcut here but chose not to. Share about a situation in your life where you were tempted to take the short cut to bring about God's will?
- Have you experienced a time when you waited on something and trusted God, as opposed to trying to force an outcome. What happened?
- How is God currently at work in your life to lead or change you? What practical step of faith might you need to take this week in order to follow him?

Week 3: A Humble Heart
Sunday Example S.O.A.P.

Passage: 1 Samuel 24:1-7

Author: Bruce Hazel, Pastor of Congregational Care

Scripture

"After Saul returned from pursuing the Philistines, he was told, "David is in the Desert of En Gedi." So Saul took three thousand able young men from all Israel and set out to look for David and his men near the Crags of the Wild Goats. He came to the sheep pens along the way; a cave was there, and Saul went in to relieve himself. David and his men were far back in the cave. The men said, "This is the day the LORD spoke of when he said to you, 'I will give your enemy into your hands for you to deal with as you wish.'" Then David crept up unnoticed and cut off a corner of Saul's robe. Afterward, David was conscience-stricken for having cut off a corner of his robe. He said to his men, "The LORD forbid that I should do such a thing to my master, the LORD's anointed, or lay my hand on him; for he is the anointed of the LORD." With these words David sharply rebuked his men and did not allow them to attack Saul. And Saul left the cave and went his way.

Observations:

- David returned good to Saul, who had wronged him.
- David submitted himself to God's rule in his life.
- It would have been easy for David to destroy his enemy, but he realized that this was not the right thing to do.
- David did not consider himself better than Saul, but in fact recognized Saul's position and worth.
- David did not allow his position over others (his men) to make him prideful, but continued to view himself as a servant of God and led others in that way.
- David refused to judge Saul, but left that up to God.

Application

David's devotion to God protected him from falling prey to human reasoning (destroy this enemy). Instead, David submitted himself to God and his will. David's humility helped him to act wisely even in the face of an enemy. Proverbs 11:2 "When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom." David's humble heart would not even allow himself to stand in judgment of Saul or his actions. Instead, David told his men and Saul that God would be the judge. David led his men well and was a good example of a humble servant of God.

Prayer

My Heavenly Father, please help me to remember the path of humility. Help me to value others and their worth in your eyes and treat them with love and care. Help me resist the temptation to compare myself with others in order to feel better about myself, but instead may I always look to you for my worth and my guidance. Forgive me Lord, for the times I have spoken or acted out of pride. I want to be your humble servant. You are always faithful to show us the right path. Give me the courage to trust and follow you no matter the circumstances. I am so thankful for the things you teach me and the ways you guide me!

Observation

Application

Prayer

Observation

Application

Prayer

Observation

Application

Prayer

Observation

Application

Prayer

Observation

Application

Prayer

WEEK FOUR

A WORSHIPPING HEART

Week 4: A Worshipping Heart
Sermon Notes

What stood out to me...

What I have questions about...

One thing I learned about God...

One thing I learned about people...

How I can apply what I've learned...

How I'm going to pray this week...

Week 4: A Worshipping Heart

Group Guide

Break the Ice (15 Minutes)

- If you had your own talk show, who would your first three guests be?
- Would you rather spend the rest of your life in a library or a zoo?

Check In (10 Minutes)

- Would anyone like to share something that stood out to them during their time with God this week?
- Pray for your upcoming group discussion.

Learn Together (15 Minutes)

Read 2 Samuel 7:1-17

- Why do you think David wanted to build a house for the Lord?
- Why do you think the Lord did not want David to build him a house?
- What does God want David to understand about their relationship?
- What promises does God make David in this passage?

Act On It (15 Minutes)

- What does this passage teach us about “doing things for the Lord”?
- How do you find a balance spending time with God and serving?
- Have you ever become run down and worn out with serving? What led to that?
- We are halfway through our journey! How have you seen God at work in your life during the last three weeks? In what ways would you like to see him be at work as we finish out this journey?

Week 4: A Worshipping Heart
Sunday Example S.O.A.P.

Passage: 2 Samuel 6:9-12

Author: Andrew Miller, Director of Evangelism and Local Outreach

Scripture:

And David was afraid of the Lord that day, and he said, "How can the ark of the Lord come to me?" So David was not willing to take the ark of the Lord into the city of David. But David took it aside to the house of Obed-edom the Gittite. And the ark of the Lord remained in the house of Obed-edom the Gittite three months, and the Lord blessed Obed-edom and all his household. And it was told King David, "The Lord has blessed the household of Obed-edom and all that belongs to him, because of the ark of God."

Observation:

- This story is complicated because it seems like David is doing a good thing to honor God by bringing the Ark of the Covenant back to Jerusalem, but God strikes down a man who touches the Ark in order to keep it from falling off the cart.
- The way David worshipped was just as important to God. According to God's law, the Ark should never be carried on a cart or by animals. The Ark should only be carried on the shoulders of the appointed priests.
- Either David was ignorant of God's law regarding the Ark or he didn't think those finer details were important.
- The Ark represents God's personal presence.
- Wherever the Ark is, God is present in that place.

- In vv.9-12, The Ark is parked with Obed-edom for three months, which means the presence of God is in Obed-edom's home.
- The text is not clear what it means that the "Lord blessed Obed-edom". What were those blessings? Good health? Success in business or income? Joy and harmony in his home? Safety from calamity or enemies?

Application:

- I want to be in the presence of the Lord as much as possible. Obed-edom was blessed because God's real presence was in his home, and I want to experience that same favor from God.
- I don't need a golden box or ark to represent God's presence, because I know that because Jesus' sacrifice God's Spirit lives in me.
- I want to be more aware of God's presence. I want to be intentional to speak with him and listen for him throughout my day.
- Just like Obed-edom experienced God's presence and favor in his home, I can experience God's presence in my home. His presence is available to me beyond just Sundays at church. I can pray and worship him 7 days a week.
- May my experience of God's presence in church on the weekend multiply throughout the days of this week.

Pray:

Father, I want to know you and feel more of your presence. I want to know your favor and your blessings. Most of all, I want to know your heart. Teach me this week to walk with you and seek you. Motivate me to make time each day to worship and praise you. Make me more aware of your presence with me.

Observation

Application

Prayer

Observation

Application

Prayer

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Application

Prayer

Observation

Application

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Application

Prayer

WEEK FIVE

A FORGIVING HEART

Week 5: A Forgiving Heart
Sermon Notes

What stood out to me...

What I have questions about...

One thing I learned about God...

One thing I learned about people...

How I can apply what I've learned...

How I'm going to pray this week...

Week 5: A Forgiving Heart Group Guide

Break the Ice (15 Minutes)

- Who do you usually reach out to for advice or wisdom? Why?
- What was your favorite thing about your hometown and why?
- Would you rather be stuck on a broken ski lift or in a broken elevator?

Check In (10 Minutes)

- Would anyone like to share something that stood out to them during their time with God this week?
- Take a moment to pray for your upcoming group discussion.

Learn Together (15 Minutes)

Read 2 Samuel 9:1-13

- What is the most striking image in this passage to you?
- How do these verses show us the nature of grace?
- Do you think David's actions were in line with the typical behavior of a new dynasty?
- What might have Mephibosheth been thinking and feeling internally in verse 6?
- What three promises does David make to Mephibosheth. Where else have we seen these?

Act On It (15 Minutes)

- What are some specific ways you have seen God's grace and love to you this week?
- What are some ways you can dwell on those experiences? Remember them for the future?
- What is one way our group can pray for you in regard to someone you are specifically trying to show God's love and grace to?

Week 5: A Forgiving Heart
Sunday Sample S.O.A.P.

Passage: 2 Samuel 9:1-8

Author: Abbie Craig, Youth Pastor

Scripture:

David asked, "Is there still anyone left of the house of Saul to whom I may show kindness for Jonathan's sake?" Now there was a servant of the house of Saul whose name was Ziba, and he was summoned to David. The king said to him, "Are you Ziba?" And he said, "At your service!" The king said, "Is there anyone remaining of the house of Saul to whom I may show the kindness of God?" Ziba said to the king, "There remains a son of Jonathan; he is crippled in his feet." The king said to him, "Where is he?" Ziba said to the king, "He is in the house of Machir son of Ammiel, at Lo-debar." Then King David sent and brought him from the house of Machir son of Ammiel, at Lo-debar. Mephibosheth, son of Jonathan son of Saul came to David, and fell on his face and did obeisance. David said, "Mephibosheth!" He answered, "I am your servant." David said to him, "Do not be afraid, for I will show you kindness for the sake of your father Jonathan; I will restore to you all the land of your grandfather Saul, and you yourself shall eat at my table always." He did obeisance and said, "What is your servant, that you should look upon a dead dog such as I?"

Observations:

- Ziba and Mephibosheth clearly expected the worst from David: if he was asking for surviving members of the former king's family, it must be to eliminate any threat to his power.
- Instead, David's response is radical. Not only does he show kindness to Mephibosheth, he restores his right to his family land and offers him a seat at the king's table.

- The Hebrew word for kindness in this chapter is the same that is used often throughout the Old Testament to describe the character of God as kind, merciful, faithful, and good.
- David also reflects the faithfulness of God to His covenant with the people in the way that David honors his covenant with Jonathon to take care of his descendants (1 Sam 20:14-17)
- Perhaps Mephibosheth's story reminded David of his own: the son least likely to achieve a place of honor is now receiving it. David himself had experienced the upside down value system of God. Thus, he is able to do the same for Mephibosheth.

Application

Like David, we become people who can offer kindness and mercy to others as we receive the kindness and mercy from our faithful God. Reflect on the ways in which you have experienced God's kindness in your life. Where have you seen glimpses of God's faithfulness even today or this week? Consider your schedule for the day ahead- not through the lens of what you have to accomplish, but focusing on the people who you will encounter. Ask God to reveal to you how you might demonstrate His kindness to each person along your path today.

Prayer

Thank you God, for your kindness. You are faithful in my wandering and merciful when I deserve it the least. Help me not forget the kindness you have shown, and shape me to be a person who offers mercy freely to each person I meet. Forgive me for harsh words, quick judgements, and for the times I fail to see others as you do. Give me eyes to see your image in every person, your heart to create room at the table for those whom others overlook, and your courage to act faithfully when you open doors for me to share the radical kindness I have received with others. Amen.

Observation

Application

Prayer

Observation

Application

Prayer

Observation

Application

Prayer

Observation

Application

Prayer

Observation

Application

Prayer

WEEK SIX

A REPENTANT HEART

Week 6: A Repentant Heart
Sermon Notes

What stood out to me...

What I have questions about...

One thing I learned about God...

One thing I learned about people...

How I can apply what I've learned...

How I'm going to pray this week...

Week 6: A Repentant Heart

Group Guide

Break the Ice (15 Minutes)

- Would you rather explore space or the ocean?
- Would you rather sing a song in front of your friends or complete strangers?

Check In (10 Minutes)

- Would anyone like to share something that stood out to them during their time with God this week?
- Pray that God would be present in your conversation.

Learn Together (15 Minutes)

Read 2 Samuel 11:1-17

- Where was David during this time? What is his first mistake in this passage?
- After Bathsheba becomes pregnant, how does David try to cover up his actions?
- What do you think Bathsheba is feeling as her life changes so drastically in a short amount of time? What might her inner dialogue be?
- What contrast do you see between David and Uriah?

Act On It (15 Minutes)

- What are some factors that make you most vulnerable to temptation?
- What have you found to be a helpful strategy to resisting temptation?
- In this story, people have often misrepresented Bathsheba (pointing the finger at her, blaming her solely, etc.). How have others misunderstood you and how did you deal with that situation?
- How can our group come alongside you and/or pray for you as you seek to grow in your faith and resist any temptation that might derail you?

Week 6: A Repentant Heart
Sunday Example S.O.A.P.

Passage: 2 Samuel 11:1-5, 14-16, 26-27

Author: Jordan Davis, Kids! Director

Scripture:

In the spring, at the time when kings go off to war, David sent Joab out with the king's men and the whole Israelite army... But David remained in Jerusalem. One evening David got up from his bed and walked around on the roof of the palace. From the roof he saw a woman bathing. The woman was very beautiful, and David sent someone to find out about her. The man said, "She is Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam and the wife of Uriah the Hittite." Then David sent messengers to get her. She came to him, and he slept with her. (Now she was purifying herself from her monthly uncleanness.) Then she went back home. The woman conceived and sent word to David, saying, "I am pregnant." In the morning David wrote a letter to Joab and sent it with Uriah. In it he wrote, "Put Uriah out in front where the fighting is fiercest. Then withdraw from him so he will be struck down and die." So while Joab had the city under siege, he put Uriah at a place where he knew the strongest defenders were. When the men of the city came out and fought against Joab, some of the men in David's army fell; moreover, Uriah the Hittite died. When Uriah's wife heard that her husband was dead, she mourned for him. After the time of mourning was over, David had her brought to his house, and she became his wife and bore him a son. But the thing David had done displeased the Lord.

Observations:

- David found himself in a place he shouldn't have been, focused on something he should have never seen, wanted something he couldn't have, and then acted on a situation he should never have been in.

- David attempted to cover up the act he had committed. David then escalates the situation further by taking Bathsheba as his wife
- David thought what he had done in private would stay there, but Nathan shares the story in Chapter 12.
- This story isn't all about David.
- David's deception ended up changing the perception that people had about him, but not God's heart for him.

Application

Many of us have probably found ourselves in over our heads. Maybe our desire for something that seemed okay at first quickly resulted in us being "in over our heads." I call this the spiritual snowball effect. From the start of David's life, we see this snowball begin. David never thought he had enough. Many times, we are that way too: longing for a better job, a better car, or a better looking whatever! God has told us over and over that His grace is sufficient: we have enough when we rely on Him. What are you chasing? Is it something that, in the end, you know you will experience buyers' remorse or regret? All through 2 Samuel 12, David pays for his actions. I'm sure David's remorse was huge. Are you seeking something that will provide instant gratification but will ultimately destroy you? Remember, after everything David did, he was still referred to as a man after God's own heart (Acts 13:22).

Prayer

God, I thank you for all the blessings you have poured out over me. I ask that you help me to see exactly what you want for my life. To pursue exactly what you want for my life. Please help me focus on what is pleasing to you. In this season, I will lay down anything that I have still held back from you, please take me farther in my relationship with you than I have ever been. Make me a person after your own heart!

Observation

Application

Prayer

Observation

Application

Prayer

Observation

Application

Prayer

Observation

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Prayer

Observation

Application

Prayer

Serving Opportunities for Your Group

Serving is an important part of our rhythm not only as a church, but as individual Christ-followers as well. We highly encourage you to organize one of these or other serving opportunities during your group's Spiritual Growth Journey! You can visit golove.org/serve to sign up and learn more.

Shepherd Community Center

- What: Prepare and serve breakfast along with others from Church at the Crossing
- Where: Shepherd Community Center (near Eastside of downtown Indianapolis)
- When: 9:00 – 11:30 AM
March 21, April 18, May 16
- Why: Shepherd Community Center is helping their neighbors break the cycle of poverty through a full set of programs that allows them to be continuously engaged in the lives of neighborhood children, teens, and their parents.
- More Info: shepherdcommunity.org

Wheeler Mission

- What: Prepare and serve lunch along with others from Church at the Crossing
- Where: Wheeler Mission (downtown Indianapolis)
- When: 10:00 AM – 12:30 PM
March 21, April 18, May 16
- Why: Wheeler Mission Ministries provides critically needed support to the homeless, poor, and needy of central Indiana.
- More Info: wheelermision.org

Ascent 121

- What: A guided prayer journey through the east side of Indy to pray for areas affected by trafficking. Driving yourself or arrange for friends to join.
- Where: West Morris Free Methodist Church, 2302 West Morris Street
- When: Begins with orientation and then drive at your own pace; total time approximately 3-4 hours AM March 21, PM June 28
- Why: Learn ways teens are drawn into trafficking and about recovery services. Prayer stops allow you to pray for survivors, teens at risk, educators, social service providers, justice staff, law enforcement, ministries and organizations.
- More Info: ascent121.org

Love Our Home

- What: Help get our campus cleaned up and ready for Easter guests. Jobs include outdoor landscaping and light indoor maintenance.
- Where: Church at the Crossing
- When: 9 AM - Noon, March 21
- Why: We have a large and busy campus, and we want it to look and function at its best for our guests.
- More Info: golove.org/loveourhome

Stripped Free

- What: Painting, landscaping, and other odd jobs
- Where: Emma's Place (Pendleton Pike), the new drop-in ministry center for Stripped Free
- When: 9 AM – 2 PM, March 21
- Why: Stripped Free is opening this drop-in ministry center to provide a place of safety and belonging for women who work in the adult entertainment industry.
- More Info: strippedfree.org



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