Second
SAMUEL
A King Unlike the Nations

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Select definitions of the attributes of God were informed by The ABCs of God, © 2011 Children Desiring God.
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**APPENDIX A:** Map of Israel at the Time of 2 Samuel

**APPENDIX B:** Attributes of God
OUR PURPOSE
This study is designed to help you grow in Bible literacy. In doing so, it has two goals: First, it seeks to teach you a book of the Bible in a way that will enable you to retain what you learn.

Second, it seeks to train you to ask better questions of any biblical text on your own. Many of us come to our study of the Bible eager to pull from it wisdom that will help us to live differently. And we should. But before we can move from awareness of what we don’t know of the text to awareness of what we should do in response to the text, we must move through the learning process. This study is designed to help you learn and employ that process.

It is a simple formula of approaching the text first for comprehension, next for interpretation and finally for application. Each stage of this learning process asks a critical question:

**Comprehension** asks, “What does it say?”

**Interpretation** asks, “What does it mean?”

**Application** asks, “How should it change me?”

If we rush too quickly to application, we short-circuit the learning process and limit our ability to retain what we have learned. Not only that, but application that is not built on careful comprehension and interpretation is unlikely to be faithful to the text. All three steps matter. But they require patience on our part.

Reading the Bible can be confusing. Because nobody likes to feel lost or confused, most of us rush to a commentary as quickly as possible to resolve our discomfort. That is actually the first sign that learning is about to occur, the first step in gaining and holding on to understanding. We need to learn to welcome the discomfort as a sign that our minds are being prepared for receiving instruction.

Because of this, for the purpose of our study here, please do not reference commentaries until comprehension, interpretation and application have been earnestly attempted on your own. In other words, wait to read commentaries until after you have completed the homework, attended small group time and listened to the teaching. And then consult commentaries you can trust. We recommend the following commentaries:

1. *Samuel, 2 Samuel* by Dale Ralph Davis; Focus on the Bible, 2000, 2002
Remember that commentaries are not just books written about 2 Samuel. Sources of commentary include study Bible notes, sermons, podcasts, blog posts and articles. These are all great helps when used responsibly, but if used before we have studied on our own, they can keep us from developing the mental muscles that accompany a mature faith.

Each week, you will be asked to complete homework that will help train you in how to comprehend, interpret and apply Scripture. We will utilize the specific tools below to help develop our study skills.

One of the most important skills we can develop as students of the Scriptures is learning to look for what is true about God as we read. At the end of each week’s homework, you will be challenged to meditate on what you have learned about God in that week’s portion of the text. To aid you in this, a list of the attributes of God can be found on the last two pages of the workbook.

**COMPREHENSION**

*What does it say?*

- Read the passage repetitively.
- Read the passage in multiple translations.
- Look up key words in the dictionary.
- Write a main idea or draw a picture in the margin next to the section it describes.
- Note any literary techniques that the author is using. Pay attention to genre rules.
- Look for repeated ideas, connected ideas or progressions of thought and mark them.
- Look for what the passage teaches is true about God (attributes).

**INTERPRETATION**

*What does it mean?*

- Explore why the author would have used a particular word or phrase, or why he would have made a particular point the way he made it. Keep in mind the textual, historical and cultural context.
- Make connections to other parts of the book or other parts of the Bible (cross-references).
- Paraphrase or summarize part or all of the passage.
HOW TO USE THIS STUDY
This workbook is designed to be used in a specific way. The homework in the workbook will start you down the process of comprehension, interpretation and application. However, it is intended to dovetail with small group discussion time and the audio/video teachings. You can use the workbook by itself, but you are likely to find yourself with some unresolved questions. The audio/video teaching is intended to resolve most, if not all, of your unanswered questions from the homework and discussion time. With this in mind, consider using the materials as follows:

- If you are going through the study on your own, first work through the homework and then listen to the corresponding audio for that week.
- If you are going through the study in a group, first do your homework, then discuss the questions your group decides to cover, and then listen to the teaching. Some groups listen to the teaching before they meet, which can also work if that format fits best for everyone.

APPLICATION
How should it change me?

▸ Consider how what the passage teaches about God should change the way you think, speak or act.

▸ Make meaningful connections to your own life:
  - Is there a sin to confess?
  - Is there cause for thanksgiving or praise to God?
  - Is there a promise or truth to trust in?
  - Is there an attitude to change or a motive to examine?
  - Is there a command to obey or an example to imitate?
  - Is there an error to confront or avoid?
Introduction

2 Samuel

Imagine yourself receiving a letter in the mail. The envelope is handwritten, but you don’t glance at the return address. Instead you tear open the envelope, flip to the second page, read two paragraphs near the bottom, and set the letter aside. Knowing that if someone bothered to send it to you, you should act on its contents in some way, you spend a few minutes trying to figure out how to respond to what the section you just read had to say. What are the odds you will be successful? No one would read a letter this way. But this is precisely the way many of us read our Bibles. We skip past reading the “envelope”—Who wrote this? To whom is it written? When was it written? Where was it written?—and then try to determine the purpose of its contents from a portion of the whole. What if we took time to read the envelope? What if, after determining the context for its writing, we started at the beginning and read to the end? Wouldn’t that make infinitely more sense? In our study, we will take this approach to Scripture. We will begin by placing our text in its historical and cultural context. We will “read the envelope.”
1. Who wrote the book of 2 Samuel?

2. To whom was it written?

3. When was it written?

4. In what style was it written?

5. What are the central themes of the book?
1 Samuel ends with the defeat of the Israelites and the deaths of Saul and Jonathan, but the news hasn’t yet reached David. In the first few chapters of 2 Samuel, we will see the transition from Saul’s reign as king to David’s rule over all Israel—and it will be a messy process.
1. Before we dive into 2 Samuel, let’s get our bearings. Review the major events of 1 Samuel by matching each event below with the correct chapter reference:

- 1 Samuel 1: Saul and the Witch of Endor
- 1 Samuel 4–5: Samuel is born
- 1 Samuel 8–10: Saul and his sons die
- 1 Samuel 15: Samuel dies
- 1 Samuel 16: Samuel anoints David
- 1 Samuel 17: David kills Goliath
- 1 Samuel 24: David spares Saul’s life
- 1 Samuel 25: Saul’s disobedience and loss of the kingdom
- 1 Samuel 28: Philistines capture the ark
- 1 Samuel 31: Saul becomes king

2. Now turn your attention to this week’s reading in 2 Samuel. Summarize what happens in each chapter in 2–3 sentences.

**Chapter 1:**

**Chapter 2:**
3. Who did David strike down (1:1)?

Why do you think he took this action against them? Look back to 1 Samuel 30:1–5 to help with your answer.

4. What is the Amalekite’s report of how Saul died?

Look back at 1 Samuel 31:4 and note how Saul actually died. Why do you think the Amalekite altered his story?

5. How did David and his men respond to the news of Saul’s death (1:12)?

“And they and wept and fasted until evening for and for his son and for the of the LORD and for the of Israel, because they had fallen by the sword.”

▶ EXPLORE
Now look at 2 Samuel 1:1–16.
6. In 1:14, what does David ask the Amalekite? Why would his question have surprised the man?


▼ APPLY

Instead of celebrating the death of Saul, a man who sought to kill David for many years, David chooses to honor him. Think of a time you had the opportunity to respond harshly about someone who mistreated you. What did you do? What should motivate us to take the “high road” in these situations?
8. To whom does David say his poem of lamentation should be taught (1:18)? Why do you think he gives this specific instruction?

9. How many times does David repeat the phrase, “How the mighty have fallen”?
Who do you think he is referring to?

10. Look up 1 Samuel 6:17. Who lived in Gath and Ashkelon?

Why do you think David did not want them to hear about Israel’s defeat (1:20)?

11. Why do you think David mentions the mountains of Gilboa (1:21)? Look back at 1 Samuel 31:8 to help with your answer.
12. Reflect on 1:22–24, focusing on how David’s lament showed what he thought and felt about Saul and Jonathan. Note your thoughts below.

13. Look up the word “extraordinary” in a dictionary and write a definition that best fits the way it is used in 1:26.

extraordinary:

In what ways do you think Jonathan’s love for David was extraordinary? Skim through 1 Samuel 18–20, 23 to help with your answer.

▼ APPLY
Think of someone who has shown you extraordinary love. How did their actions impact you? Note three specific ways. Take time to send them a note of appreciation this week, thanking them for their kindness.
14. In 2:1, where is David geographically (1:1)? Why do you think he asks God if he should go into any of the cities of Judah?

15. Look up the following verses and note why Hebron was a significant city in the Old Testament. What significance do you see in David moving his entire household from Philistia to Hebron (2:3)?

- **Genesis 13:18**
- **Genesis 23:19**
- **Genesis 25:9–10**

16. Summarize the message David gives the men of Jabesh-gilead.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DAVID'S BLESSING</th>
<th>2:5–6a</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DAVID'S PROMISE</td>
<td>2:6b</td>
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<tr>
<td>DAVID'S REQUEST</td>
<td>2:7</td>
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</table>
17. In 2:8, we are introduced to two new characters (although one was first introduced in 1 Samuel). Fill in the chart with their names and descriptions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
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18. Note the name of the region with the name of its ruler, as described in 2:8–11:

... reigned over Israel (north).

... reigned over Judah (south).

20. In the table, summarize the battle that occurs in 2:12–17.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>TOTAL PARTICIPANTS</th>
<th>WINNER</th>
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21. List the names of Zeruiah’s sons (2:18). Note how the third son is described. What connection does this family have with David? Look up 1 Chronicles 2:16 to help with your answer.
22. What did Abner say to try to deter Asahel from pursuing him (2:22)?

“Turn __________________ from following me. Why should I __________________ you to the ground? How then could I __________________ __________ to your brother Joab?”

Why do you think Asahel chose not to listen to Abner? What character trait does he demonstrate?

23. What reason does Abner give to convince Joab to stop fighting (2:26)?

24. What word do Abner and Joab use to refer to their men (2:26–27)?

How does this impact your view of the battle?
25. Summarize the results of the battle at Gibeon by filling in the chart (2:30-31).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ARMY</th>
<th>NUMBER OF MEN LOST</th>
<th>RETURNS HOME TO</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ABNER'S ARMY</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>JOAB'S ARMY</td>
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▼ APPLY

Asahel’s zeal to win glory in battle led him to disregard Abner’s warning, a mistake that proved to be fatal. When has pride or stubbornness blinded you to reason? How can we practice paying attention to the warnings of the Holy Spirit so we don’t end up in situations that are over our head?
What aspect of God’s character has this week’s passage of 2 Samuel shown you more clearly?

What one step can you take this week to better live in light of this truth?

**WRAP-UP**
See the list of attributes on the last two pages of this workbook for help answering this question.

**FILL IN THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT:**

Knowing that God is __________________________ shows me that I am __________________________.

What one step can you take this week to better live in light of this truth?
NOTES
Last week, we saw David established as King of Judah and the battle that followed between Israel and Judah. In this week’s portion of 2 Samuel, we see numerous characters work at building personal kingdoms instead of the kingdom of God, taking matters into their own human hands. And before it’s finished, David writes another lament, this time for Israel’s commander, Abner. The first four chapters of 2 Samuel demonstrate the “already/not yet” of the Davidic kingdom, similar to how we today wait for God to establish His kingdom fully.
1. Summarize what happens in each chapter in 2–3 sentences.

Chapter 3:

Chapter 4:

2. Note on the map in APPENDIX A the locations of Dan and Beersheba, referenced in 2 Samuel 3:10. What does the phrase “from Dan to Beersheba” mean to communicate?

3. How does the author describe David and the house of Saul in 3:1?

“And David grew and , while the house of Saul became and .”

Why do you think he mentions these details?
4. Fill in the chart with David’s wives and sons (vv. 2–5).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WIVES</th>
<th>SONS</th>
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These marriages may seem like a picture of David’s power and success, but as we will see later, they are the seeds for a future of family problems. Read *Genesis 2:24* and *Deuteronomy 17:17*. Note how they speak to David’s multiple marriages.

5. What does Ish-bosheth accuse Abner of doing (3:7)?
6. In your own words, summarize Abner’s response to Ish-bosheth’s accusation (3:8–10).

What do you think motivates Abner’s response?

☐ He is repenting of not supporting God’s chosen king.
☐ He is frustrated with Ish-bosheth.
☐ Self-seeking gain—he wants to be on the “winning side.”

7. What does David demand of Ish-bosheth in 3:13–16?

Why do you think he makes this specific request?

8. How receptive is David to Abner’s plan for uniting Israel? Use the text to support your answer (3:20–21).
9. What happens “just then” as Abner is leaving David’s house (3:22)?

10. Why do you think the narrator reminds us twice about the way Abner left David (3:22–23)?

“...Abner had gone ....... ”
11. What does Joab suspect about Abner’s motives (3:24–25)? Why do you think Joab feels this way?


☐ Violates David’s peace treaty of protection
☐ Rebels against David, who allowed Abner to go in peace
☐ Rightfully avenges his brother’s death

13. List the five specific curses David speaks over the house of Joab in 3:29 (“...may the house of Joab never be without...”).

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

14. While Joab claims to seek revenge for the murder of his brother, how could he have also been acting in a self-seeking way?
15. Match each man to his view of Abner’s death.

David: Righteous; Abner murdered Ashael.
Joab: Unrighteous; Abner was acting in self-defense.

Which view do you agree with? Why? Give your best answer for now, and we will cover it further in the teaching time.

▼ APPLY

While these chapters depict extreme cases of murder and deceit, how do they challenge us to examine our own hearts for self-seeking motives? In what ways are you prone to looking out for your own interests instead of the interests of others? Read Philippians 2:3–4 and note how it treats self-seeking motives.

Who does David require to join in mourning?

17. How do the people respond to David’s public mourning of Abner (3:32, 36)?

18. In verse 39, we see a contrast between David’s gentle approach and Joab’s severe approach. Look up the following verses and note what you learn about gentleness in the life of a Christian.

Matthew 5:3–12

Matthew 11:28–30

Galatians 5:22–23

James 3:17
19. Based on your answers above, who do you think David refers to as the “fool” in his lament for Abner (3:33)?

20. Why do you think it was important to David to assure Israel he had not put Abner to death (3:37–39)?

21. Who does David trust to avenge Abner’s death (3:39)?

▼ APPLY

David is the anointed king, yet he responds with gentleness instead of severity. Think of a time when you chose to set aside your position or power to act with gentleness, even when severity could have been a reasonable reaction. What was the outcome?

What are some of the obstacles that prevent us from choosing gentleness in moments of conflict?
22. How did Ish-bosheth and Israel respond to the death of Abner (4:1)?

Why do you think the narrator includes these details?

23. In 4:2, we are introduced to two new characters. Fill in the chart with their names and descriptions.

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<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
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How are these two sons of Rimmon similar to the three sons of Zeruiah we saw in chapters 2–3?
24. What is the name of Jonathan’s son (4:4)?

Why do you think the nurse “took him up and fled” when she heard the news about Saul and Jonathan?

25. What do Rechab and Baanah do immediately after they kill Ish-bosheth (4:5–8)?

Like the Amalekite in chapter 1, what do Rechab and Baanah expect to receive from David?

What do they receive instead (4:9–12)?

26. Rechab and Baanah claim to have taken vengeance on Saul for David’s sake, but who does David describe as having taken care of him (4:9)?

“As the lives, who has my life out of .”
27. David looks back and sees how God has redeemed his life out of every adversity (4:9). How does this recognition shape the way he delivers justice in the situation with Rechab and Baanah?

28. Why do you think David commands that the bodies of Rechab and Baanah be publicly displayed following their execution (4:12)?

▼ APPLY

Everyone seems eager to help David take possession of the kingdom God has promised to him, yet David is patient to wait on the Lord’s timing. What’s an example of something you’re waiting for on God’s timing, instead of taking things into your own hands?

Look up Psalm 37:7–8 and write it here. How does it encourage you?
WRAP-UP

What aspect of God’s character has this week’s passage of 2 Samuel shown you more clearly?

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

FILL IN THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT:

Knowing that God is __________________________ shows me that I am __________________________.

What one step can you take this week to better live in light of this truth?

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.
Chapter 5 begins with a united Israel following God’s appointed king. After years of disunity, betrayal and disobedience, we now see the early signs of peace ushered in by David’s anointing. As David leads God’s people, we see victory over God’s enemies, the return of God’s presence and the promise of an everlasting kingdom. This week’s passage will remind us that the fulfillment of this promise begins in and is sustained by God.
1. Summarize what happens in each chapter in 2–3 sentences.

Chapter 5:

Chapter 6:

Chapter 7:

2. List a few adjectives that describe David’s actions throughout these chapters.

3. In 5:1–2, what are the three reasons Israel gives for why David has earned the right to be their king?

READ
2 Samuel 5–7 from start to finish.

EXPLORE
Now shift your focus to 2 Samuel 5:1–25.
4. How old was David when he began to reign over all of Israel and Judah (5:4)? What was the length of his reign?

5. The Jebusites and David both talk about “the blind and the lame” in their pre-battle taunts. Who do you think the phrase refers to each time it is used?

A. THE DISABLED INHABITANTS OF JERUSALEM  
B. THE JEBUSITES  
C. DAVID

5:6  
5:8a  
5:8b

6. Skim through God’s promise to Abraham in Genesis 15:18–21, 800 years before David’s battle for Jerusalem. Whose defeat is promised at the end of verse 21?

7. What is David’s perspective of God’s involvement in his kingship (5:12)?

“And David that the LORD him king over Israel, and that he had his kingdom of his people.”
8. What important detail does the narrator mention in 5:13–16?

Based on God’s command to Israel in Deuteronomy 17:17, what emotion do you think the narrator expects us to feel when we read these verses?

9. What one preparatory action does David practice each time before he goes to fight the Philistines (5:17–22)?

What does this indicate about David’s character? How does it differ from Saul’s? Look back to 1 Samuel 13:8–15 to help you with your answer.

10. How does David’s determination to seek and do the will of God foreshadow the future ministry of Christ? Give an example of when Jesus acted similarly.
What does the ark represent for Israel (6:2)? Look back to Exodus 25:22 and Numbers 10:35–36 to help with your answer.

What does Uzzah do in 6:6? How does God respond?
How does *Numbers 4:15* help explain the seemingly severe penalty for Uzzah’s actions?

Read *1 Chronicles 15:11–13* and note what an older and wiser David recognizes as the reason for Uzzah’s death.

13. Why do you think David leaves the ark with Obed-edom (6:10)?

What motivates him to change his mind (6:12)?

14. How does David celebrate the return of the ark to the city (6:12b–19)? How does his reaction differ from Michal’s?

What is the word used to describe Michal’s feelings about David’s actions (6:16)?
Based on what we know of her story, how is her response worthy of empathy?

15. Summarize David and Michal’s conversation in 6:20–23:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>DAVID</th>
<th>MICHAL</th>
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16. Fill in the blanks below from 6:23. Why do you think the narrator includes this detail?

“And __________________ the daughter of __________________ had __________________ to the day of her ______________.”
17. In 7:1, what divine promise is being fulfilled? Look back to Deuteronomy 12:10 to help with your answer.

18. What concern does David express in 7:2? Why do you think this situation bothers him?
19. Summarize the Lord’s message to Nathan in 1–2 sentences (7:5–7).

How does God’s message contrast with Nathan’s instructions to David in 7:3?

20. Fill in the chart below, describing God’s past and promised blessings to David (7:8–10).

| WHAT GOD HAS DONE FOR DAVID | WHAT GOD WILL DO FOR DAVID |
21. In 7:12–17, we read what is known as the Davidic Covenant. The overarching story of the Bible is God’s establishment of His kingdom. Because of this, all of God’s redemptive activity can be seen as a fulfillment of the Davidic Covenant as well as the covenant He made with Abraham. These covenants center around this simple promise:

God will create a place for His people to live in His presence eternally.

How do you see these three themes expressed in the Davidic Covenant (7:12–17)?
In the Ancient Near East, it was common for a king to build a temple as a way of earning the favor of the gods. When David wants to build a temple for God, the Lord reminds David that He does not need a temple to earn His love and grace. What “temples” do you try to build in an attempt to earn the love you have already received from God?

How has God provided for you in ways that demonstrate His love is unconditional and unending?

22. How many times does David repeat each phrase in 7:18–29? 

“O Lord God” 

“your servant” 

What do you think the repetition indicates about David’s heart?
23. List every attribute of God that you can find in David’s prayer of gratitude. Use the list of attributes in Appendix B to help with your answer.

24. Who is the subject of 7:23–24?

Why do you think David chooses to highlight them in his praise to God?

25. Why do you think David asks God to confirm promises He has already said He will fulfill (7:25)?

26. Summarize David’s prayer in 1–2 sentences.
27. Where does David get the courage for his prayer to God (7:27)?

▼ APPLY
David concludes his response to God by praying the promises he just heard back to God. Do you ever pray for things that God has already promised in His Word? What specific promises could you pray back to God to cultivate trust and confidence in your heart?
What aspect of God’s character has this week’s passage of 2 Samuel shown you more clearly?

What one step can you take this week to better live in light of this truth?

**WRAP-UP**
See the list of attributes on the last two pages of this workbook for help answering this question.

**FILL IN THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT:**

Knowing that God is ___ shows me that I am ___.

What one step can you take this week to better live in light of this truth?
Last week, we saw God make a covenant with His people to establish His eternal King. David is at the height of success and favor, but the memory of Saul and his reaction to God’s blessing looms over the story. Will David follow in the ways of Saul and respond with unfaithfulness? This week, we see David’s full obedience and an initial fulfillment of God’s covenant promises. Chapters 8–10 offer us a consistent picture of David reigning over all Israel and administering justice and equity to the people.
1. Summarize what happens in each chapter in 2–3 sentences.

Chapter 8:

Chapter 9:

Chapter 10:

2. This section summarizes many of David’s victories. While it is not necessarily chronological, it serves as a thematic account of Israel’s victory over her enemies during David’s reign. Why do you think the author places this account right after the covenant in chapter 7?
3. Fill in the chart below to summarize David’s victories in 8:1–8 and 13–14.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SCRIPTURE REFERENCE</th>
<th>WHO WAS DEFEATED</th>
<th>WHAT DAVID TOOK OR LEFT BEHIND</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:1–2</td>
<td>8:2b</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:3–8</td>
<td>8:6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:13–14</td>
<td>8:14</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4. Hamath and Zobah are both Aramean city-states. Why do you think the king of Hamath sends his son to see David (8:9–10)?

Do you think he was really concerned about David’s health? Why or why not?

5. What does David do with the gold and silver he takes from the nations he defeats (8:11–12)?
6. Fill out the chart below, placing an “x” next to the promise(s) God fulfills in this passage. Note the verse(s) from chapter 8 where you see the fulfillment.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROMISES OF CHAPTER 7</th>
<th>FULFILLMENTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I will appoint a place for my people. (7:9)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I will make for you a great name. (7:10)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I will give you rest from your enemies. (7:11)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7. Read Psalm 2, written by David, and note how this psalm offers further insight into the events of 2 Samuel 8.

▼ APPLY

It is tempting to link David’s success to his obedience, rather than to God’s covenant faithfulness toward Israel. What are successes or blessings you’ve enjoyed that you felt were deserved because of your obedience? How would your relationship with God change if you were to view them as gifts of grace?
8. Read **8:15** in both the ESV and the NIV. Fill in the chart with the two words from each, describing David’s reign. Use a dictionary or thesaurus to look up several synonyms that would fit the context.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>DAVID’S REIGN</th>
<th>SYNONYMS BEFITTING THE CONTEXT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ESV</strong></td>
<td>(noun)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ESV</strong></td>
<td>(noun)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NIV</strong></td>
<td>(adjective)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NIV</strong></td>
<td>(adjective)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9. In contrast to what you wrote above, how would you describe Saul’s reign?

   Saul reigned with __________ and __________.

   How does David’s reign differ from Saul’s?

10. Read **Psalm 72**. How does this kingly prayer give us insight into what it looks like to lead the way David is described in **8:15**?
11. **In 8:16–18**, we’re given a list of David’s high-ranking leaders. Fill in the chart with their names, descriptions and roles.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>SON OF...</th>
<th>ROLE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

12. The Cherethites and Pelethites are thought to have been Philistine mercenaries who fought for Israel. What other important detail does the narrator mention about them in 8:18?

This same information appears in 1 Chronicles 18:17. Look up this passage and note how it deepens your understanding of the roles of David’s sons.
13. Look back to 1 Samuel 20:12–17. What is the covenant David made with Jonathan that prompts him to ask the question in 2 Samuel 9:1?

14. Who is Mephibosheth in relation to the following people?

   **Jonathan:**

   **Saul:**

15. Look back to 2 Samuel 4:4. How did Mephibosheth become lame?
What do you think he was considered by David? Check all that apply.

☐ An enemy of the kingdom
☐ The son of his best friend

16. How does Mephibosheth respond to David in 9:6? Why do you think David tells him not to fear?

17. Contrast the way Mephibosheth refers to himself with the way David treats him.

18. What does 9:13 emphasize about Mephibosheth’s life? Why do you think these details are significant? Give your best answer for now, and we will discuss it further in the teaching time.

▼ APPLY

David remembers his covenant with Jonathan as a result of God showing covenant kindness to him (chapter 7). How has God demonstrated His promise-keeping kindness to you? How does the memory of His kindness affect the way you treat others?
19. What do you think David intends by sending servants to Hanun (10:1–2)?

20. How do the Ammonites respond to David’s kindness? What specifically do they do to his messengers (10:3–4)? Why do you think this made them “greatly ashamed” (10:5)?

21. Fill out the chart by describing who the Ammonites hired to protect them against David (10:6–7).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NATION</th>
<th>NUMBER OF SOLDIERS/MEN</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

22. Summarize Joab’s plan of attack in two or three sentences (10:9–12).
Circle the word(s) that best describes Joab’s belief in God in 10:12. Explain your choice.

CONFIDENT   UNCERTAIN

23. In your own words, summarize the battles between Israel, the Syrians and the Ammonites by filling in the chart.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RESULT OF THE FIRST BATTLE</th>
<th>REASONS SYRIANS RETALIATED</th>
<th>RESULT OF THE SECOND ISRAEL/SYRIA BATTLE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10:13–14</td>
<td>10:15–16</td>
<td>10:17–18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

24. What additional detail does the narrator include at the end of 10:19? Note what this teaches us about David’s reign and the status of Israel at this point in history.
Joab communicates his faith in the Lord, submitting to whatever outcome God decides for the battle. He trusts and he acts. How do you tend to handle situations of uncertainty? What could you do to practice being more intentional about trusting God and acting with wisdom in situations you don't fully understand?
What aspect of God’s character has this week’s passage of 2 Samuel shown you more clearly?

★

Knowing that God is  shows me that I am .

What one step can you take this week to better live in light of this truth?

★★
You Are the Man

2 Samuel 11–12

Last week, we saw an obedient David who reigned over Israel with righteousness. He looks like the king Israel had been waiting for. This week, we will come face-to-face with David’s flawed nature. Though the king has spent his reign administering justice and equity to everyone, the “man after God’s own heart” is far from perfect. We will dive into the reality of David’s sin, and there we will find God’s commitment to justice and mercy, His requirement of confession and His care for the vulnerable. These two chapters make it abundantly clear that David is not king by his own merit, but by God’s grace.
1. Summarize what happens in each chapter in 2–3 sentences.

**Chapter 11:**

**Chapter 12:**

2. Throughout Scripture, God’s discipline and grace are often seen in tandem. In the space below, note examples of each in **chapters 11–12**:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GOD’S DISCIPLINE</th>
<th>GOD’S GRACE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3. Chapter 11 opens with a change in the seasons. According to 11:1, what typically happens in spring? Where is David this particular spring?

4. What is the woman doing when David notices her (11:2)? Look at 11:4. Why is she doing this particular activity? Look up Leviticus 15:19–30 to help with your answer.

5. How does 11:2 describe the woman? What does this observation imply about David’s gaze? Is it more likely that he was self-disciplined and looked away or self-indulgent and let his eyes linger?
6. Fill in the blanks in 11:3.

“And David __________ and __________ about the woman. And one said, ‘Is not this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the __________ of __________ the __________?”

How do you think the information David learns about Bathsheba affects his decision in 11:4?

7. Use the chart to trace the progression of David’s actions in 11:1–4. Then look up Genesis 3:1–4 and fill in the chart with Eve’s progression at the tree in the Garden of Eden.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STEP ONE</th>
<th>STEP TWO</th>
<th>STEP THREE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>[Eve] _________ the tree was good for food. GENESIS 3:6a</td>
<td>She _________ of its fruit. GENESIS 3:6b</td>
<td>She took of its fruit and _________. GENESIS 3:6b</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David _________ a beautiful woman bathing. 2 SAMUEL 11:2</td>
<td>David sent messengers and _________ her. 2 SAMUEL 11:4</td>
<td>And David _________ with her. 2 SAMUEL 11:4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
8. Read 11:4 one more time. Who is in control of the events? Does the description of how Bathsheba made her way to the palace lead you to believe that she had any choice in the matter? Explain your answer.

▼ APPLY

David abuses his power to get what he wants. What are some ways you see power being exploited to abuse vulnerable people in our world? How have you practiced the pattern of seeing, desiring, taking and consuming, if perhaps in smaller ways? What effect does it have on your spiritual life? On those around you?
9. In 11:5–6, what news does Bathsheba send to David? What is his reaction?

What does this expose about David’s fears and priorities?

10. Summarize David’s first three schemes to keep his adultery a secret. For each, note what David hopes his plan will lead Uriah to do.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUMMARY</th>
<th>DESIRED OUTCOME</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>SCHEME 1</strong>&lt;br&gt;11:6–9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SCHEME 2</strong>&lt;br&gt;11:12–13</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SCHEME 3</strong>&lt;br&gt;11:14–15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

11. Between David’s first and second schemes, what does he ask Uriah (11:10)?
What two explanations does Uriah give for his behavior (11:11)?

Does Uriah’s loyalty affect King David? How would you have expected God’s chosen king to react to Uriah’s honorable answer?

12. What message does David send to Joab (11:15)? What motivates his words?

13. After Joab fulfills David’s orders, he sends a messenger to give the king a report. Compare the response Joab expects from David with his actual response.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DAVID’S EXPECTED RESPONSE</th>
<th>DAVID’S ACTUAL RESPONSE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11:17–21</td>
<td>11:22–25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Why do you think David responds this way?
14. **Chapter 11** paints a vivid picture of how sin begets more sin. List every sin you see David commit in the chapter.

What does God think about all that has transpired from the beginning of this chapter (11:27)?

**APPLY**

*David operates as though God will not see his sin, but the last verse of the chapter reminds us that He does. Look back at 1 Samuel 16:7 and write its final sentence.*

In what areas of your life are you prone to forget the ever-seeing eyes of the Lord? Think about your relationship to things like food, money, music/entertainment, leisure, family, work and church. What actions and motives of the heart do you need to confess and turn away from?
15. David’s actions controlled the story in 2 Samuel 11. Whose actions control the story throughout chapter 12?

16. Summarize the story Nathan tells David in one or two sentences (12:1–4).

17. Nathan’s story provokes David to utter outrage. What does David believe the man deserves (12:5)? What does he say the man lacked (12:6)?

18. Look up the word “pity” in a dictionary and write the definition that you think best matches the context of 12:6.
19. To drive home David’s pitiless behavior, God speaks through Nathan to remind the king of the Lord’s generosity to him. Complete the chart by noting God’s generosity to David.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GOD’S ACTION</th>
<th>WHAT DAVID RECEIVED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I anointed you (12:7)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I delivered you (12:7)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I gave you (12:8)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I would add to you (12:8)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

20. What two things does God say David “despised” in 12:9–10? Compare your answer to God’s words to Eli the priest in 1 Samuel 2:30.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Consequences David Will Receive</th>
<th>Consequences David Will Avoid</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

22. How does David respond to Nathan’s prophetic words (12:13)?

What does this short statement reveal about David?

▼ APPLY

The Lord forces David to confront and confess his sins. Better than having a “Nathan” show up unannounced is to invite one to hold you accountable (James 5:16). How and with whom have you cultivated a habit of confession in your own life? What does it look like practically?
23. What does David do when he hears that his child is sick (12:15–20)?

24. How does David respond when he learns the child has died (12:19–20)?

Why do you think his servants question his behavior (12:21)?


What one word would you use to describe David’s mood in these verses?
26. Read 12:24–25. Who is the “him” mentioned at the end of verse 24? Read the footnote on the name “Jedidiah” to help with your answer.

27. Describe the event that takes place in 12:26–31.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Who is Joab fighting against?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What does Joab take from them?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Who does Joab tell to take the city?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What does David take from the city?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What happens to the people of the city?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

28. David wrote Psalm 51 after God sent Nathan to confront him. Read through the psalm and note what it adds to your understanding of David’s reaction to the events of 2 Samuel 11–12.
Despite his grievous sin, David’s default assumption about God’s character is that He is generous with His grace. So he confesses and pleads with the Lord.

What is your default assumption about God’s character?

How does that assumption strengthen your relationship with Him? In what ways does it hinder your relationship with Him?
What aspect of God’s character has this week’s passage of 2 Samuel shown you more clearly?

\[\text{\textbf{\#}} \]

\[\text{\textbf{\#}} \]

FILL IN THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT:

Knowing that God is \[\text{\textbf{\#}} \] shows me that I am \[\text{\textbf{\#}} \].

What one step can you take this week to better live in light of this truth?

\[\text{\textbf{\#}} \]

\[\text{\textbf{\#}} \]
NOTES
Last week, we watched disaster compound as David followed one sin after another. Lust, lies and murder overcame the man after God’s own heart, but in the midst of evil, God’s grace and justice continued to reign. This week, the story goes from bad to worse as we see the divine discipline Nathan prophesied begin to spark in the life of David. Sexual sin, a lack of wisdom and anger find their way into the royal line. But chaos won’t eclipse the love of God or His sovereign rule.
1. Summarize what happens in each chapter in 2–3 sentences.

Chapter 13:

Chapter 14:

Chapter 15:

2. Match each new major character introduced in these chapters to the description that fits them.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Character</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tamar</td>
<td>Crafty and callous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amnon</td>
<td>Faithful and forgotten</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jonadab</td>
<td>Avenging and arrogant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Absalom</td>
<td>Lustful but loveless</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Next to each character’s name, note a +, – or N depending on whether you think the author wants you to view that character in a positive, negative or neutral light.
3. Look at 13:1–2. What kind of “love” for Tamar has captivated Amnon? Circle the answer that best fits the description of Amnon’s feeling toward Tamar.

- Sibling Love
- Romantic Love
- Lust

How does the text describe the intensity of Amnon’s feelings for Tamar (13:2–4)?

4. Who concocts the plan for Amnon to be alone with Tamar? How is he described (13:3)?

Summarize the plan (13:4–5).

5. When Tamar arrives at Amnon’s house, what does she begin to do (13:8–9)?
Does this seem like the work of a princess? What does Tamar’s willingness to do these things for her (presumably) sick brother tell us about her character?


“But when she brought them __________ to eat, he __________ of __________ and said to her, ‘Come, __________ with __________, my sister.’”

7. Fill in the chart with the three reasons and alternative option Tamar gives to Amnon as she pleads for her release in 13:12–13.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REASONS TO STOP</th>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ALTERNATIVE OPTION</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
8. How does Amnon respond to Tamar’s plea (13:14)?

“But he _______________ to her, and being _______________ than she, he _______________ her and lay with her.”

Look up 13:14 in the NIV. What word does it use in place of “violated,” which appears in the ESV?

▼ APPLY

David’s son observes, internalizes and acts upon his father’s attitude and behavior toward women. Like David, our behaviors and attitudes teach as much as (if not more than) our words. What negative example from your upbringing impacted your thoughts and actions as an adult? How has the Spirit redeemed it for good?

Give a positive example that impacted you as an adult. What could you do to thank the person who modeled godliness for you?
9. What noticeable change in Amnon takes place after he violates his half-sister, Tamar (13:15)?

What does he command his servant to do with Tamar (13:15–17)?

How does Tamar respond?

10. In the chart below, summarize Tamar’s and Absalom’s reactions to the events.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TAMAR’S REACTION</th>
<th>ABSALOM’S REACTION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
11. Look up Leviticus 18:9, 11; 20:17 and Deuteronomy 27:22. (Note that these laws refer only to incest; Amnon has also committed the crime of rape.) How does this impact your view of David’s reaction to Amnon’s behavior?

Summarize the events that bring Absalom his revenge in 13:23–29.

12. What two reports does David receive about Absalom’s actions?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FIRST REPORT</th>
<th>SECOND REPORT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13:30</td>
<td>13:32–35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FROM</td>
<td>FROM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

13. Match David’s response to the “loss” of his two sons. Why do you think the author mentions these details?

Amnon: mourned over
Absalom: was comforted about
14. Whose previous actions might have inspired Joab the woman of Tekoa’s charade? Look back to 2 Samuel 12:1–6 to help you with your answer.

15. In two or three sentences, summarize the story the woman of Tekoa tells David (14:4–7).
16. Why do you think the woman of Tekoa is so persistent with David (14:8–11)?

What does the woman accuse David of in 14:12–14?

Is David tricked by Joab and Tekoa’s manipulation (14:18–19)?

17. What are the conditions of Absalom’s return to Jerusalem (14:23–24)? How do you think they affected David and Absalom’s relationship?

18. In 14:25–27, we are given a description of Absalom. Why do you think the narrator includes it? Look back at 1 Samuel 9:2 and 10:23–24 to help with your answer.
19. How does Absalom finally gain an audience with his father, the king (14:28–33)? What do his tactics reveal about his character?

▼ APPLY

Absalom is volatility and violence cloaked in attractiveness. His beauty is a form of personal power. Like the people of Israel, we can be deceived into caring more about the appearance of our leaders than the state of their hearts. Besides physical beauty, what are some characteristics that can distract us from rightly evaluating a leader?

Like Absalom, what forms of personal power do you lean on to gain influence or leverage leadership, instead of simply acting from personal character?
20. Read through 15:1–6, and mark each one True or False:

- The people expected to have an audience with the king.
- Absalom was known for giving out just judgments.
- Absalom misled the people by telling them the king was unconcerned with hearing their dispute.
- Absalom made it clear to the people that he was loyal to the king.

21. What explanation did Absalom give David for his request to leave Jerusalem? What was his real reason (15:7–12)?

22. How does David respond to the message he receives in 15:14?

“Arise, and let us ____________, or else there will be no ________________ for us from ________________.”

Who does David take with him?

How do you think Ittai’s comments in 15:21 might have impacted David in this moment?
23. What does David command Zadok to do with the ark (15:25)?

What does this tell us about David’s belief in God (15:25–26)?

24. David submits himself to the hands of God, but that doesn’t keep him from taking action. Summarize the plans he puts into place in 15:27–37.

25. Read back through 15:13–37 and record the number of times David is referred to as “the king.”

Look back through chapter 15. In what ways is David acting like a king? In what ways is he failing to do so?
For the second time in his story, David flees for his life. But this time, his flight occurs as a result of his own sin instead of someone else's. God can teach us through both adversity we bring upon ourselves and that which we face through no fault of our own. How should this shape our trust in God, even when our circumstances are bleak? In what ways should it strengthen your hope in Him today?
What aspect of God’s character has this week’s passage of 2 Samuel shown you more clearly?

\[\text{\textcopyright{WRAP-UP}}\]

See the list of attributes on the last two pages of this workbook for help answering this question.

\[\text{\textcopyright{FILL IN THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT:}}\]

Knowing that God is shows me that I am

What one step can you take this week to better live in light of this truth?
Last week, we began to witness the fallout of David’s egregious sin. Rape and murder start to unravel his family as his own son stages a revolt. This week, we witness Absalom vie for the throne against his own father. He counts the Israelites, some of the king’s advisors and the city of Jerusalem as advantages against David, but he lacks the only advantage that matters—God working for his good. In the end, that will make the difference, and God will prove once again that He is the Ruler of His people and Controller of the kingship.
1. Summarize what happens in each chapter in 2–3 sentences.

Chapter 16:

Chapter 17:

Chapter 18:

2. Look back through chapters 16–18 and make a list of the people, both major and minor, who remain faithful to God’s anointed king no matter the risk.

3. Look back to 2 Samuel 9:1–13 and note what David gives Mephibosheth. Why do you think David subsequently takes it away from him and gives it to Ziba in 16:4?
4. In 16:5–8, we meet Shimei. What two things does Shimei continually hurl at David? What motivates his abuse?

5. How does David respond to Shimei (16:9–14)? Why?

What aspect of God’s character does David’s response show confidence in? (Use the list of attributes in Appendix B to help with your answer.)

6. How does Hushai greet Absalom when he enters Jerusalem (16:16)?

“Long live ______________ !
Long live ______________ !”

To whom does Absalom believe Hushai is pledging his loyalty?

To whom is he actually pledging his loyalty? (Look back at 15:32–37 to help with your answer.)
7. What action does Ahithophel recommend to Absalom (16:21)? Do you think this was standard behavior for a king who was overthrowing a previous monarch? Give your best answer, and we will discuss it further in the teaching time.

8. At face value, Absalom’s actions in 16:21–23 are clearly reprehensible. Compare Leviticus 18:7–8 and note how it adds to your understanding of his behavior and motive and the value of Ahithophel’s advice.

▼ APPLY
Acting as a secret agent required Hushai to bear great risk, but he faithfully obeys David and fully commits to the instructions of the anointed king. What commands of our anointed King, Jesus, seem risky to you? What keeps you from fully committing to His instructions the way Hushai committed to David’s?
9. Ahithophel is not done advising Absalom. Fill in the outline with Ahithophel’s methodical four-step plan for dealing the final blow to David’s kingship.

**STEP ONE (17:1)**

**STEP TWO (17:2a)**

**STEP THREE (17:2b)**

**STEP FOUR (17:3)**

10. Ahithophel has a four-step plan, but Hushai cleverly implements four different techniques to undermine it. Put a **✓** in the box, representing how Hushai appeals to Absalom in order to ignore Ahithophel and take his advice instead.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>APPEALS TO ABSALOM’S…</strong></th>
<th>CAUTION</th>
<th>VENGEANCE</th>
<th>LOGIC</th>
<th>VANITY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Your father is a warrior.</em> <em>(17:8–9a)</em></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>A bad report could cause panic among the people.</em> <em>(17:9b–10)</em></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>You lead the great army yourself.</em> <em>(17:11)</em></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Get rid of David’s supporters with him.</em> <em>(17:12–13)</em></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
11. In 17:14b, the narrator pauses the story to insert a comment. Rewrite it in your own words.

What does it imply about the outcome of Hushai’s plan and Absalom’s future?

12. Summarize the events of 17:15–21 in one or two sentences.

What act of female bravery do we read in these verses? What other well-known woman in the Old Testament shares a similar story?

13. What does Ahithophel do after he learns his counsel was not followed by Absalom (17:23)?

Why do you think he takes the action he does?
14. David wrote **Psalm 3** and **Psalm 63** while he was fleeing from Absalom. Look up the two psalms and fill in the chart.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>WHAT YOU LEARN ABOUT DAVID</strong></th>
<th><strong>DAVID'S BELIEFS ABOUT GOD</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Psalm 3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psalm 63</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**▼ APPLY**

We are reminded by the narrator that much of God’s work is done behind the scenes. Think back over your relationship with God and recount some of the times that God’s work in your life was more hidden than obvious.

When God’s hand is unseen in our circumstances, what character traits does He develop in us that we might not develop otherwise?
15. Inevitably, the armies of David and Absalom go to battle. Look back through chapter 17 and re-read 18:1–6. List the advantages you see for each army.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DAVID’S ADVANTAGES</th>
<th>ABSALOM’S ADVANTAGES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

16. How do David’s men respond to his plans to lead them into battle (18:3)?

“You shall ___________ __________ out. For if we flee, they will not care about us. If half of us die, they will not care about us. But you are worth ___________ ________________ of us. Therefore it is ___________ that you send us help from the city.”

17. Whose army is denoted by the name “Israel” in 18:6?

How many men did Israel lose (18:7–8)?

18. In 18:9, what happens to Absalom? Note specifically the nature of his “hangup.”

What is ironic about this? Look back at 14:25–26 to help with your answer.
19. What is David’s final command to his army before they left for battle (18:5)?

In light of Absalom’s rebellion, why do you think David makes this request?

20. Contrast the ways David’s command is regarded by Joab and the man who reports to him about Absalom’s predicament (18:10–14).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>THE MAN’S RESPONSE</th>
<th>JOAB’S RESPONSE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

21. We will discuss it further in the teaching time, but what do you think about David’s command to take it easy on Absalom? What do you think of Joab’s decision to purposely ignore that command? Should Absalom have received justice or mercy?
**Apply**

It appears Absalom has the upper hand, but despite his strong army, he doesn’t have God on his side. Every believer possesses the same benefit as David—the indwelling of the Spirit of God. Do you think of God as your greatest possession? What worldly things make you feel more powerful or capable than the very Spirit of God?

**Explore**

Now shift your focus to 2 Samuel 18:16–33.

22. What does David’s army do with Absalom’s body (18:17)? Why do you think the detail in 18:18 is included?

23. Why does Joab refuse to send Ahimaaz to bring the news of Absalom’s death to David (18:19–23)? Revisit 1:11–16 to help with your answer.
24. When David asks Ahimaaz about Absalom, how does Ahimaaz respond (18:29)? Do you think Ahimaaz gives a truthful answer? Why or why not?

25. What is David’s reaction to hearing of his victory in battle and of the loss of Absalom (18:33)?

Clearly, grief motivates David’s response, but what else likely contributes to it?

26. How have chapters 16–18 fulfilled God’s words to David through the prophet Nathan in 12:10–12? In what ways have we seen this declaration of discipline come to fruition?

▼ APPLY

With the death of Absalom, David grieves the consequences of his own sin. In what ways have you seen your sin negatively affect your own life? How can these instances of “severe mercy” motivate us to grieve our own sin and walk in righteousness?
What aspect of God’s character has this week’s passage of 2 Samuel shown you more clearly?

\[ \begin{align*}
&\underline{\text{WRAP-UP}} \\
&\text{See the list of attributes on the last two pages of this workbook for help answering this question.}
\end{align*} \]

\[ \begin{align*}
&\underline{\text{FILL IN THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT:}} \\
&\text{Knowing that God is } \_\_\_\_\_\_\text{ shows me that I am } \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
\end{align*} \]

What one step can you take this week to better live in light of this truth?

\[ \begin{align*}
&\underline{\text{WRAP-UP}} \\
&\text{See the list of attributes on the last two pages of this workbook for help answering this question.}
\end{align*} \]
Absalom’s rebellion has ended in his death. Chapters 19 and 20 show that sometimes a victory can feel like a loss. The son who betrayed his father and king has died. David must face his own grief and work to restore a divided kingdom. This week, the king begins the work of rebuilding, which is no easy task. Though David is restored to the throne in Jerusalem, the shadow of his past sin continues to loom over his life. Yet the quiet hope of God’s covenant promise to establish an enduring kingdom remains.
1. Summarize what happens in each chapter in 2–3 sentences.

Chapter 19:

Chapter 20:

2. Match each character in these chapters with the description that fits them.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Character</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Absalom</td>
<td>Trusted advisor to David</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David</td>
<td>Son of Saul</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joab</td>
<td>Leads a rebellion against David</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amasa</td>
<td>Rebellious son of David</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shimei</td>
<td>A wealthy friend of David</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abishai</td>
<td>King of Israel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mephibosheth</td>
<td>General who replaces Joab</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barzillai</td>
<td>General who replaces Amasa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheba</td>
<td>Cursed David</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Next to each character’s name, note a +, – or N depending on whether you think the author wants you to view that character in a positive, negative or neutral light.

4. Summarize Joab’s warnings to David in one or two sentences (19:5–7).

5. Why should David be concerned about the morale of Israel? What effect would it have on David’s ability to rebuild the nation?
6. Why do you think the people of Israel were arguing in 19:9–10? Answer the questions below to outline their main concerns.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Answer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Who was the king who saved them from the hand of their enemies (19:9)?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Who was the new king they anointed (19:10)?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What happened to the king they anointed (19:10)?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What do the people want their previous king to do (19:10)?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7. Absalom’s rebellion began in Judah. Why do you think the elders of Judah were the last to welcome David back as king (19:11)?

8. What line of reasoning does David use to appeal to the elders of Judah for his return (19:12)?

   "You are my __________; you are my __________ and my __________." 

   Note specifically what is offered to Amasa (19:13b):

   "________________ of __________ from now on in place of __________."
9. How do the men of Judah respond to David’s appeal (19:14)?

What makes David’s generosity to Judah a wise political move?

▼ APPLY

David assures the people of Judah that, though they had formerly rebelled against him, now they were accepted by him. This is the story of the Christian life. Write out Colossians 1:21–23.

How should the truth that you are reconciled to God through Christ spur you toward a more mature faith?
10. In 2 Samuel 19:16–40, David encounters three subjects of his kingdom: Shimei, Mephibosheth and Barzillai. Fill in the tables below with the details of each encounter.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tribe/Location</th>
<th>Past Situation</th>
<th>Present Situation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shimei</td>
<td>16:5–13</td>
<td>19:16–23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speech to David</td>
<td>19:19–20</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speech to David</td>
<td>19:26–28, 30</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speech to David</td>
<td>19:34–37</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
11. Based on what you learned about each person, compare and contrast the character of Shimei, Mephibosheth and Barzillai.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CHARACTER SIMILARITIES</th>
<th>CHARACTER DIFFERENCES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**APPLY**

As King David is being restored to his kingdom, he extends grace and mercy to those who have wronged him. Consider the relationships in your life. Who has wronged you and needs to have grace and mercy extended to them? Write their name(s) below along with one step you can take this week to move toward restoration.
12. Summarize in your own words the conversation between David, the men of Israel and the men of Judah in 19:41–43.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Men of Israel to David (19:41)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Men of Judah respond to the men of Israel (19:42)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men of Israel respond to the men of Judah (19:43)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

13. What word is used to describe Sheba in 20:1?

What message does he proclaim to the people?

Who responds to it (20:2)?

14. What is David’s first action after returning to Jerusalem (20:3)?

Based on the earlier accounts of what happened to these women (15:16 and 16:20–22), why do you think the narrator includes this final detail about them?
15. What instructions does David give to Amasa in 20:4?

Why does David then give Abishai, Joab’s brother and military officer, those same instructions in 20:5?

16. What happens when Amasa and Joab meet (20:8–10)? Why?

17. List the two other people Joab has killed in 2 Samuel. What do these events indicate about his character?

2 Samuel 3:27–28

2 Samuel 18:14–15

Why is Joab’s assault on Amasa especially cold-blooded? Look at 1 Chronicles 2:16–17 to help with your answer.
18. How does Joab's young man treat Amasa's body (20:11-13)?

**APPLY**

Joab's life proves it is possible to acknowledge the sovereignty of the king while disregarding his will. Think about your own life. God's will for our lives is that we would be holy (1 Thess. 4:3). In what ways are you prone to acknowledge God's sovereignty while neglecting holiness in your thoughts, words or deeds? How can you move toward wholehearted obedience?

**EXPLORE**

19. Where do Sheba and his men run (20:14)?

Now look at 2 Samuel 20:14-26. What military technique do Joab and his men use to draw them out (20:15)?
20. The people of Abel of Beth-maacah are caught in the conflict. Fill in the chart, describing the negotiation they have with Joab.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Who initiates the negotiation (20:16)?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>How is she described (20:16, 19)?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How does she describe her city (20:19)?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What reason does she give to convince Joab to spare her city (20:19)?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

21. What is the agreement Joab makes with the wise woman?

Considering his previous lack of mercy with his opponents, how are his comments in 20:20 ironic?
22. Compare Absalom’s rebellion to Sheba’s.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SIMILARITIES</th>
<th>DIFFERENCES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

23. Look up Ecclesiastes 9:13-16. What insight do Solomon’s words provide about the wise woman’s actions in 2 Samuel 20:14-22?
24. List each name/role of the members of David’s command (20:23–26).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>ROLE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>1.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>2.</td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>3.</td>
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<td>4.</td>
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<td>5.</td>
<td>5.</td>
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<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>6.</td>
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<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>7.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>8.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

▼ APPLY

Read 2 Samuel 7:8–14. How do you think God’s unconditional promise to establish a kingdom that will endure forever brought hope to a weary King David?

How should it bring hope to the present-day Church?

How should it bring hope to you in your present circumstances?
What aspect of God’s character has this week’s passage of 2 Samuel shown you more clearly?

What one step can you take this week to better live in light of this truth?

**FILL IN THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT:**

Knowing that God is shows me that I am .

What one step can you take this week to better live in light of this truth?
10

God’s Sovereign Ways

2 Samuel 21–24

Chapters 21–24 form the epilogue (or conclusion) for both 1 and 2 Samuel. Although it is not in chronological order, this curated wrap-up surveys God’s kingdom under the rule of David. It reminds the reader that David, a man after God’s own heart, sought the Lord in difficulty, looked to Him for salvation and repented when he sinned. He was an imperfect king who put his hope in a perfect God. The four-chapter epilogue looks back to the folly of Saul and forward to the future of God’s kingdom beyond David.
1. Summarize what happens in each chapter in 2–3 sentences.

Chapter 21:

Chapter 22:

Chapter 23:

Chapter 24:
2. The epilogue is artfully constructed in a parallel form known as a “chiasm,” with paired sections placed in layers. Choose one of the three general descriptions and write it next to the section of text it best describes. You will use each general description twice.

DEEDS OF MIGHTY MEN

WORDS OF DAVID

DELIVERANCE FROM NATURAL DISASTER

CHIastic Structure of the Epilogue to Samuel

A. 21:1–14

B. 21:15–22

C. 22:1–51

C’. 23:1–7

B’. 23:8–39

A’. 24:1–25
3. Plagued by famine, David consults the Lord for help. What reason does God reveal for the famine (21:1–2)?

Read *Joshua* 9:1–20 and fill in the blanks to describe the original agreement that was made with the Gibeonites (9:20).

“This we will do to them [the Gibeonites]: let them ________________, lest ________________ be upon us, because of the ________________ that we swore to them.”

How does this history from the time of Joshua clarify the nature of Saul’s guilt?

4. David offers to make atonement for the injustice done to the Gibeonites (21:3). Look up the word “atonement” in a dictionary or thesaurus. Write a definition for it that best fits the way it is used in the passage.

*atonsentment:*

5. How do the Gibeonites respond to David’s request (21:4–6)?

They DO NOT want ________________.

They DO want ________________.

Do you think this is a fitting punishment for Saul’s sin against the Gibeonites? Why or why not?
6. Why does David spare the life of Mephibosheth in 21:7? What aspect of David’s character does this highlight?

7. What mothers lose their sons because they are offered as an atonement? How many sons does each lose (21:8–9)?
   1.
   2.

8. What memory from his past does Rizpah’s grief trigger for David (21:10–14)?

   Why do you think his subsequent actions resulted in God responding “to the plea for the land” (21:14)?

How does this passage relate to the promise God made to David in 2 Samuel 5:19?

▼ APPLY

This passage reminds us of the danger of covenant breaking, the wrath of God and the horror of atonement. Consider the costly atonement Christ paid on the cross for your sins. Meditate on Romans 5:9–11.

Then compare 5:11 in the ESV and KJV.

Write a prayer of gratitude for all that Christ’s atonement has accomplished on your behalf.

More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

ROMANS 5:11 (ESV)

And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement.

ROMANS 5:11 (KJV)
10. David likely wrote this psalm toward the end of his life, surveying the great deliverance that God provided for him time and time again. As we study it, keep in mind that it is poetry, and David uses artistic language to describe God’s intervening work in his life. Consider how placing a sizable poetic prayer at the end of the book makes sense literarily. Look back at the beginning of the book of 1 Samuel 2:1–10 to refresh your memory.

Fill out the chart to summarize David’s song of deliverance.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>THEME</th>
<th>VERSES</th>
<th>QUESTION</th>
<th>RESPONSE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GOD’S CHARACTER</td>
<td>22:3–4</td>
<td>What titles does David use to praise God?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAVID’S CIRCUMSTANCE</td>
<td>22:5–7</td>
<td>Summarize David’s circumstances in your own words.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GOD’S RESPONSE</td>
<td>22:8–20</td>
<td>What attribute(s) of God do you see on display in the poetic imagery of these verses?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAVID’S RESPONSE</td>
<td>22:21–30</td>
<td>What is David’s response to God’s deliverance in his life?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GOD’S PROVISION</td>
<td>22:31–46</td>
<td>Describe the specific provision of God for David and his kingdom that is celebrated.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GOD’S CHARACTER</td>
<td>22:47–51</td>
<td>David praises God for showing steadfast love to His “anointed.” How are these verses true of both David and Christ?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
11. In 23:1, the narrator begins by introducing himself as the writer. List the other titles that are given to David in this verse.
12. Recall God’s covenant promise from our week 4 homework on the Davidic Covenant.

God will create a place for His people to live in His presence eternally.

How do you see the three elements of this promise expressed in David’s last words (23:1–5)?

13. How do David’s last words point forward to Christ, Israel’s true King?
14. David’s mighty men are given a space of honor and recognition in 23:8–39. Summarize their military exploits by matching each name with the corresponding description.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eleazar</td>
<td>In charge of David’s bodyguards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shammah</td>
<td>Abandoned; fought Philistines alone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abishai</td>
<td>Leader of the Three, killed 300 men</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benaiah</td>
<td>Chief of the officers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Josheb-basshebeth,</td>
<td>Fought until his hand stuck</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the Tahchemonite</td>
<td>to his sword</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

15. Despite the long list of David’s mighty men, who ultimately receives the credit for their battle victories (23:10, 12)?

How do you think David’s words in 22:1–51 support this truth?

16. Name the person listed last in the hall of fame for David’s warriors (23:39).

Why do you think he is included in this list?
God could have subdued Israel’s enemies with a word. Though He is capable of winning every battle without our contributions, why do you think He chooses to work through us instead?

What current battle with sin, fear or doubt are you facing?

What obedient act is God calling you to do to subdue your enemy by the power of His Spirit?

17. Place the following events of chapter 24 in sequential order.

A census is taken.
The Lord responds to the prayer of David.
David chooses the consequence.
David builds an altar and offers sacrifices.
David buys land from Araunah the Jebusite.
The Lord sends a plague.
David intercedes for Israel.
Joab tries to dissuade King David from taking the census.
The anger of the Lord is incited against David.
18. Throughout the Old Testament, God commands Israel to take a census at various times. We aren’t given the particular reason for David’s conviction in 24:10 after conducting his own census. Taking into account the numbers of the people in his kingdom, how do you think David sinned? (Hint: Consider the theme of 1 Samuel 16:7b.)

19. Take a closer look at the events of 24:11–17. What do we learn about:

The faith of David (24:11–14)?

The consequence of sin (24:15–17)?

The mercy of God (24:16)?

The heart of David (24:17)?

20. What does Gad the Seer tell David to do in order to save the people of Israel (24:18)?

Where does he tell David to go to fulfill this command?

Why is this location significant? Look up 2 Chronicles 3:1 to help with your answer.
21. Why does David insist on buying the threshing floor from Araunah (24:24)? What insight does this provide into David’s relationship with the Lord?

▼ APPLY

David, the king of Israel, purchases the future site of the temple at great cost, offering an atoning sacrifice there to turn God’s wrath from His people. Christ, the true King of Israel, does a similar and better work. Look up 1 Corinthians 6:19–20 and fill in the blanks. How will you use your body this week as an instrument of righteousness? Note a specific way you can do so with: your hands (what you do), your eyes (what/who you see), your mouth (what you say), your ears (what you listen to) and your feet (where you go).

“Or do you not know that is a of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were with a. So glorify God in your body.”

HANDS:


EYES:


MOUTH:


EARS:


FEET:
What aspect of God’s character has this week’s passage of 2 Samuel shown you more clearly?

Knowing that God is shows me that I am .

What one step can you take this week to better live in light of this truth?

WRAP-UP
See the list of attributes on the last two pages of this workbook for help answering this question.
For 11 weeks, you have had the rich blessing of learning from the life of King David through the book of 2 Samuel. Take some time to reflect on what you will take away from this study. Set aside time this week to read your chapter summaries and skim through the entire book. Pay special attention to what stands out most in your mind from your semester in these 24 chapters describing the reign and rule of God among His people. Then answer the questions.
1. What attribute of God has emerged most clearly as you have studied 2 Samuel?

How does knowing this truth about God change the way you see yourself?

How should knowing this truth change the way you live?

2. How has the Holy Spirit used 2 Samuel to convict you of sin? What thoughts, words or actions has He shown you that need to be redeemed? What do you need to stop doing?

3. How has the Holy Spirit used 2 Samuel to train you in righteousness? What disciplines has He given you a desire to pursue? What do you need to start doing?

4. How has the Holy Spirit used 2 Samuel to encourage you? What cause to celebrate have these chapters imprinted on your heart?
Attributes of God

**Attentive:** God hears and responds to the needs of His children.

**Compassionate:** God cares for His children and acts on their behalf.

**Creator:** God made everything. He is uncreated.*

**Deliverer:** God rescues and saves His children.

**Eternal:** God is not limited by and exists outside of time.

**Faithful:** God always keeps His promises.

**Generous:** God gives what is best and beyond what is deserved.

**Glorious:** God displays His greatness and worth.*

**Good:** God is what is best and gives what is best. He is incapable of doing harm.

**Holy:** God is perfect, pure and without sin.*

**Incomprehensible:** God is beyond our understanding. We can comprehend Him in part but not in whole.

**Infinite:** God has no limits in His person or on His power.

**Immutable/Unchanging:** God never changes. He is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow.

**Jealous:** God will not share His glory with another. All glory rightfully belongs to Him.

**Just:** God is fair in all His actions and judgments. He cannot over-punish or under-punish.

**Loving:** God feels and displays infinite, unconditional affection toward His children. His love for them does not depend on their worth, response or merit.
**Merciful:** God does not give His children the punishment they deserve.

**Omnipotent/Almighty:** God holds all power. Nothing is too hard for God. What He wills, He can accomplish.

**Omnipresent:** God is fully present everywhere.

**Omniscient:** God knows everything: past, present and future; all potential and real outcomes; all things micro and macro.

**Patient/Long-Suffering:** God is untiring and bears with His children.

**Provider:** God meets the needs of His children.

**Refuge:** God is a place of safety and protection for His children.*

**Righteous:** God is always good and right.

**Self-Existent:** God depends on nothing and no one to give Him life or existence.

**Self-Sufficient:** God is not vulnerable. He has no needs.

**Sovereign:** God does everything according to His plan and pleasure. He controls all things.

**Transcendent:** God is not like humans. He is infinitely higher in being and action.

**Truthful:** Whatever God speaks or does is truth and reality.

**Wrathful:** God hates all unrighteousness.

**Wise:** God knows what is best and acts accordingly. He cannot choose wrongly.

**Worthy:** God deserves all glory and honor and praise.

*Definitions taken from or informed by The ABCs of God by Children Desiring God