

DAVID



Read 2 Samuel 6:12-19 and complete the activities on the next page.

2 SAMUEL 7

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commanded him. He struck down the Philistines. He struck them down from Gibeon all the way to Gezer.

David Brings the Ark to Jerusalem

6 Again David brought together the best soldiers in Israel. The total number was 30,000. ² He and all his men went to Baalah in Judah. They wanted to bring the ark of God up to Jerusalem from there. The ark is named after the LORD. He is the LORD who rules over all. He sits on his throne between the cherubim that are on the ark. ³ The ark of God was placed on a new cart. Then it was brought from Abinadab's house, which was on a hill. Uzzah and Ahio were guiding the cart. They were the sons of Abinadab. ⁴ The ark of God was on the cart. Ahio was walking in front of it. ⁵ David was celebrating with all his might in front of the LORD. So was the whole community of Israel. All of them were playing castanets, harps, lyres, tambourines, rattles and cymbals.

⁶ They came to the threshing floor of Nakon. The oxen nearly fell there. So Uzzah reached out and took hold of the ark of God. ⁷ Then the LORD was very angry with Uzzah. That's because what Uzzah did showed that he didn't have any respect for the LORD. So God struck him down. He died there beside the ark of God.

⁸ David was angry because the LORD's great anger had broken out against Uzzah. That's why the place is still called Perez Uzzah to this day.

⁹ David was afraid of the LORD that day. He asked, "How can the ark of the LORD ever be brought to me?" ¹⁰ He didn't want to take the ark of the LORD to be with him in the City of David. Instead, he took it to the house of Obed-Edom. Obed-Edom was from Gath. ¹¹ The ark of the LORD remained in Obed-Edom's house for three months. And the LORD blessed him and his whole family.

¹² King David was told, "The LORD has blessed the family of Obed-Edom. He has also blessed everything that belongs to him. That's because the ark of God is in Obed-Edom's house." So David went down there to bring up the ark. With great joy he brought it up from the house of Obed-Edom. He took it to the

City of David. ¹³ Those carrying the ark of the LORD took six steps forward. Then David sacrificed a bull and a fat calf. ¹⁴ David was wearing a sacred linen apron. He danced in front of the LORD with all his might. ¹⁵ He did it while he was bringing up the ark of the LORD. The whole community of Israel helped him bring it up. They shouted. They blew trumpets.

¹⁶ The ark of the LORD was brought into the City of David. Saul's daughter Michal was watching from a window. She saw King David leaping and dancing in front of the LORD. That made her hate him in her heart.

¹⁷ The ark of the LORD was brought into Jerusalem. It was put in its place in the tent David had set up for it. David sacrificed burnt offerings and friendship offerings to the LORD. ¹⁸ After he finished sacrificing those offerings, he blessed the people in the name of the LORD who rules over all. ¹⁹ He gave to each Israelite man and woman a loaf of bread. He also gave each one a date cake and a raisin cake. Then all the people went home.

²⁰ David returned home to bless his family. Saul's daughter Michal came out to meet him. She said, "You are the king of Israel. You have really brought honor to yourself today, haven't you? You have gone around half-naked right in front of the female slaves of your officials. You acted like a fool!"

²¹ David said to Michal, "I did it to honor the LORD. He chose me instead of your father or anyone else in Saul's family. The LORD appointed me ruler over his people Israel. I will celebrate to honor the LORD. ²² And that's not all. I will bring even less honor to myself. I will bring even more shame on myself. But those female slaves you spoke about will honor me."

²³ Saul's daughter Michal didn't have any children as long as she lived.

God's Promise to David

7 The king moved into his palace. The LORD had given him peace and rest from all his enemies around him. ² Then the king spoke to Nathan the prophet. He said, "Here I am, living in a house that has beautiful cedar walls. But the ark of God remains in a tent."

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2 SAMUEL 7

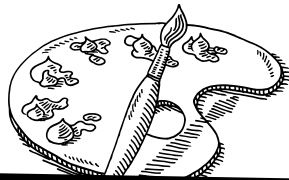
³Nathan replied to the king, “Go ahead and do what you want to. The LORD is with you.”

⁴But that night the word of the LORD came to Nathan. The LORD said,

⁵“Go and speak to my servant David. Tell him, ‘The LORD says, “Are you the one to build me a house to live in?’ ⁶I brought the Israelites up out of Egypt. But I have not lived in a house from then until now. I have been moving from place to place. I have been living in a tent. ⁷I have moved from place to place with all the Israelites. I commanded their rulers to be shepherds over them. I never asked any of those rulers,

‘Why haven’t you built me a house that has beautiful cedar walls?’”

⁸“So tell my servant David, ‘The LORD who rules over all says, “I took you away from the grasslands. That’s where you were taking care of your father’s sheep and goats. I made you ruler over my people Israel. ⁹I have been with you everywhere you have gone. I have destroyed all your enemies. Now I will make you famous. Your name will be just as respected as the names of the most important people on earth. ¹⁰I will provide a place where my people Israel can live. I will plant them in the land. Then they



TUESDAY

Saul’s daughter Michal was watching from a window. She saw King David leaping and dancing in front of the LORD. That made her hate him in her heart (2 Samuel 6:16).

TODAY’S BIBLE READING: 2 Samuel 6:12–19

KEEP ON PRAISING!

David loved God more than anything. Loving God made David so happy he had to dance! When David danced for God, David’s wife felt ashamed. She told David to stop dancing. But he said “No!” David was filled with joy. And he would not let anyone take his joy away.

God wants you to love him more than anything. He wants you to find joy! God wants you to be happy when you praise him. Maybe you will be so happy you will get up and jump for joy! Don’t let anybody stop you from loving God and showing it. Maybe they will see how happy you are. Then maybe they will praise God with you too.

ASK

YOURSELF

Do you think David had fun praising God? Have you ever had fun praising God? What would you do if somebody told you to stop praising God?

I have read this devotion.

For your next reading, turn to page 379. If you want to read more, see Psalm 108:1–4 on page 719.

Read 1 Samuel 17:4 and complete the activities below.

Read This Verse

1 SAMUEL 17

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camped on one hill. Israel’s army was on another. The valley was between them.

4 A mighty hero named Goliath came out of the Philistine camp. He was from Gath. He was more than nine feet tall. **5** He had a bronze helmet on his head. He wore bronze armor that weighed 125 pounds. **6** On his legs he wore bronze guards. He carried a bronze javelin on his back. **7** His spear was as big as a weaver’s rod. Its iron point weighed 15 pounds. The man who carried his shield walked along in front of him.

8 Goliath stood there and shouted to the soldiers of Israel. He said, “Why do you come out and line up for battle? I’m a Philistine. You are servants of Saul. Choose one of your men. Have him come down and face me. **9** If he’s able to fight and kill me, we’ll become your slaves. But if I win and kill him, you will become our slaves and serve us.” **10** Goliath continued, “This day I dare the soldiers of Israel to send a man down to fight against me.” **11** Saul and the whole army of Israel heard what the Philistine said. They were terrified.

12 David was the son of Jesse, who belonged to the tribe of Ephraim. Jesse was from Bethlehem in Judah. He had eight sons. When Saul was king, Jesse was already very old. **13** Jesse’s three oldest sons had followed Saul into battle.

The oldest son was Eliab. The second was Abinadab. The third was Shammah. **14** David was the youngest. The three oldest sons followed Saul. **15** But David went back and forth from Saul’s camp to Bethlehem. He went to Bethlehem to take care of his father’s sheep.

16 Every morning and evening Goliath came forward and stood there. He did it for 40 days.

17 Jesse said to his son David, “Get at least half a bushel of grain that has been cooked. Also get ten loaves of bread. Take all of it to your brothers. Hurry to their camp. **18** Take along these ten chunks of cheese to the commander of their military group. Find out how your brothers are doing. Bring me back some word about them. **19** They are with Saul and all the men of Israel. They are in the Valley of Elah. They are fighting against the Philistines.”

20 Early in the morning David left his father’s flock in the care of a shepherd. David loaded up the food and started out, just as Jesse had directed. David reached the camp as the army was going out to its battle positions. The soldiers were shouting the war cry. **21** The Israelites and the Philistines were lining up their armies for battle. The armies were facing each other. **22** David left what he had brought with the man who took care

KIDS’ QuEstion

WHAT DID GOLIATH EAT THAT MADE HIM SO BIG?

Goliath was a very big man. He was more than nine feet tall. If he were alive today, he would be able to dunk a basketball without jumping. His head would touch the net. We do not know how Goliath got to be so big. It was not something he ate, it was just the way God made him. David was a lot smaller, but that did not really matter. What mattered was

that David believed in and followed God and Goliath did not.

Related verses:
1 Samuel 17:1–51

CHECKOUT

1 Samuel 17:4



Read 2 Samuel 22 and complete the activities on page 6.

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2 Samuel 21—22

Saul's daughter Merab. Adriel, the son of Barzillai, was their father. Adriel was from Meholah. ⁹ King David handed them over to the people of Gibeon. They killed them. They put their dead bodies out in the open on a hill in the sight of the LORD. All seven of them died together. They were put to death during the first days of the harvest. It happened just when people were beginning to harvest the barley.

¹⁰ Aiah's daughter Rizpah took some rough cloth people wear when they're sad. She spread it out for herself on a rock. She stayed there from the beginning of the harvest until it rained. The rain poured down from the sky on the dead bodies of the seven males. She didn't let the birds touch them by day. She didn't let the wild animals touch them at night. ¹¹ Someone told David what Rizpah had done. She was Aiah's daughter and Saul's concubine. ¹² David went and got the bones of Saul and his son Jonathan. He got them from the citizens of Jabesh Gilead. They had stolen their bodies from the main street in Beth Shan. That's where the Philistines had hung their bodies up on the city wall. They had done it after they struck Saul down on Mount Gilboa. ¹³ David brought the bones of Saul and his son Jonathan from Jabesh Gilead. The bones of the seven males who had been killed and put out in the open were also gathered up.

¹⁴ The bones of Saul and his son Jonathan were buried in the tomb of Saul's father Kish. The tomb was at Zela in the territory of Benjamin. Everything the king commanded was done. After that, God answered prayer and blessed the land.

Wars Against the Philistines

¹⁵ Once again there was a battle between the Philistines and Israel. David went down with his men to fight against the Philistines. He became very tired. ¹⁶ Ishbi-Benob belonged to the family line of Rapha. The tip of his bronze spear weighed seven and a half pounds. He was also armed with a new sword. He said he would kill David. ¹⁷ But Abishai, the son of Zeruiah, came to save David. He struck down the Philistine and killed him. Then David's men made a promise. They said to David, "We never want you

to go out with us to battle again. You are the lamp of Israel's kingdom. We want that lamp to keep on burning brightly."

¹⁸ There was another battle against the Philistines. It took place at Gob. At that time Sibbekai killed Saph. Sibbekai was a Hushathite. Saph was from the family line of Rapha.

¹⁹ In another battle against the Philistines at Gob, Elhanan killed Goliath's brother. Elhanan was the son of Jair from Bethlehem. Goliath was from the city of Gath. His spear was as big as a weaver's rod.

²⁰ There was still another battle. It took place at Gath. A huge man lived there. He had six fingers on each hand and six toes on each foot. So the total number of his toes and fingers was 24. He was also from the family of Rapha.

²¹ He made fun of Israel. So Jonathan killed him. Jonathan was the son of David's brother Shimeah.

²² Those four Philistine men lived in Gath. They were from the family line of Rapha. David and his men killed them.

Did You Know?

What is another name for a song of praise?



22:1 A song of praise can also be called a psalm. David wrote many of the psalms in our Bible. His most famous psalm is Psalm 23. There he says, "The LORD is my shepherd."

David's Song of Praise

22 David sang the words of this song to the LORD. He sang them when the LORD saved him from the power of all his enemies and of Saul. ² He said,

"The LORD is my rock and my fort.
He is the God who saves me.

3 My God is my rock. I go to him for safety.

He is like a shield to me. He's the power that saves me.

Start Reading Here

2 Samuel 22

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- He's my place of safety. I go to him
for help. He's my Savior.
He saves me from those who want
to hurt me.
- ⁴I called out to the LORD. He is worthy
of praise.
He saved me from my enemies.
- ⁵"The waves of death were all
around me.
A destroying flood swept
over me.
- ⁶The ropes of the grave were tight
around me.
Death set its trap in front of me.
- ⁷When I was in trouble I called out to
the LORD.
I called out to my God.
From his temple he heard my voice.
My cry for help reached his ears.
- ⁸"The earth trembled and shook.
The pillars of the heavens rocked
back and forth.
They trembled because the LORD
was angry.
- ⁹Smoke came out of his nose.
Flames of fire came out of his
mouth.
Burning coals blazed out of it.
- ¹⁰He opened the heavens and came
down.
Dark clouds were under his feet.
- ¹¹He got on the cherubim and flew.
The wings of the wind lifted
him up.
- ¹²He covered himself with darkness.
The dark rain clouds of the sky
were like a tent around him.
- ¹³From the brightness all around him
flashes of lightning blazed out.
- ¹⁴The LORD thundered from heaven.
The voice of the Most High God
was heard.
- ¹⁵He shot his arrows and scattered the
enemy.
He sent flashes of lightning and
chased them away.
- ¹⁶The bottom of the sea could be seen.
The foundations of the earth were
uncovered.
It happened when the LORD's anger
blazed out.
It came like a blast of breath from
his nose.
- ¹⁷"He reached down from heaven. He
took hold of me.
He lifted me out of deep waters.
- ¹⁸He saved me from my powerful
enemies.
He set me free from those who
were too strong for me.
- ¹⁹They stood up to me when I was in
trouble.
But the LORD helped me.
- ²⁰He brought me out into a wide and
safe place.
He saved me because he was
pleased with me.
- ²¹"The LORD has been good to me
because I do what is right.
He has rewarded me because I
lead a pure life.
- ²²I have lived the way the LORD wanted
me to.
I'm not guilty of turning away from
my God.
- ²³I keep all his laws in mind.
I haven't turned away from his
commands.
- ²⁴He knows that I am without blame.
He knows I've kept myself from
sinning.
- ²⁵The LORD has rewarded me for doing
what is right.
He has rewarded me because I
haven't done anything wrong.
- ²⁶"LORD, to those who are faithful you
show that you are faithful.
To those who are without blame
you show that you are without
blame.
- ²⁷To those who are pure you show that
you are pure.
But to those whose paths are
crooked you show that you are
clever.
- ²⁸You save those who aren't proud.
But you watch the proud to bring
them down.
- ²⁹LORD, you are my lamp.
You bring light into my darkness.
- ³⁰With your help I can attack a troop of
soldiers.
With the help of my God I can
climb over a wall.
- ³¹"God's way is perfect.
The LORD's word doesn't have any
flaws.
He protects like a shield
all who go to him for safety.
- ³²Who is God except the LORD?
Who is the Rock except our God?
- ³³God gives me strength for the battle.

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2 Samuel 22—23

He keeps my way secure.
 34 He makes my feet like the feet of a deer.
 He causes me to stand on the highest places.
 35 He trains my hands to fight every battle.
 My arms can bend a bow of bronze.
 36 LORD, you shield me with your saving help.
 Your help has made me great.
 37 “You give me a wide path to walk in so that I don’t twist my ankles.
 38 “I chased my enemies and crushed them.
 I didn’t turn back until they were destroyed.
 39 I crushed them completely so that they couldn’t get up.
 They fell under my feet.
 40 LORD, you gave me strength to fight the battle.
 You caused my enemies to be humble in front of me.
 41 You made them turn their backs and run away.
 So I destroyed my enemies.
 42 They cried out for help. But there was no one to save them.
 They called out to the LORD. But he didn’t answer them.
 43 I beat them as fine as the dust of the earth.
 I pounded them and walked on them like mud in the streets.

44 “You saved me when people attacked me.
 You have kept me as the ruler over nations.
 People I didn’t know serve me now.
 45 People from other lands bow down to me in fear.
 As soon as they hear about me, they obey me.
 46 All of them give up hope.
 They come trembling out of their hiding places.
 47 “The LORD lives! Give praise to my Rock!
 Give honor to my God, the Rock!
 He is my Savior!
 48 He is the God who pays back my enemies.
 He brings the nations under my control.
 49 He sets me free from my enemies.
 You have honored me more than them.
 You have saved me from a man who wanted to hurt me.
 50 LORD, I will praise you among the nations.
 I will sing your praise.
 51 He gives his king great victories.
 He shows his faithful love to his anointed king.
 He shows it to David and his family forever.”

David’s Last Words

23 Here are David’s last words. He said,

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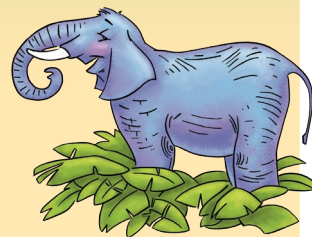
Praise God With Poems

David wrote many psalms, or poems, to praise God. Read 2 Samuel 22. It is one of David’s poems. In it David tells many good things God has done for him.

You can write a praise poem too. Praise God at the beginning of your poem. Then tell something he does for you. Next tell how you will praise God. Now tell something else God does for you. Put your poem on your mirror to remind you to praise God every day. Many of David’s poems became songs. Maybe you can sing your poem too.

Live IT!

2 SAMUEL 22



Read 2 Samuel 7:18-29 and complete the activities on the next page.

⁸“So tell my servant David, ‘The LORD who rules over all says, “I took you away from the grasslands. That’s where you were taking care of your father’s sheep and goats. I made you ruler over my people Israel. ⁹I have been with you everywhere you have gone. I have destroyed all your enemies. Now I will make you famous. Your name will be just as respected as the names of the most important people on earth. ¹⁰I will provide a place where my people Israel can live. I will plant them in the land. Then they will have a home of their own. They will not be bothered anymore. Evil people will no longer crush them, as they did at first. ¹¹That is what your enemies have done ever since I appointed leaders over my people Israel. But I will give you peace and rest from all of them.

“¹²I tell you that I, the LORD, will set up a royal house for you. Some day your life will come to an end. You will join the members of your family who have already died. Then I will make one of your own sons the next king after you. And I will make his kingdom secure. ¹³He is the one who will build a house where I will put my Name. I will set up the throne of his kingdom. It will last forever. ¹⁴I will be his father. And he will be my son. When he does what is wrong, I will use other men to beat him with rods and whips. ¹⁵I took my love away from Saul. I removed him from being king. You were there when I did it. But I will never take my love away from your son. ¹⁶Your royal house and your kingdom will last forever in my sight. Your throne will last forever.”

¹⁷Nathan reported to David all the words that the LORD had spoken to him.

David’s Prayer to the LORD

¹⁸Then King David went into the holy tent. He sat down in front of the LORD. He said,

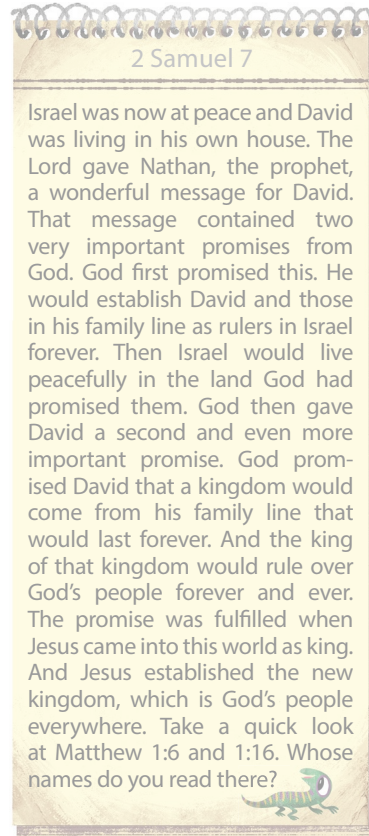
“LORD and King, who am I? My family isn’t important. So why have you brought me this far? ¹⁹I would have thought that you had already done more than enough for me. But now, LORD and King, you have also said what will happen to my royal house in days to come. And, my LORD and King, this promise is for a mere human being!

²⁰“What more can I say to you? LORD and King, you know all about me. ²¹You have done a wonderful thing. You have made it known to me. You have done it because that’s what you said you would do. It’s exactly what you wanted to do for me.

²²“LORD and King, how great you are! There isn’t anyone like you. There isn’t any God but you. We have heard about it with our own ears. ²³Who is like your people Israel? God, we are the one nation on earth you have saved. You have set us free for yourself. Your name has become famous. You have done great and wonderful things. You have driven out nations and their gods to make room for your people. You saved us when you set us free from Egypt. ²⁴You made Israel your very own people forever. LORD, you have become our God.

²⁵“And now, LORD God, keep forever the promise you have made to me and my royal house. Do exactly as you promised. ²⁶Then your name will be honored forever. People will say, ‘The LORD rules over all. He is God over Israel.’ My royal house will be made secure in your sight.

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2 Samuel 7:18–29



After hearing God's promises, David went to the holy tent. He sat completely humbled before the Lord and prayed. He prayed what was in his heart. David praised God for all he had done. David gave praise to God. That's because he knew God can be trusted. And David knew that God is faithful and will keep his promises.

Inny wonders if you take time to pray as David did. Do you tell God how wonderful he is? Do you tell God there is no one like him? Do you tell God that you trust him and know that he's faithful to you? **Inny** thinks prayers like this are important. And it's important to take time to pray.

²⁷ "LORD who rules over all, you are the God of Israel. Here's what you have shown me. You told me, 'I will build you a royal house.' So I can boldly pray this prayer to you. ²⁸ LORD and King, you are God! Your covenant can be trusted. You have promised many good things to me. ²⁹ Now please bless my royal house. Then it will continue forever in your sight. LORD and King, you have spoken. Because you have given my royal house your blessing, it will be blessed forever."

David Wins Many Battles

8 While David was king of Israel, he won many battles over the Philistines. He brought them under his control. He took Metheg Ammah away from them.

² David also won the battle over the people of Moab. He made them lie down on the ground. Then he measured them off with a piece of rope. He put two-thirds of them to death. He let the other third remain alive. So the Moabites were brought under David's rule. They gave him the gifts he required them to bring him.

³ David fought against Hadadezer, the son of Rehob. Hadadezer was king of Zobah. He had gone to repair his monument at the Euphrates River. ⁴ David captured 1,000 of Hadadezer's chariots, 7,000 chariot riders and 20,000 soldiers on foot. He cut the legs of all but 100 of the chariot horses.

⁵ The Arameans of Damascus came to help Hadadezer, the king of Zobah. But David struck down 22,000 of them. ⁶ He stationed some soldiers in the Aramean kingdom of Damascus. The people of Aram were brought under his rule. They gave him the gifts he required them to bring him. The LORD helped David win his battles everywhere he went.

⁷ David took the gold shields that belonged to the officers of Hadadezer. He brought the shields to Jerusalem. ⁸ He took a huge amount of bronze from Tebah and Berothai. Those towns belonged to Hadadezer.

⁹ Tou was king of Hamath. He heard that David had won the battle over the entire army of Hadadezer. ¹⁰ So Tou sent his son Joram to King David. Joram greeted David. He praised David because he had won the battle over Hadadezer. Hadadezer had been at war with Tou. So Joram brought with him gifts made out of silver, of gold and of bronze.

¹¹ King David set those gifts apart for the LORD. He had done the same thing with the silver and gold he had taken from the other nations. Those were nations he had brought under his control. ¹² Those nations were Edom, Moab, Ammon, Philistia and Amalek. He also set apart for the LORD what he had taken from Hadadezer, the son of Rehob. Hadadezer was king of Zobah.

¹³ David returned after he had struck down 18,000 men of Edom in the Valley of Salt. He became famous for doing it.

¹⁴ He stationed some soldiers all through Edom. The whole nation of Edom was brought under David's rule. The LORD helped him win his battles everywhere he went.

2 SAMUEL 8:14 | 405

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