Let me begin this lesson by assigning you some homework.

Please read II Samuel chapters 5 through 19. Please be aware that there are some graphic details that I will not cover in this setting. However, they are important to the narrative that we will discuss today. You should review these chapters at your own discretion.

There is an old saying that says, “All work and no play makes for a dull boy.” That saying is intended to encourage relaxation and rest. However, a possible amendment to that saying could be, …All play and no work makes a foolish boy. Or, all work and the wrong kind of play can get one into big trouble. There is another saying that should be applied, “All extremes are dangerous.”

As we study the life of David, we are allowed to witness his life from several different perspectives. We see Young David, Conflicted David, King David, David the Leader, David the Parent, David the Businessman, David the Planner, and Old David. By God’s Grace, we know more about David’s life than we do any other Bible character. (Except Jesus of course.)

King David, The Leader of Leaders

The Scriptures help us see David’s tumultuous transition to King. Yes, even that was a 7-year process. David moved to Hebron at the clear instruction of God. He knew King Saul was dead and he was the prophesied successor. Nevertheless, things did not magically fall into place.

**David would lead a divided kingdom for seven years before the Lord allowed him to re-consolidate the nation. As we read through II Samuel, we get to follow a trail of conspiracy, chaos and violence. But eventually, Samuel’s prophecy comes to pass.**

* Saul Killed, Judah Anoints David. (1 Samuel 31, 2 Samuel 2)
* Ishbosheth, at the age of forty, becomes king over all the Israelite tribes except Judah (2 Samuel 2:10).
* Civil War (2 Samuel 3)
* Ishbosheth Murdered and a Unified Throne. (2 Samuel 3:7-21) (2 Samuel 4:1-7)

King David (The Human)

Once things settle down, David wastes no time in doing what he does well, leading people. His successes are listed in II Samuel chapters 5-10. Each success could be an individual study.

* David Conquers Jerusalem ( [5:6⁠–⁠12](https://biblehub.com/bsb/2_samuel/5.htm#6) )
* David’s Sons in Jerusalem ( [5:13⁠–⁠16](https://biblehub.com/bsb/2_samuel/5.htm#13) )
* David’s victories over the Philistines ( [5:17⁠–⁠25](https://biblehub.com/bsb/2_samuel/5.htm#17) )
* David Brings the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem ( [6:1⁠–⁠7:29](https://biblehub.com/bsb/2_samuel/6.htm#1) )
* David’s Triumphs ( [8:1⁠–⁠18](https://biblehub.com/bsb/2_samuel/8.htm#1) )
* David and Mephibosheth ( [9:1⁠–⁠13](https://biblehub.com/bsb/2_samuel/9.htm#1) )
* David and the Ammonites ( [10:1⁠–⁠19](https://biblehub.com/bsb/2_samuel/10.htm#1) )
* David’s Messengers Disgraced ( [10:1⁠–⁠8](https://biblehub.com/bsb/2_samuel/10.htm#1) )
* David Defeats Ammon and Syria ( [10:9⁠–⁠19](https://biblehub.com/bsb/2_samuel/10.htm#9) )

A good chapter to read about the successes of King David is II Samuel chapter 8. Clearly, things are going well for David! Very well!

Life Lesson #23 and #24

Fortunately for us, the Bible does not sugar-coat or whitewash the errors of David. It allows us to see his troubles and shortfalls. To be clear, the Bible reveals his sins. And boy, did David have troubles, personal troubles. It seems that David was so busy succeeding as King, that he ignored his Spiritual obligations to God.

Consider Deuteronomy 17:14-20 and II Samuel 5:10-13

* David's Troubled Reign ( [11⁠–⁠19](https://biblehub.com/bsb/2_samuel/11.htm#1) )
  + David Commits Adultery ( [11:1⁠–⁠12:31](https://biblehub.com/bsb/2_samuel/11.htm#1) )
  + David’s Family Issues ( [13:1⁠–⁠14:33](https://biblehub.com/bsb/2_samuel/13.htm#1) )
* Amnon and Tamar ( [13:1⁠–⁠39](https://biblehub.com/bsb/2_samuel/13.htm#1) )
* Absalom’s Return to Jerusalem ( [14:1⁠–⁠33](https://biblehub.com/bsb/2_samuel/14.htm#1) )
* The Rebellions against David ( [15:1⁠–⁠20:26](https://biblehub.com/bsb/2_samuel/15.htm#1) )
* The Rebellion of Absalom ( [15:1⁠–⁠19:43](https://biblehub.com/bsb/2_samuel/15.htm#1) )

It was Bishop Clifton Jones who once said, “Among the worst things a person can do is have a sense of entitlement.” What is entitlement? According to the Merriam-Webster dictionary, it is a belief that one is deserving of or entitled to certain privileges.[[1]](#endnote-1) In a practical sense, entitlement is not always justified. In a Spiritual sense, entitlements lead to compromise, over-indulgence, and/or sin.

Life Lesson #23 - There is Danger in Entitlement.

Life Lesson #24 - No one is entitled to commit sin. The Grace of God should never be perceived as grease. Bad things happen to people who take God’s Grace for granted. We see this in the life of King David.

Consider II Samuel 11:1

One interpretation of this verse suggests that David would have normally been involved in the actual battle but chose to stay back. Had he followed his normal routine, the entire sad events involving Bathsheba and Uriah would not have happened.

Life Lesson #25 and #26

It would take Prophet Nathan to expose a double standard in David’s mind. Nathan used a parable to convict David of his actions. It is clear that David had been blinded by his successes and assumed he was above reproach. It seems that this incident was pivotal in the life of David. Not only does it inspire the 51st Psalm, but we are not given any further examples of disobedience after this clear violation of the Will of God.

It is noteworthy that David suffered for his sins. Not only did he lose a precious child, but his legacy was also affected. Consider II Samuel 12:10-14.

Life Lesson #25 - There is Danger in Double Standards.

Life Lesson #26 - God forgives our sins, but there may still be consequences. The best way to avoid consequences is to avoid sin!

Life Lesson #27

David’s troubles did not end with his repentance. Some of his darkest seasons of life involved his children. The Bible says that David had sons and daughters, 19 sons, and 1 named daughter. David had more wives than can be determined. Amid this numerical confusion, three of the many wives of David in the Bible stand out because their relationships provide significant insights into David's character. These wives are Michal, Abigail, and Bathsheba, and their stories greatly influenced the history of Israel.

Life Lesson #27 - There is Danger in being disconnected from God.

Life Lesson #28 - #29

Let’s consider a series of events that involved 3 of David’s children. All of these events are proof that unresolved conflicts do NOT disappear on their own. David’s decision to disregard the actions of his children would grow into a hornet’s nest.

Either David didn’t see the unnatural affection of Amnon, or he ignored it. Amnon’s obsession was wicked. The Law has several penalties outlined for what Amnon did to poor Tamar. David did nothing! Had David dealt with it properly, perhaps Absalom would not have been so infuriated to the point of revenge. Ultimately, the family was never the same after those atrocious actions of Amnon.

Consider II Samuel 13:21-23 (Two years of doing nothing!). II Samuel 14:24, 28

Life Lesson #28 - There is Danger in Disregarding warning signs.

Life Lesson #29 - Deal with things prayerfully, thoroughly and properly, so as to prevent escalation and animosity.

Life Lesson #30 and #31

The final trouble of King David is recorded in II Samuel 24. David made the mistake of numbering the people. This error appears to be rather personal, as apparently David should have known this was not God’s Will. It reminds us that no level of success exempts a person from daily prayer and consecration.

Life Lesson #30 - There is Danger in distracted measures.

Life Lesson #31- It is possible to miss God and make a major mistake. Which is why we must always devote ourselves to prayer and fasting. By seeking God’s face (direction), we can prevent the kind of costly mistakes that David endured.

Closing Prayer for Wisdom and Spiritual Vigilance.

1. [Entitlement Definition & Meaning - Merriam-Webster](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/entitlement) [↑](#endnote-ref-1)