

**THE LIFE OF DAVID**  
**Lesson #1 - A Man With A Heart For God**

**Key Verse:** “God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance.” -- 1 Samuel 16:7b

**Insight** ► Our first study from the life of David is about his heart for God. Where is a heart for God developed? ***True Christian character, a heart like David’s, comes from times alone with God and through appropriate responses to difficulties and suffering.*** Let’s first consider his time alone with God.

1. Can you think of examples of people in the Bible who spent extended time (normally a number of years) in relative solitude? They normally did easy tasks or repetitious work. How were these men affected by these prolonged times alone?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Now consider the life of David, the shepherd boy. In God’s plan to raise up a champion for the faith, he sends David through the “Judean Wilderness School” with a major in “Shepherding!” Look at some of David’s own writing and the character traits that resulted from those weeks and months alone with God from these passages:
  - a.) Psalm 1:2
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b.) Psalm 4:8
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - c.) Psalm 17:15

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- d.) Psalm 22:22
  
  - e.) Psalm 25:5
  
  - f.) Psalm 32:5
  
  - g.) Psalm 34:4
  
  - h.) Psalm 57:7
3. It seems clear that the many days and nights alone prepared David for a lifetime of dependence on God. Let's consider the example of Jesus:
- a.) What evidence do you see in Luke 5:15-16 that Jesus considered time alone with God to be very important?
  
  - b.) What did Jesus do just before choosing his twelve apostles? Luke 6:12-13
  
  - c.) Read Luke 22:39-44, which describes a portion of the night before Jesus died. How did Jesus show his continued closeness to God?
4. Would you like to be used by God? According to 2 Chronicles 16:9 what type of person does God desire to work through?
5. Consider your own time alone with God.
- a.) What has God called us to in 1 Corinthians 1:9?

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b.) What is a possible application you might make from your study so far?

**Insight** ► As valuable and essential as time alone with God is, we cannot spend our lives in total solitude. God has called us to live an abundant life (John 10:10) and to help fulfill His Great Commission, to make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:19-20). We need to live life, pay bills, go to work, relate to others, attend meetings, make decisions, relax, etc. In the course of life we face difficult situations, even suffering, but this is true for all people. ***The mark of a person with a heart for God will be their response to these difficult situations.***

6. Can you think of some examples of people in the Bible who ***did not*** respond in a godly way to difficult situations?

Name	Result
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Can you think of examples of people in the Bible who ***did*** respond in a godly way toward difficult situations?

Name	Result
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

7. Read over 1 Samuel 17:12-31

a.) In verses 29-31, does David get into conflict with his brother or focus on greater issues at hand?

b.) Can you think of a time recently when you've allowed yourself to be sidetracked by secondary issues rather than focus on the greater issues?

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- c.) Why did you get sidetracked?
  
- d.) What could you do to avoid this in the future?

**Insight** ► As you study the lives of godly men and women you'll discover that everything didn't always go their way. Every prayer wasn't answered "yes." Every plan did not materialize. *Oftentimes, the things that meant the most to them were taken away. Many times, God removed them so they would have nothing to lean on except Him.*

If we aren't careful, we could become "leaners" instead of "learners." We could become "leaners" in the sense that we lean on our careers or our finances or we lean on friends, past success or current talents.

- 8. Look up the following references and determine what it was that David could have been leaning on, but it was removed by God:
  - a.) 1 Samuel 19:9-10
  
  - b.) 1 Samuel 19:11-17
  
  - c.) 1 Samuel 19:18-20
  
  - d.) 1 Samuel 20:35-42
  
  - e.) 1 Samuel 21:10-15

**Insight** ► If you want to have a heart for God, you must realize that God loves you enough that sooner or later he will remove all the props that you lean on. For David, everything that he had been leaning on was removed in a very short period of time. (It might be worth noting that this happened following a period of great success in David's life.) David ends up in despair in a foreign country. *All he had left was God.*

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**Ladies** ► Can you think of some “props” that a woman might be more likely to lean on than a man?

9. Go over Psalm 34. This was written by David following his feigned madness before King Abimelech.

a.) List your observations and thoughts about how David responded to losing all the props.

b.) Since beginning your current job, have you lost some of your props?

c.) Are there things you're still leaning on? Spend time now telling God that you want to totally lean on Him.

d.) Are you willing to let Him remove anything in your life that's keeping you from Him?