



David's Lament: How the Mighty Have Fallen! (2 Sam 1-2)

Notes: Week One

David Hears of Saul's Death - [2 Samuel 1:1-16](#)¹

Topics: [Appearance](#), [Assumptions](#), [Choices](#), [Citizenship](#), [Consequences](#), [Death](#), [Emotions](#), [Fasting](#), [Fear](#), [Flattery](#), [Grief](#), [Guilt](#), [Honor](#), [Motives](#), [Mourning](#), [Murder](#), [Possessions](#), [Punishment](#), [Zeal](#)

Open It

1. What is the purpose of symbols of office for those in government leadership?
2. How do people react whenever a winning team gloats over a victory?
3. *How would you feel if someone who hated you suddenly died?

Explore It

4. Where had David been while Saul was engaged in his last battle? ([1:1](#))
5. When did David learn about Saul's death? ([1:2](#))
6. What was the appearance and attitude of the messenger who came to David? ([1:2](#))
7. *What news did the messenger bring to David? ([1:3-4](#))
8. What question remained in David's mind even though the messenger said that Saul was dead? ([1:5](#))
9. *According to the messenger, what was his own role in Saul's demise? ([1:5-10](#))
10. What did the messenger take from Saul's body with the express purpose of bringing it to David? ([1:10](#))
11. *How did David and his men react to the messenger's story? ([1:11-12](#))
12. How long did David wait before dealing with the messenger? ([1:12-15](#))
13. Who was the messenger? ([1:13](#))
14. What did David hold against the Amalekite messenger? ([1:14](#))

1. *Adult Questions for LESSONMaker*, (Austin, TX: Wordsearch, 1992), WORDsearch CROSS e-book, Under: "2 Samuel".

15. What sentence did David impose on the Amalekite messenger? ([1:15](#))

16. What was David's reason for executing the messenger? ([1:16](#))

Get It

17. Why should the messenger have been afraid to destroy Saul even though Saul was mortally wounded and asked to be killed?

18. *What reaction did the messenger expect when he came to David with the news of Saul's death?

19. How do you think David would have reacted to Saul's wish to be put out of his misery had he been on Mount Gilboa?

20. *What's wrong with taking justice into our own hands even when the offender clearly deserves punishment?

21. Why is it important to mourn someone's death?

Apply It

22. *How could you show reverence for the God-given life of someone who hates you?

23. In what way can you show that you refuse to take death lightly, even if you hear a lot about it on a day-to-day basis?

David's Lament for Saul and Jonathan - [2 Samuel 1:17-27](#)

Topics: [Achievements](#), [Armor](#), [Death](#), [Enemies](#), [Friendship](#), [Glory](#), [Grief](#), [Heroes](#), [Love](#), [Mourning](#), [War](#), [Zeal](#)

Open It

1. *At what times in your life is a favorite sad song especially meaningful to you?
2. What do the living gain by reminding themselves of the exploits and accomplishments of those who have gone before?
3. How do you remember events in the past that are important to you?

Explore It

4. Who composed the lament for Saul and Jonathan? ([1:17](#))
5. *What order did David give regarding the lament for Saul and Jonathan? ([1:18](#))
6. What words of high praise did David use to describe Saul and Jonathan? ([1:19](#))
7. What was the refrain that started and ended David's lament? ([1:19](#), [27](#))
8. Why did David not want the news of Saul's and Jonathan's death proclaimed in Gath and Ashkelon? ([1:20](#))
9. What unfortunate association would David have with the mountains of Gilboa from this time forward? ([1:21](#))
10. *What figures of speech did David use to describe Saul's and Jonathan's valor in battle? ([1:22](#))
11. *How did David extol the relationship between Saul and Jonathan? ([1:23](#))
12. Why did David say that the daughters of Israel should weep for Saul? ([1:24](#))
13. How did David express his personal grief over Jonathan? ([1:26](#))

Get It

14. What made David particularly qualified to write the lament for Saul and Jonathan?
15. Why would David want this song to be taught to all the men of Judah?
16. *What advantage was there in David's memorializing only Saul's good qualities?
17. How is it valuable to remember the good deeds of those who have gone before us?

18. Why did David not seem to begrudge the fact that his friend Jonathan stayed loyal to his father?
19. What example does David set for us by recording this lament?
20. *What is the value of remembering the past with all of its joy and sorrow?

Apply It

21. *What sort of lament (sad lyric) could you create that would help you preserve the memory of a loved one?
22. What story of a faithful and valiant saint could you share with your friends or children this week?

David Anointed King over Judah - [2 Samuel 2:1-7](#)

Topics: [Affirmation](#), [Authority](#), [Blessing](#), [Courage](#), [Enemies](#), [Guidance](#), [Honor](#), [Invitation](#), [Kindness](#), [Loyalty](#), [Moving](#), [Respect](#), [Rewards](#), [Sovereignty](#)

Open It

1. What would it feel like to be widely identified as a loyal supporter of a defeated candidate?
2. When can you recall receiving thanks from a most unexpected source?
3. *What are some of your formal and informal roles of leadership?

Explore It

4. What two specific questions did David ask of the Lord following Saul's death? ([2:1](#))
5. Where did God direct David to go in Judah? ([2:1](#))
6. Who accompanied David back into Judah after his self-imposed exile? ([2:2-3](#))
7. When they learned that David was living in Hebron, what did the men of Judah do? ([2:4](#))
8. *What message did David send to the men of Jabesh Gilead? ([2:5](#))
9. For what blessing did David ask God to grant Jabesh Gilead? ([2:6](#))
10. *What promise did David make to Jabesh Gilead? ([2:6](#))
11. What did David exhort the men of Jabesh Gilead to do in the face of their loss? ([2:7](#))
12. *What piece of news did David want the men of Jabesh Gilead to hear from him directly? ([2:7](#))

Get It

13. Why did David stop to ask God's direction when he knew that his rival for the kingship was dead?
14. What was appealing about the decision of David and his men to settle their families in Judah rather than acting like a conquering army?
15. Why would David prefer to have the people of Judah anoint him king rather than declaring himself king based on Samuel's anointing?
16. What reaction might the people of Jabesh Gilead have expected from David because they salvaged the honor of Saul after his death?

17. *Why was it wise for David to acknowledge the bravery of the men of Jabesh Gilead and solicit their loyalty?
18. *How should a godly leader step into leadership and strengthen his or her position?
19. Even when the answer seems obvious, why should we seek God's guidance?

Apply It

20. *In the leadership roles in your life (family, business, church), how can you acknowledge the positive qualities and contributions of your predecessors?
21. In what matter do you need to seek God's guidance today?
22. How can you make yourself available to be drafted rather than announcing yourself the next time there is an opening in leadership?

War between the Houses of David and Saul - [2 Samuel 2:8-3:5](#)

Topics: [Ambition](#), [Bitterness](#), [Challenge](#), [Conscience](#), [Consequences](#), [Death](#), [Decisions](#), [Determination](#), [Divisions](#), [Enemies](#), [Giving Up](#), [Government](#), [Humiliation](#), [Impulsiveness](#), [Leadership](#), [Loyalty](#), [Mediator](#), [Persistence](#), [Revenge](#), [Stubbornness](#), [War](#)

Open It

1. *Why is a civil war often the most fierce and brutal kind of war?
2. What are some examples of sibling rivalry?
3. What are some examples of the recklessness of youth or the restraint of age?

Explore It

4. Who was the leader who rallied Israel behind Saul's remaining son instead of accepting David as king? ([2:8](#))
5. How long did David remain in Hebron as king of Judah? ([2:11](#))
6. Where did the armies of Israel and Judah meet one another? ([2:12-13](#))
7. Who was the commander of David's forces? ([2:13](#))
8. How did Abner propose to deal with the rivalry between the kings? ([2:14](#))
9. What was the outcome of the duel between the representative young men? ([2:16](#))
10. What transpired after the duel had played itself out in tragedy? ([2:17](#))
11. Which side prevailed in the fighting between the armies of Saul's son Ish-Bosheth and David? ([2:17](#))
12. Who were the three sons of Zeruiah who followed David? ([2:18](#))
13. What unique ability belonged to Asahel? ([2:18](#))
14. What rash action did Asahel take in battle? ([2:19](#))
15. What did Abner try to get Asahel to do once he realized Asahel was chasing him? ([2:20-21](#))
16. Why was Abner loathe to strike down Asahel? ([2:22](#))
17. What finally occurred when Abner turned to confront Asahel? ([2:23](#))
18. What was the reaction of the troops of Judah when they discovered Asahel? ([2:23](#))
19. Where did Abner and his fleeing troops take a stand and gather reinforcements? ([2:24-25](#))

20. *On what basis did Abner appeal to Joab? ([2:26](#))
21. *Why did Joab decide to call off his pursuit of Abner and his men? ([2:27-28](#))
22. What were the losses on each side of the battle? ([2:30-31](#))
23. What became of the body of the fallen Asahel? ([2:32](#))
24. *What gradually happened in the war between the rival kings David and Ish-Bosheth? ([3:1](#))

Get It

25. How do you think God felt about Abner mustering resistance against David?
26. Why were the two sides, Israel and Judah, initially hesitant to engage in full-scale battle?
27. What was good or bad about the idea of allowing twelve young men to fight on behalf of the two sides?
28. Why do you think Joab was persuaded to stop pursuing the Israelites even though he was winning?
29. What sort of perspectives might make an older man hesitant to kill a younger one?
30. *What kind of rationalizing has to go on before brother can kill brother?
31. Why are we often willing to fight, begrudge, or even hurt people with whom we have meaningful ties?
32. *In what contexts are you in a position to help ease the tension between family members?

Apply It

33. *How can you appeal to our common humanity the next time you are caught between "warring factions"?
34. What can you do to help a young person cultivate a mature respect for life?