



PARTICIPANT'S GUIDE—YOUTH

Lesson 3: The Story of King David—2 Samuel 5-8

ENCOUNTER—Community Discussion

After reading the passage, take time to journal through the questions below. Don't feel like you have to answer all these questions. Wrestle with the text, and be prepared to share with your community.

How is this God's story?

How is this others' story?

How is this my story?

How is this the world's story?

PRAYER

*Praise the LORD, my soul;
all my inmost being, praise his holy name.
Praise the LORD, my soul,
and forget not all his benefits—
who forgives all your sins
and heals all your diseases,
who redeems your life from the pit
and crowns you with love and compassion,
who satisfies your desires with good things
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.*

*The LORD works righteousness
and justice for all the oppressed.*

*He made known his ways to Moses,
his deeds to the people of Israel:
The LORD is compassionate and gracious,
slow to anger, abounding in love.
He will not always accuse,
nor will he harbor his anger forever;
he does not treat us as our sins deserve
or repay us according to our iniquities.
For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
so great is his love for those who fear him;
as far as the east is from the west,
so far has he removed our transgressions from us.*

*As a father has compassion on his children,
so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him;
for he knows how we are formed,
he remembers that we are dust.
The life of mortals is like grass,
they flourish like a flower of the field;
the wind blows over it and it is gone,
and its place remembers it no more.
But from everlasting to everlasting
the LORD's love is with those who fear him,
and his righteousness with their children's children—
with those who keep his covenant
and remember to obey his precepts.*

*The LORD has established his throne in heaven,
and his kingdom rules over all.*

*Praise the LORD, you his angels,
you mighty ones who do his bidding,
who obey his word.
Praise the LORD, all his heavenly hosts,
you his servants who do his will.
Praise the LORD, all his works
everywhere in his dominion.*

Praise the LORD, my soul.

(Psalm 103)

WEEKLY PRACTICE

David's passion for God caused him to clutter his worship with good intentions. You may be doing the same and need something symbolic to help you recognize it. Use the physical clutter in your own life to consider what you're holding onto that may or may not be important. Ask some core questions to help you discern if it should be ditched or hung on to:

- What memories does this item evoke, and are they memories I need to relive through it?
- Who am I afraid of hurting if I get rid of it, and would it really bug them or do I just think it would?
- How much will this be worth to me in ten years?

The items you get rid of may not be "bad" as much as they're simply "not necessary." As you declutter, look at the items you get rid of and ask some other questions:

- Just as this unnecessarily took up physical space, what do I let get into the space I'm trying to create with God?
- How does getting rid of this item remind me of something I should get rid of in my relationship with God?
- Is there a better way for God and I to nurture our relationship without all the things I grab onto that could clutter it up? How can I simplify?

BECOMING MY STORY

Psalm 89

Revelation 21

Spend time this week reading and journaling through the above scriptures. In the context of 2 Samuel 5-8, consider the following questions:

How is my private time with God consistent with my public time with God?

How is my private time with God inconsistent with my public time with God?

Consider other passages you might know related to 2 Samuel 5-8 and read them this week, journaling as you go.