



BIBLE

STUDENT BOOK

▶ **12th Grade | Unit 9**

BIBLE 1209

WISDOM

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Wisdom

Introduction

David and Solomon's lives, which are recorded in the Old Testament, are profitable examples for modern living. Their writings portray wisdom that transcends boundaries of culture and time.

David's pain and victory, as expressed in the Psalms, are timeless. He submitted to God his honest complaints and enthusiastic thanks. In turn, God honored him. Constant communication was the essence of his and God's relationship.

Solomon, David's tenth son, became king upon his father's death. Solomon knew that he was young and inexperienced and needed the LORD's guidance in ruling Israel. He prayed that God would give him an understanding heart to judge the people. God was pleased with him and granted his requests, adding unto him riches and honor. His prayer for wisdom was vital to his relationship to God. Difficult decisions were made on the basis of God's wisdom rather than fallen human intellect.

The wisdom Solomon used to rule Israel was recorded primarily in the form of proverbs. Proverbs are short rules of conduct that give practical moral guidance. They are succinct answers to everyday dilemmas that are useful when giving counsel.

The various styles of the Biblical writers add extra interest to God's message. By God's design, reading his Word is enjoyable and challenging. In this LIFEPAK® you will study the practical application of Psalms and Proverbs. You will analyze the Bible's various literary forms and study how it clarifies problems, guides you in expressing joy and solving difficulties.

Objectives

Read these objectives. The objectives tell you what you will be able to do when you have successfully completed this LIFEPAK®. When you have finished this LIFEPAK, you should be able to:

1. Identify significant events in the lives of David and Solomon.
2. List David's character qualities.
3. Identify instances when the LORD specifically guided David and Solomon.
4. Identify prominent people and places in their lives.
5. Identify the cause of Solomon's downfall.
6. Identify Scriptural examples of sanctification, comfort, God's omnipresence, his sovereignty, and guidance.
7. Describe the importance of wisdom in problem solving.
8. Name three types of Davidic Psalms.
9. Describe Biblical literary styles.
10. Identify New Testament fulfillment of Old Testament prefiguration.

1. DAVID AND SOLOMON

In Scripture, people are authentic, and their personalities are not hidden from the reader. They show God leading his people.

You can learn much by comparing yourself and your goals with those of certain biblical characters. David's life is a good example. Young David had to establish himself as an adult. He was responsible to protect and care for sheep, which prepared him

to care for a nation. As David grew into a man, he recognized the need to evaluate his own strengths and weaknesses. His society was a challenging environment in which to become an adult, but he readily accepted the challenge.

The mature David was a warrior-king and a merciful leader. Step by step, and battle by battle, God established him as king in Jerusalem.

Section Objectives

Review these objectives. When you have completed this section, you should be able to:

1. Identify significant events in the lives of David and Solomon.
2. List David's character qualities.
3. Identify instances when the LORD specifically guided David and Solomon.
4. Identify prominent people and places in their lives.

Vocabulary

Study these words to enhance your learning success in this section.

apostasy	ephah	pestilence	remorse	threshingfloor
covenant	expertise	prudent	supplication	

Note: All vocabulary words in this LIFEPAK appear in **boldface** print the first time they are used. If you are not sure of the meaning when you are reading, study the definitions given.



Read 1 Samuel chapters 16–26 and 2 Samuel chapters 11–13

DAVID'S LIFE

God endowed David with many kingly qualities including strength, perceptiveness, and hospitality. David was chosen to replace Saul as Israel's king after Saul disobeyed the LORD and thus, lost his throne. Although David was a king, he was not immune to temptation or sin. Unlike most, he acknowledged his sin and was strengthened by God in his office, private life, and friendships.

Anointed king. God commanded Saul to kill the Amalekites and "... utterly destroy all that they have, and spare them not; but slay both man and woman, infant and suckling, ox and sheep, camel and ass" (1 Samuel 15:3). Instead, Saul's troops spared the best of the sheep and oxen for sacrifices. He did not kill Agag (the Amalekite king), but brought him back as a prisoner. Samuel declared to Saul "... Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from *being* king" (1 Samuel 15:23). Samuel himself then killed Agag to fulfill God's command to Saul.

God sent Samuel to Bethlehem to anoint a new king from Jesse's sons. Samuel feared that Saul would murder him if he found out his intentions. Therefore, God told Samuel to take a heifer with him as a sacrifice in order to give him a public reason for going. Seven of Jesse's sons passed before Samuel, but none of them were the chosen king. When David (Jesse's youngest son) was brought in, Samuel anointed him and the LORD's Spirit came upon him.

Goliath. The Israeli and Philistine war camps had been arrayed in battle for forty days. Jesse sent David to deliver bread and an **ephah** of parched corn to feed his brothers, who were part of the army. When David arrived at the battlefield, he could not understand the Israelites' fear of the Philistines. He knew no one could successfully defy God's armies. He challenged the soldiers for their lack of courage against Goliath, the Philistine armored giant who was insulting God's people.

David's oldest brother Eliab, mistook David's faith as pride and became very angry. Eliab thought David belonged back in the wilderness with his sheep, and accused him of coming just to watch the battle.

David was **prudent** in speech, choosing his words carefully. When taken to Saul for permission to fight Goliath, he convincingly spoke of his courage and ability to stand against the giant.

In the fields, David protected his sheep by killing lions and bears. His experience proved God had already prepared him to fight the giant. David said, "... the LORD that delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, he will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine" (1 Samuel 17:37). David clearly stated that his faith was in the power of God and not in his own resources.

Alone with his sheep for long periods of time, David disciplined his body and spirit, increasing his physical and spiritual strength. In the privacy of the fields, David talked to God. He grew in spiritual knowledge and understanding.

David expressed himself through his psalms. The Psalms include hymns, **supplications**, and thanksgivings he accompanied with his harp. A crowned leader is no different in God's eyes than the humblest Christian who speaks to the LORD from his heart.



| David was famous for defeating Goliath.

Answer these questions.

- 1.1 How did Saul disobey God? _____

- 1.2 Why did Samuel disguise his purpose for going to the house of Jesse?

- 1.3 What is an ephah? _____
- 1.4 What kinds of Psalms did David write?
 a. _____
 b. _____
 c. _____

Jonathan. Saul's eldest son, Jonathan, immediately loved David as his own soul. He gave David his own armor and clothing, symbolizing the giving over of his own royalty, "... even to his sword, and to his bow, and to his girdle" (1 Samuel 18:4). Jonathan was loyal to David, not Saul, as king.

Saul grew furiously jealous of David and tried to assassinate him, but Jonathan convinced Saul that David was innocent of any wrongdoing against his throne or person, for he served his father well. For a time Saul was appeased, but Jonathan eventually realized the seriousness of his father's actions and helped David to flee.

Through narrow escapes, Jonathan warned David of Saul's wrath and helped Him to escape into the fields. Michal, Saul's daughter and David's first wife, helped David escape through a window.

David and Jonathan established a **covenant** relationship. They vowed, "... The LORD be between me and thee, and between my seed and thy seed for ever ..." (1 Samuel 20:42).

In spite of Saul's treachery, David spared his life twice. In a cave at Engedi, David inched close enough to Saul to cut off a piece of the royal robe without the king detecting his presence. At Ziph, David snatched a spear and jug of water from Saul's side. The king remained asleep, and in the morning

had to send someone over to David's camp to reclaim the weapon.

After Jonathan and Saul's deaths, David wrote a lament, a poetical expression of grief and sorrow: "The beauty of Israel is slain upon thy high places: how are the mighty fallen!" (2 Samuel 1:19) Once king, David sought out Jonathan's lame son, Mephibosheth, in order to honor him. Mephibosheth was frightened in the presence of the king, saying "... What *is* thy servant, that thou shouldest look upon such a dead dog as I *am*?" (2 Samuel 9:8) David reassured him and brought Mephibosheth's household to live in Jerusalem where they ate continually at the king's table.



| Saul and David in a cave

Complete these sentences.

- 1.5 Jonathan gave David his own a. _____ and b. _____ as a symbol of his dedication and love for David.
- 1.6 Jonathan realized the seriousness of Saul's threats and helped David to _____.
- 1.7 On two occasions David spared _____ life.
- 1.8 In a cave at _____, David cut off a piece of Saul's robe.
- 1.9 David snatched a(n) a. _____ and b. _____ from Saul's bolster.
- 1.10 David and Jonathan had a(n) _____ relationship.

Answer this question.

- 1.11 What is a lament? _____

Adultery, Murder, and the Census. The LORD's greatest displeasure with David came when he allowed Bathsheba's beauty to lure him into sin. Several tragic consequences resulted from their adultery. Bathsheba became pregnant and the unrepentant David chose to cover his sin by arranging the murder of her husband, Uriah. Even the most faithful Christian could suddenly find themselves trapped in a web of their own sin.

Uriah's murder did not put an end to David's problems. He also had to suffer the loss of their child. Sin almost always affects other people. David's sin affected not only himself but also Bathsheba, Uriah, and an innocent baby. The LORD was angered over the effect David's sin would have on those who already mocked God (2 Samuel 12:14). The LORD jealously guards the holiness of his name.

David's deep **remorse** upon realizing the effects of sin upon himself, others, and the God he loved is expressed in Psalm 51. With candid honesty, he outpoured his desire to be purified and renewed. He longed to be back in fellowship with the God of his salvation.

Even though David petitioned with prayer and fasting, the child died. David married Bathsheba; and God later blessed her with the birth of Solomon, Israel's future king.

Absalom was another of David's sons. He was exiled for murdering of his half-brother, Amnon. Because David's love for his son was so great, the years Absalom spent in exile were torturous. Soon after his return, Absalom began to divide the kingdom,

openly criticizing and undermining his father's authority. In the end, even though Absalom's army set forth against David's, the tortured father still requested that the soldiers be gentle with his son.

As Absalom was riding his mule away from the battlegrounds one day, his hair became caught in the branches of an oak tree and the mule went out from under him. Joab thrust three spears into Absalom's heart as he dangled helplessly from the tree. David mourned openly and bitterly for his beloved Absalom.



| Absalom's hair got caught in an oak tree.

David also sinned in ordering a census in Israel. As a result, the LORD sent a **pestilence** upon the land. David prayed that God would be merciful to the people and punish him alone. After the prayer, the

prophet Gad came to him with instructions from the LORD to build an altar in Araunah's **threshingfloor**.

Araunah, a working man in David's kingdom, probably derived his living from his threshingfloor and oxen. Surprised by the king's visit, Araunah learned that David sought to buy his threshingfloor to build an altar. Araunah, behaving in a kingly manner himself, offered to give David the floor and the oxen so that the king could give offerings to God. Araunah, who was willing to part with his material possessions, honored David's position as king and respected God's freedom to deal in His own way with David. David purchased the threshingfloor from Araunah and built an altar. God ended the pestilence upon Israel.

Conqueror. David's enemies included more than pagan invaders. Incited by an unfounded jealousy, Saul himself became David's enemy. In his aging years, David had to defend his own throne from the young usurpers who anticipated his death.

From the time that David killed Goliath, he left the fields of sheep and exchanged them for fields of

battle: "And David went out whithersoever Saul sent him, *and* behaved himself wisely: and Saul set him over the men of war, and he was accepted in the sight of all the people, and also in the sight of Saul's servants" (1 Samuel 18:5). In fact, David was so well received that the people began to chant a praise, "... Saul hath slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands" (1 Samuel 18:7).

When the Philistines had overpowered Keilah, the LORD directed David to attack. Although David saved Keilah and smote the Philistines, Saul was still intent on destroying him. Saul was not dissuaded by David's victories on his behalf, he continued to track the one he thought threatened his throne.

After Saul's death, David went into Judah where he was anointed king, but Saul's influences were still strong. He was not anointed king of Israel until he had reigned for almost eight years in Judah. According to 2 Samuel 3:1, "... there was long war between the house of Saul and the house of David: but David waxed stronger and stronger, and the house of Saul waxed weaker and weaker."

Answer these questions.

1.12 Who were the three people whose deaths caused David much grief?

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

1.13 What were two direct consequences of the sin between David and Bathsheba?

1.14 In what Psalm does David express his deep remorse for his sin? _____ .

1.15 Why was Absalom sent into exile? _____

1.16 Why did David regret taking a census? _____



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