

Supplement to the program

# THE STORY OF DAVID

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## **From Dr. Ken Curtis**

### **President Gateway Films/Vision Video**

I love to read the Bible stories about David and have drawn instruction and inspiration from his life for years. Thus, it is with special pleasure we offer you Columbia Pictures television series *The Story of David*. We have prepared this supplement to help you get the most out of this production.

David is one of the central characters in all of scripture. What greater could be said than “He was a man after God’s own heart” (I Samuel 13:14, Acts 13:22)? The Bible gives us more details and stories about David’s life than anyone else in all of scripture except Jesus. Consider that the very first thing we are told in the New Testament about Jesus is that he is the “Son of David.” (Matthew 1:1, see also 1:17, 9:27, 15:21).

David’s life is a wonderful source for study, discussion and reflection. We believe this film can help bring David’s story alive to enrich your individual or group study.

Unfortunately, a film can only cover so much and must be selective in what is included and omitted. For example, I deeply regret that my favorite incident in David’s life is left out entirely. That was the time when his men, knowing of his parching thirst, risked their lives to bring him water from the well near the gate of Bethlehem. David was so moved by their devotion that he would not drink it but poured the water on the ground as an offering to the Lord saying, “Is it not the blood of men who went at the risk of their lives?” (II Samuel 23:13-17).

You may find things you wish were included or treated at greater length. But the important thing is that this series gives us a helpful overview of David’s life and a feeling for the time in which he lived. It helps us picture the physical and geographical surroundings. A production like this also helps us feel the humanity and the emotions of those written about in the Bible and sends us back to the pages of Scripture with a deeper appreciation for how the people treated therein are in so many ways “just like us.”

This is not so much a leader’s guide as it is a road map or handy reference to help you get to what you want in the programs. Thus you will find each scene listed by time, description of the action, scriptural source on which scene is based, and a question and answer or two that you may find useful.

We felt this was what would serve you best as there are so many ways in which this material can be used and you will want to adapt the material for your own purposes. For example, the most helpful approach may not be to take up the material scene by scene but rather to approach David’s life thematically. There are so many themes you would find fruitful to explore.

To suggest a few:

- David's development as a youth
- David as artist (poet, musician)
- David as friend
- David the ruler
- David the warrior
- David's relationships with women
- David's walk and communion with God
- David's family problems
- David's wonderful successes and tragic failures
- How David learned from his mistakes, etc.

You might find it helpful to devote a relaxed session or two to view the entire production and then schedule follow up times to go into specific sections for further analysis, discussion and reflection.

David's life is full of adventure, suspense, intrigue, heartwarming tenderness and devastating disappointments. He was the greatest king of Israel, yet he experienced human hurts and vulnerabilities that we can all identify with. There is great humor to be found in his experience as well as crushing pain. What he learned from his pursuit of God, and God's pursuit of him has survived the centuries as an apex of spiritual insight and wisdom.

We expect you will find this to be an unusually rewarding experience. We would be pleased to hear from you regarding how you used this material.

## The Story of David Viewer's Study Guide

0:01:20-0:02:54

DAVID KILLS THE LION.

I Samuel 17:34-35

***Do you think being a shepherd taught David any lessons that he would later use when King?***

The courage and care David used when caring for the flock is seen in the loyalty shown to his men and to Saul.

0:03:05-0:10:19

SAUL MEETS WITH THE PROPHET SAMUEL.

I Samuel 15:1-35

***In the opening scene we see Saul and his soldiers along the road. Samuel gave warnings to the people of Israel about having a king. Can you find one of the warnings in this opening scene?***

Read I Samuel 8:11

***What was Saul's sin against God that caused the kingdom to be taken away from him?***

He sacrificed the burnt offering that was lawful only for a priest to perform. Read I Samuel 13:1-32.

0:10:20-0:13:10

DAVID MEETS HIS BROTHERS AT THE VALLEY OF ELAH.

I Samuel 17:12-19

***Why was David among the troops of Israel if he was only a shepherd boy?***

To take provision of grain and bread to his brothers.

***The Bible tells us that David was despised by one of his older brothers for speaking out about Goliath. Who else in the Old Testament was despised by his older brothers?***

Joseph was despised by his older brothers as recorded in Genesis 37.

0:13:11-0:24:33

DAVID IS INTRODUCED TO SAUL.

I Samuel 16:14-23

***What Psalm was David singing to Saul?***

Psalm 91

***What does the Bible say about Saul's affliction; was it an evil spirit or just mental illness?***

It was an evil spirit sent by God to torment Saul and hopefully cause him to call out to God in repentance.

0:24:35-0:35:19

DAVID AND GOLIATH.

I Samuel 17:20-58

***In the movie Goliath is said to be one of the "sea-people." Does the Bible tell us what race Goliath descended from?***

Yes. Though Goliath is sometimes called a Gittite (from Gath) he was actually a descendent of the Rephaites, who (along with the Anakites and Emmites) were a giant race of people living near the Dead Sea. Read Genesis 15:18-21; Deuteronomy 2:20-21, 3:11; Joshua 17:15; I Chronicles 20:4-8.

0:35:20-0:41:00

SAUL BECOMES JEALOUS OF DAVID'S POPULARITY.

I Samuel 18:1-14

***What does Saul's jealousy reveal about his priorities as king? Did Saul really care about defeating Israel's enemies?***

Saul had lost sight of his real duty of leading Israel in taking the Promised Land and consequently became more and more jealous of David's victories against the Philistines and growing popularity.

***Do you think the people meant to taunt Saul by inventing the song about thousands and tens of thousands?***

No. They were simply singing a popular Psalm and including Saul and David. Read Psalm 91:7.

0:41:01-0:48:05

DAVID AND MICHAL

I Samuel 18:20-29

***Why did David's marriage to Michal make Saul all the more fearful?***

Now that David was a son-in-law he was one step closer to being king.

***Can you find examples of how Saul's sins went from bad to worse?***

0:48:06-0:50:50

SAUL TRIES TO KILL DAVID.

I Samuel 18:10,11; 19:1-14

***Saul tried to kill David with his spear on two different occasions. There was another time Saul tried to kill someone with his spear. Who was it?***

His own son, Jonathan. Read I Samuel 20:32-33.

0:50:51-0:53:27

DAVID MEETS SAMUEL AT RAMAH

I Samuel 19:18-24

***When did Samuel anoint David king? Was it before or after Saul tried to kill David?***

Before. Read I Samuel 1:10-13.

0:53:28-1:00:11

DAVID AND JONATHAN'S OATH TO ONE ANOTHER.

I Samuel 20:1-42

***When was the next time Jonathan and David met, after making their oath to one another?***

They didn't. Though Jonathan and David loved each other like brothers, they never met again before Jonathan died with Saul at Mount Gilboa.

1:00:12-1:02:24

David and Ahimelech at the city of Nod.

I Samuel 21:1-19

***David lied when he told Ahimelech about his mission from the king. What was the result of his lie?***

Ahimelech and all the other priests unknowingly were made accomplices to David's escape and were killed by Saul for it.

1:02:25-1:05:39

SAUL KILLS ALL THE INHABITANTS OF NOD.

I Samuel 22:6-23

***If each priest at Nod had a wife and at least two children, how many people were killed when Saul destroyed the city of the Priests?***

340 people, not counting the other men's families in the city that were not yet made priests.

1:05:40-1:08:32

DAVID'S NEAR SIN AND ABIGAIL'S WISDOM.

I Samuel 25:1-44

***How was David's reaction to Nabal just like Saul's reaction to Ahimelech?***

David and Saul both desired to shed blood out of revenge.

1:08:33-1:18:24

DAVID REFUSES TO KILL SAUL TWO TIMES.

I Samuel 26:1-27

***David had two opportunities to kill Saul. What was the single reason David gives on both occasions for not killing Saul?***

Saul was the "Lord's Anointed." Read I Samuel 24:6, 26:9.

1:18:28-1:22:20

DAVID AND HIS MEN HIDE AMONG THE PHILISTINES.

I Samuel 27:1-12

***David got King Achish of the Philistines to trust him through deceit. What was David's cunning deceit?***

David would raid and kill the enemies of Israel, but would tell King Achish that he was raiding Israelite settlements. In this way King Achish thought David had become hated by the Israelites.

1:22:21-1:23:32

SAUL SEEKS THE HELP OF A WITCH FOR GUIDANCE.

I Samuel 28:1-25

***Was Saul's use of a medium a biblical sin?***

Yes. Read Leviticus 19:26, 31; 20:27; Deuteronomy 18:9-13.

***Why do you think God calls these things detestable?***

Because God is the one who should be sought for direction. Read I Chronicles 10:13-14.

1:23:33-1:29:55

DAVID IS NOT ALLOWED TO FIGHT WITH THE PHILISTINES

I Samuel 29:1-11

***Do you think David really would have fought against Saul and the armies of Israel on the side of the Philistines?***

If David refused to kill Saul because he was God's anointed king, he likewise would probably not have fought against God's anointed people. David was simply continuing to deceive King Achish, just as the Philistine rulers had suspected.

1:29:56-1:31:10

SAUL AND JONATHAN DIE IN BATTLE AT MOUNT GILBOA.

I Samuel 30:1-13

***Saul's life of failure emerged out of his not carrying out God's command regarding the Amalekites. While God was carrying out his wrath on Saul at Mount Gilboa for all his disobedience, what was David doing?***

David and his men were destroying the very same Amalekites that Saul was supposed to destroy. Read I Samuel 30:1-31.

***Did David make the same mistake Saul did with the Amalekites?***

No. David took back only the plunder that the Amalekites had taken from the Philistines, Judah, and Ziklag. See verses 15, 18.

1:31:11-1:34:20

DAVID MOURNS FOR SAUL.

II Samuel 1:1-27

***Do you think the messenger that brought news of Saul and Jonathan was mournful of their deaths?***

We don't really know. The Amalekite messenger was possibly hoping for some reward from David for presenting Saul's crown and arm band to him.

***Do you think you could forgive and love someone who mistreated you as David loved Saul? What does David's lament tell us about his heart and character?***

David was truly a man of God. He was devoted to God's will and purposes, regardless of the hardships.

0:00:38-0:05:40

JOAB AND ABNER MEET WITH EACH OTHER.

II Samuel 2:1-32

***How did the fighting start between Joab's men and Abner's men?***

The video shows the two sides arguing with one another as Joab and Abner discuss who should be king over all Israel. But the Bible indicates it actually started as a prideful exhibition of strength to amuse Joab and Abner.

***How many men actually died because of this foolish game between Joab and Abner?***

380 men died; 20 of Joab's, 360 of Abner's.

0:05:41-0:12:44

DAVID MAKES A DEAL WITH ABNER BY DEMANDING THE RETURN OF MICHAL.

II Samuel 3:1-16

***Did David have the right to demand Michal from her new husband, Paltiel?***

Michal was still lawfully David's wife. The fault lies with Saul. Though Saul was king, he had no authority before God to annul David's marriage nor give Michal to another man while David was still alive. The unfortunate victims in this power struggle between David and Saul were Michal and Paltiel. Read Genesis 2:23-24, Romans 7:2-3, I Corinthians 7:39.

0:12:45-0:23:46

ABNER IS MURDERED BY JOAB.

II Samuel 3:17-39

***Do you think David was politically scheming with Abner to gain control of Israel? Does the Bible say that David and Abner met privately about uniting Israel?***

No. David was very public and celebrant in his dealings with Abner and his men. This was no hidden scheme, but rather a time of rejoicing for the unity of Israel.



***Did Joab have the right to avenge his brother's death by killing Abner?***

No. Abner killed Asahel in battle, and not before he warned Asahel twice to stop pursuing him. Joab murdered Abner with deceit. The Law of Moses expressly forbid revenge on your neighbor. See Leviticus 19:17, 18; Deuteronomy 32:35.

0:23:47-0:33:19

DAVID CAPTURES JERUSALEM AND BRINGS THE ARK.

II Samuel 5:1-6:23

***What important part of the Biblical narrative is left out of the video?***

The judgment of God against Uzzah for not respecting the holiness of the Ark.

0:33:20-0:37:26

DAVID PRAYS TO GOD IN THE TABERNACLE BEFORE THE ARK.

II Samuel 7:18:29

***What single difference do you find between Saul and David which is reflected in David's request to God regarding his kingdom and household?***

David recognized the need for total dependence upon God if his kingdom and household were to continue. Yet Saul seemed to see God as a type of fortune teller regarding battles and victories, and sought to continue his kingdom in his own strength.

0:37:28-0:39:20

DAVID TALKS WITH THE SCRIBES.

No Biblical reference.

***In the video David is shown talking with the royal scribes and instructs them on how to write. Who are the three people he instructs the scribes to write about?***

David mentions the stories about Abraham, the angel of death in Egypt, and Joshua taking Jericho.

***Do you think that these scribes were the first to put these stories in writing?***

No. The first five books of the Old Testament, from which David quotes, were from Moses nearly 400 years before David's time.

0:39:22-1:07:37

DAVID SINS WITH BATHSHEBA AND NATHAN'S REBUKE.

II Samuel 11:1-12:23

***What was David's first mistake that put him in a position to be tempted to sin? Was it seeing Bathsheba from the roof, or before?***

The opening sentence of chapter 11 gives us a possible clue. The writer of II Samuel wants us to know from the very start what led up to David's sin. David was the king of Israel, and kings were supposed to lead their armies in battle even if they didn't actually take part in the fighting. David, in this instance, chose to stay home.

***Do you think Bathsheba was a willing partner in this sin as the video suggests? Do you think she had any regard for the Law?***

As a subject of the king she would probably feel she had no right to refuse David. (Notice that immediately after David had relations with her, she went out and purified herself because of her uncleanness.)

***How much time had passed before Nathan came to rebuke David's sin? Was it before Bathsheba gave birth as the video suggests?***

More than nine months, since verse 14 speaks of the child already being born, then becoming sick, and then the sickness lasting for seven days before the child dies.

***Why do you suppose Nathan rebuked David through a fictitious story? Why not just come out and rebuke him as Samuel did to Saul?***

Nathan gave David opportunity to either pronounce his own judgment or confess his sin and so be shown a degree of mercy. By David pronouncing a righteous judgment against the greedy rich man in the story, he pronounced righteous judgment upon himself.

1:07:39-1:16:29

AMNON RAPES TAMAR OUT OF LUST. ABSALOM MURDERS AMNON OUT OF REVENGE.  
II Samuel 13:1-39

***Notice how the sin of sexual lust and conspiracy continued on in David's sons. When did Amnon's desire for Tamar actually become sin?***

When he listened to the advice of an evil friend named Jonadab and plotted to rape Tamar, his deep desire for her became sinful lust.

***Can you think of both an Old Testament and New Testament verse that speaks to this issue of having the wrong type of friends?***

See Proverbs 13:20 and I Corinthians 15:33.

1:16:30-1:20:32

ABSALOM FLEES TO GESHUR. ABSALOM IS SUMMONED BACK TO JERUSALEM BY DAVID.

II Samuel 14:1-33

***Why did Absalom choose Geshur as the city in which to flee?***

Absalom fled his father's house to go live under his grandfather's protection. Absalom's mother was Maacah, the daughter of Talmai, king of Geshur. See II Samuel 3:3.

***Why did Joab use the woman to act out a fictitious story in order to get Absalom back?***

Because Joab knew that deep inside David's heart, he wanted Absalom to return, but he was also too hurt by the murder of Amnon to admit it.

***Do you think Absalom was truly repentant over killing Amnon? Does the scriptural text give us any insight into this question?***

The text never mentions Absalom ever actually asking for God's or David's forgiveness or confessing that killing Amnon was a sin.

1:20:33-1:23:36

ABSALOM PLOTS AGAINST DAVID.

II Samuel 15:1-37

***Do you think Absalom had a plan to overthrow David from the beginning?***

Chances are, Absalom wanted David to receive him back into the royal house only to use his position to form a conspiracy. Notice how Absalom burned Joab's field in a temper tantrum, and even lied about making a vow to God in Hebron, further evidence of Absalom's true character and motives.

***Can you find the one mistake in the video concerning David's friend, Hushai, whom David asked to spy for him in Jerusalem?***

In the video David tells Hushai to remain in Jerusalem while the rest of them fled; but in the text David meets Hushai at the Mount of Olives and there tells him to return to Jerusalem.

1:23:37-1:29:50

ABSALOM ATTACKS DAVID AND IS KILLED BY JOAB.

II Samuel 17:1-18:33

***The whole story of Hushai and David unfolds like a James Bond movie. How did Hushai get messages to David while he was spying?***

Hushai would tell Zadock the priest, Zadock would tell a maidservant, the servant would tell Jonathan and Ahimaaz who would then run over the mountains to David.

***What is wrong with the way Absalom is captured and killed in the video?***

The Bible states that Absalom was fleeing from the battle and got his hair stuck in the branches of a tree, and that he hung there until Joab came and threw three javelins into Absalom's stomach, then ten other men killed Absalom themselves.

***What does the death of Absalom tell us about Joab's loyalty to David?***

At first we might think Joab was wise in killing Absalom because he was protecting David. But it might well be that Joab was more loyal to protecting his own position in David's kingdom than loyal to David himself. If he were truly loyal he would have listened to the man who had discovered Absalom hanging in the tree.

1:29:51-1:36:18

DAVID IS OLD. ADONIJAH TRIES TO TAKE THE KINGDOM. BEFORE DAVID DIES HE MAKES SOLOMON KING.

I Kings 1:1-2:4

***Who is it that conspires with Adonijah to overthrow David as king?***

Joab, the old commander of David's army. Notice how Joab is still trying to protect his own position, even by betraying David.

***Do you think it was God's intention that David make Solomon king? What in the scriptural text helps us to come to a firm conclusion?***

It is Nathan, God's prophet, who instructs Bathsheba to consult David about Solomon; also Adonijah himself testified that the Lord was the one who appointed Solomon as king. See I Kings 1:11, 2:15.

***In the video David told Solomon to kill Joab because of the danger Joab would be to Solomon. Who else did David say to deal with shrewdly?***

David also remembered the contentious and insubordinate nature of Saul's kinsman named Shimei. David suspected Shimei's lack of respect for the house of David on the throne. Shimei proved he still disregarded the authority of David's line, by disobeying the command of Solomon. Read I Kings 2:36-46.

***Can you find how old David was when he died?***

David died when he was seventy years old. See II Samuel 5:4, 5.

***How do you think God summed up David's life? Which sins, if any, do you think God wanted Israel to remember?***

See I Kings 15:3-5.