

THE BIG STORY

FROM CREATION TO CHRIST

WEEK 8

The Rise of the King: David and the Kingdom

DAILY READING – March 9-13th

Mon – 1 Samuel 8

Tue – 1 Samuel 16

Wed – 1 Samuel 17

Thu – 2 Samuel 7

Fri – Psalm 89:1–4

DEVOTIONAL

The Rise of the King: David and the Kingdom Promise

Memory Verse: “For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.” 1 Samuel 16:7 (ESV)

Story Thread: God promises a forever King whose reign will never fail.

Every heart crowns a king. We may not use royal language. We may not kneel physically. But we crown something. We trust something. We look to something for peace, identity, and security.

Israel once asked for a king “like all the nations” (1 Samuel 8:5). On the surface, it seemed reasonable. But God revealed the deeper issue: “They have not rejected you, but they have rejected me from being king over them.” (1 Samuel 8:7) They did not reject religion. They rejected God as King.

If we are honest, we often do the same. We rarely say it out loud. We simply replace Him quietly—with control, approval, security, success, or comfort. We look for visible saviors.

Saul was chosen first. He looked impressive. Tall. Strong. Kingly. But his heart drifted from obedience. Eventually God said, “Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, he has also rejected you from being king.” (1 Samuel 15:23) Outward strength could not substitute for inward surrender. So God sent Samuel to Bethlehem. Not to the tallest son. Not to the obvious choice. But to the overlooked shepherd. When Samuel assumed Eliab must be the one, God corrected him: “For the LORD sees not as man sees... the LORD looks on the heart.” (1 Samuel 16:7) David was not chosen for appearance, status, or résumé. He was chosen because of his heart—his orientation toward God.

Later, in 2 Samuel 7, David desires to build a house for God. But God reverses the idea. Instead of David building a house for Him, God promises to build a “house” (dynasty) for David. “I will make for you a great name... and your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me.” (2 Samuel 7:9,16) This is the Davidic Covenant—the backbone of Israel’s hope. From this moment forward, the promise centers on a coming King from David’s line. Not just a temporary ruler. A forever King.

But David, like every king after him, eventually fails. Even a man after God’s heart falls short. Scripture does not hide his sin because David was never meant to be the final King. Matthew opens with these words: “The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David.” (Matthew 1:1) Jesus is the promised Son of David.

Where David sinned, Jesus obeyed.
Where David's kingdom fractured, Jesus' kingdom endures.
Where earthly kings failed, Christ reigns without corruption.

“The Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David... and of his kingdom there will be no end.”
(Luke 1:32–33)

The question is not whether you have a king. The question is: Who sits on your throne?

Something rules your decisions. Something shapes your fears. Something defines your peace. But only one King can reign without failing you.

Jesus is not a consultant. He is King. And when He sits on the throne, His reign brings peace, stability, and hope that circumstances cannot shake.

FAMILY DEVOTIONAL

TALK What does a king do? Why is it important to have a good and wise king?

READ 1 Samuel 16:7 and Luke 1:32–33

PRAYER: Jesus, thank You for being the perfect and forever King. Help our family trust You, follow You, and put You first in our hearts. Amen.

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

Week 8

1. **In 1 Samuel 8, Israel asks for a king “like all the nations.”** Why do you think they wanted something visible and measurable?
2. **God says He looks at the heart rather than outward appearance.** How does that challenge the way we evaluate success or leadership today?
3. **Saul looked impressive but lacked obedience.** Why do you think outward success can sometimes hide inward drift?
4. **In 2 Samuel 7, God promises David a forever kingdom.** Why is this promise so central to the rest of the Old Testament?
5. **Matthew calls Jesus the “Son of David.”** How does knowing this connection strengthen your confidence in God's faithfulness?

