

David #1

## A Heart for God

### Word

#### Scripture Reference

1 Samuel 16:1-13

#### Discussion Questions

1. If you were a human resource manager, how would an applicant's outward appearance influence you in your decision to hire him/her? Is outward appearance really important? Could you really judge a book by its cover?
2. Read 1 Samuel 16:1-13. Saul, who appeared as the model image of a king because of his impressive good looks, was the first God-appointed king of Israel. However, because of his repeated disobedience and rebellion (1 Samuel 13 and 15), God asked Samuel to look for a new king. What do you think Samuel had in mind for the next king of Israel? Recount the process of how he finally found the king God wanted as the replacement to King Saul.
3. *Samuel consecrated or sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice* (v. 5). What does it mean? How are you being sanctified for God?
4. How does outward appearance affect your judgment of others? Please share with the group of your real experience wherein you judged a person solely based on his outward appearance.
5. God gives us a glimpse of His heart in verse 7. The Lord does not look at the things that man does. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart. Have you examined your heart against the standard of God?
6. What is inner beauty to you? How is it more important than your outward beauty?

7. It is interesting to note that even Jesse, David's father, didn't think that David was worthy to be the next king. Why do you think so? What do you know of David? Why do you think God chose him to be the next king?
8. David, the shepherd, may have been young and insignificant compared to his brothers who were all warriors and had impressive looks. But as a shepherd, David could see God's greatness (Psalm 19) and looks at God as his Shepherd (Psalm 23). He had the right perspective of God. How do you see God through your job and responsibilities, as a businessman, corporate employee, student, or as a full-time housewife? Is your heart attuned with God despite your busyness doing your job?
9. Samuel first anointed David as the next king in the presence of his brothers (v.13). It was done again in public years later, but before that happened, David continued as a shepherd until God's appointed time for him to be king. God saw in David what He was looking for: a heart wholly for God – responsive and teachable. How would you describe a heart that is wholly for God?

### Walk

If God examined your heart right now, what will He see? Do you have a heart that is responsive to God's call and command? Are you teachable when He deals with you, or do you reject His methods? Is your heart wholly, completely for Him?

### Worship & Prayer

**Join the Corporate Prayer Time every Friday, 7:15-8:00pm at the Balcony**

Pray for...

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For the Holy Spirit to use the new series on the life of King David to transform the hearts of God's people for Him.</li> <li>• Wisdom and grace for all involved in the anniversary choir, musicale, Chinese play.</li> <li>• Effectiveness of the church ministries to equip God's people</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For the hearts of the people in Tanzi to be receptive to the Word of God.</li> <li>• Healing and salvation for Uncle Sam, RL, 5-year old Jedric Lorenzo with leukemia, Jack Sia, Lucina Tan, Nestor and HS.</li> <li>• Healing for CI's infected ear.</li> </ul> |
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for spiritual service.

*David #2*

## A Heart of Faith

### Word

#### Scripture Reference

1 Samuel 17:1-58

#### Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever been intimidated by someone bigger or more powerful than you? Describe the circumstances.
2. 1 Samuel 17:1-58 accounts the war between the Israelites and the Philistines in the time of King Saul. In order to evade the expensive cost of battle, each army would pit their strongest warrior against the other. Why was Goliath, the Philistine champion, so intimidating to King Saul and his army?
3. Goliath's physical size was not the only intimidating factor about him; his attitude was as well. For forty consecutive days, he immobilized the Israel's army by challenging one of them to fight with him. What kind of person "immobilizes" you or "weakens your knees?" In one-way or another, someone could actually bully you or a member of your family. How should you handle these bullies in your life?
4. Before David faced Goliath, he was given Goliath's kind of weapons, but he realized right away that he could not fight with heavy tools. Have you ever tried facing a problem in a way that hinders you more than it helps you? What did you learn from it?
5. The boy David, armed with nothing but a sling, a stone and unwavering faith—which must have seemed like madness to many, quickly killed Goliath, the giant who looked so impossible to defeat. When have you needed this kind of faith to defeat an overwhelming obstacle? Please share your experience with the group.
6. Goliath only saw the little boy before him, not the God behind that

little boy. What specific things gave David strength and confidence to face-off with Goliath (verses 36-37)? What do those things tell you about David's belief and relationship with God? What are the things you can learn from him in handling an overwhelming situation?

7. The right kind of faith does not depend on the size of your faith, but rather depends on the object of your faith. How big is your God? How much confidence do you have in Him?

### Walk

David vs. Goliath is not a story about someone small defeating someone big. It is a true story about a big giant going up against the bigger God on whom someone little like David had absolute confidence. Do you have a heart of faith on the amazing God?

### Worship & Prayer

**Join the Corporate Prayer Time every Friday, 7:15-8:00pm at the Balcony**

Pray for...

- Wisdom and grace for all the ongoing preparations and rehearsals for the GCCP's 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary.
- Thanksgiving for completion of our STM team's travel documents. Pray for a blessed and fruitful Taiwan mission trip.
- Healing and salvation for Jose Chua, Juliet Cerbas & unborn baby, Angel Dy, Katherine Barleta, Nestor, Amiel Quizon.
- Grace and blessings for Grace Christian College as the school commemorates its 63<sup>rd</sup> founding anniversary on July 5.

*David #3*

## A Heart of Wisdom

### Word

#### Scripture Reference

1 Samuel 18:1-16

#### Discussion Questions

1. Recall and share with your group some past and present experiences when you made a decision that landed you in deep water.
2. God prepared David to be Israel's next king by allowing him first to experience life as a shepherd, poet, musician, warrior, commander, and other positions of responsibility. How is God preparing you today, and what is He allowing you to experience now in your workplace, school, business, and family to prepare you for service?
3. David was successful in all he did because he was wise in all his responses. How have you been responding to what God is allowing you to experience today?
4. In verse 5b, how did the people respond to David when he was made commander over men of war? What does this tell you about the result when you walk in wisdom?
5. How can you become wise in your living? Read Psalm 119:1-8 and discuss the ways on how you should walk in wisdom.
6. Walking in wisdom means walking consistently in the truths of the scriptures and doing what is right in the sight of God. Do you find it difficult to walk consistently in the truths of the scriptures when you are at home, workplace, school, business, etc.? Why was walking consistently in the truths of the scriptures possible in the life of David? What was his "secret?"
7. Discuss some practical ways on how you can walk in the truths of the Scriptures. How can you encourage others to live wisely all the

time?

8. Verse 6-9 tells us that when the people celebrated David's successes, Saul became jealous and wanted to bring David down. How does Saul's attitude reflect the mindset of ungodly people today? As a Christian, how should you respond to these kinds of situations?
9. In jealousy and insecurity, Saul kept a close eye on David, always waiting to pounce on a single mistake. But David always behaved wisely, and so when Saul could not find anything on him, Saul became afraid of David (v. 14-15). When you do what is right, there is nothing to be afraid of. If someone did an investigation on your life, what skeletons would come out of your closet?

### Walk

To live wisely is to behave rightly in the eyes of God. There are a lot of blessings when you choose to walk in the truths of the Scriptures. By living wisely, David gained respect, love, popularity and influence. How about you? Have you been living wisely by applying the truths of the Scriptures every day in your life?

### Worship & Prayer

**Join the Corporate Prayer Time every Friday, 7:15-8:00pm at the Balcony**

Pray for...

- Wisdom and grace for the ongoing preparations for the Singles Retreat, College Camp, Badminton Tournament, and 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary rehearsals: "Bow Down" Musicales; 100-voice Chorale; and Chinese Play.
- Fruitful ministry and learning experiences for the GCCP Taiwan Mission Team.
- Blessings for the 20+ candidates taking the baptismal & membership class.
- Healing and salvation for Jose Chua, Angel Dy, Juliet Cerbas & unborn baby.
- Wisdom for Ace Christopher Chua.

David #4

## A Heart of Loyalty

### Word

#### Scripture Reference

1 Samuel 20; 2 Samuel 9

#### Discussion Questions

1. Biblical loyalty sides with what is right regardless of the people involved. How is it different from how the world views loyalty? Share a past experience when you sided with a friend, family, or loved one even when you knew they were wrong.
2. Do you agree with the saying, “blood is thicker than water”? In 1 Samuel 20:4, Jonathan sides with what is right by pledging allegiance to David, even though David has no blood relationship with him. Would you be willing to give up something for someone who has no blood relationship with you, for the sake of loyalty? Why is it more difficult to side with what is right over those who have blood relationship with us?
3. Biblical loyalty is built on grace (undeserved favor). In verses 11-17, how do Jonathan’s actions show the idea that Biblical loyalty is built on grace? What was he willing to do for David, to whom he owed nothing?
4. Verses 30-31 tell us that Jonathan’s kingdom will not be established as long as David remains alive. Have you been in a similar situation where there is always that person whose presence keeps you from getting that promotion, from being the top student in your class, or from being recognized for your accomplishments (because that person is always better)? How do you respond to these kinds of situations? Would you still remain loyal, or would you try to get ahead by any means necessary?
5. Biblical loyalty is keeping one’s promises no matter the situation.

How is this evident in the lives of Jonathan and David according to 1 Samuel 20:32-42 and 2 Samuel 9?

6. “Loyalty means nothing unless it has at its heart the absolute principle of self-sacrifice.” – Woodrow Wilson. Share an experience when you sacrificed something in order to fulfill a promise you made.
7. God is the perfect picture of what it means to have a heart of loyalty. He sides with what is right; His loyalty is built on grace, not on what we have done; and He keeps promises in spite of the difficult situations. How have you reciprocated the loyalty God has shown you?

### Walk

Many people see Jesus as a nice person with great words and great works, but only a few see Him as a loyal and faithful friend who delivers the real goods all the time. Cultivate a heart of loyalty that shows others how faithful and true Jesus is. Today, ask God to grant you a heart that is completely satisfied and loyal to Him.

### Worship & Prayer

**Join the Corporate Prayer Time every Friday, 7:15-8:00pm at the Balcony**

Pray for...

- Thanksgiving for safe and fruitful Taiwan mission trip.
- Grace and blessings for the preparations of the Singles Retreat, College Camp, Badminton Tournament, Basketball League, Anniversary specials, and the baptism of 20+ candidates.
- Wisdom and grace for leaders to properly govern the Lord’s growing church.
- Healing and salvation for Lucina Tan, MTT, Juna Cerbas, Mrs. Co.
- Comfort for bereaved family of Pilar Wee and Jose Lao

*David #5*  
**A Heart of Trust**

## Word

### Scripture Reference

1 Samuel 21:10-15; Psalm 34, 56

### Discussion Questions

1. How important is trust in your daily living? What makes people lose their trust in another person?
2. Read 1 Samuel 21:10-15. Gath was a major Philistine city from which Goliath hailed. What could have caused David to flee there? What happened that caused him to become very much afraid of Achish, king of Gath, that he resorted to acting insane?
3. Fear is such a strong feeling that could paralyze even a courageous man like David. Have you ever been so afraid in your life? How did you handle it?
4. Read Psalm 56. David wrote this psalm when the Philistines had seized him in Gath. What does this passage tell you about trusting in God in the midst of fear? What can you learn from David from his response to fear?
5. A heart of trust is a heart that trusts in God ALONE. If you examine your trust in God, what do you see? Is it conditional? Do you trust God only when you have a backup plan— connection to influential people, big savings in the bank, or when your life is not in danger and everything is turning out well? Can you honestly say that you trust in God alone?
6. Read Psalm 34. David wrote this psalm after acting as if he was insane in order to escape from King Achish. He thanked God and exalted His Name for delivering him. Name the three things David remembered about God that helped him to overcome fear (verses 15-16; 6, 17; and 7, 18-20. How do these reasons to trust God encourage

you and give you confidence in your walk with Him, especially when you are going through some difficult situations?

7. “Taste and see” in Psalm 34:8 is such a warm invitation on how you should respond to God’s goodness. Please share with the group how you have tried to “taste” God’s goodness? What outcome did you “see” from it? Are you willing to accept this invitation by trusting God daily and experiencing how good He is regardless of the situation?

## Walk

We are all traveling to heaven holding either a first class ticket which says, “I will trust God and not be afraid,” or a second-class ticket which says, “When I am afraid, I will trust God.” Which ticket are you holding? Could you honestly say that you are blessed because you are trusting in God?

## Worship & Prayer

**Join the Corporate Prayer Time every Friday, 7:15-8:00pm at the Balcony**

Pray for...

- Love and support of GCCP worshipers to keep Christ’s growing church in order according to His Word.
- Blessings for the Kairos Singles Ministry to help meet the needs of GCCP singles.
- Healing and grace for Farrah and her son (with hydrocephalus), RCW, PAC, AYC, BALS, Ronald Frias. Salvation for EJSS.
- Comfort and peace for the bereaved family of Mrs. Carla Sylianco.
- Wisdom and honesty for all the students taking the exams.

David #6

## A Heart of Prayer

### Word

#### Scripture Reference

1 Samuel 23:1-14

#### Sermon Outline

Prayer #1: In Times of Uncertainty

Prayer #2: In Times of Fear

Prayer #3: In Times of Certainty

Prayer #4: In Times of Confidence

#### Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever prayed and received God's answer in a unique or unexpected way?
2. David was a prayerful man who sought God's guidance all the time. When he was worried about the safety of his parents, he said to the king of Moab, *"Please let my father and mother come here with you, till I know what God will do for me."* (1 Sam. 22:3). He prayed in times of uncertainty. Read 1 Samuel 23:1-14. What was his prayer verse 2? What uncertainty was looming over him that he sought God's direction once again?
3. When we pray, we put our uncertainties in the hands of God who knows the future. Looking back in your life, was there a time that you were so uncertain about something that you turned to God for guidance? How did God answer your prayer?
4. God told David to go and attack the Philistines and save Keilah, but his men were afraid. David, who was a very eloquent person, could have given a speech to help them deal with their fear; but what did David do instead? How did God act on David and his men's behalf?
5. Each one of us experiences some sort of fear in our lives. How many of you pray in times of fear? Is the feeling of fear so entrapping that

you can't even think to pray? Think about how you can develop a habit of approaching God in the midst of fear and discuss with the group.

6. King Saul thought that God had handed David over to him (v. 7). David was so certain that Saul was coming to kill him. What was his prayer in verse 9? What can you learn from this prayer?
7. Do you still consult the Lord when you are certain of your plans, like when you have studied well for an exam or after the doctor has given you a clean analysis of your health? Do you pray in times of certainty? Why do you think it is necessary? What does it tell you about the future that only God can hold?
8. David also prayed in times of confidence (v. 11-12). While certainty speaks of situation, confidence speaks of attitude. Why do you still have to pray when you are already confident of an outcome? Is there anything in your life that you are very confident about where you tend to forget about God? How is this attitude detrimental to your walk with Him? Can you honestly say, *"I don't want to mess up my life and so I will pray for big or small things in my life"*?

### Walk

Our prayers are not often answered the way we want it. God always hears our prayers, but He has the freedom to do His will. Prayer is not asking God to change His mind, but asking what's in His mind. It is His will, not your will! Men of prayer are men after God's own heart. How can you develop this kind of attitude?

### Worship & Prayer

**Join the Corporate Prayer Time every Friday, 7:15-8:00pm at the Balcony**

Pray for...

- Worshipers to cultivate a heart of prayer.
- Wisdom and guidance for the GCCP leaders to care for the growing church.
- Blessings for the upcoming LifeGroup Leaders' Meeting.
- Grace for the RELAX Retreat and all the 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary specials.
- Healing and grace for Baby Lance, RCW, CL & AYC (recovery from surgery), AC, Jean Baptiste Sibomana (malaria).
- AGU's baby to turn from breech to proper position for normal delivery.



David #7

## A Heart of Forgiveness

### Word

#### Scripture Reference

1 Samuel 24, 26

#### Discussion Questions

1. Have you been treated kindly by a person whom you once had wronged? How did it make you feel?
2. David spent several years hiding from King Saul who in jealousy kept trying to kill him. Our passages recount two incidents in which David had the perfect opportunity to end Saul's vendetta, but refused to do so. Based on 1 Samuel 24, how did David feel after he acted on that chance by cutting off a corner of Saul's robe (verse 5-7)? What was the reason why he felt so guilty of what he did?
3. Forgiveness sees each person as God's "anointed," someone who is God's unique creation and whom God loves for a special purpose. David saw Saul exactly in this way. In what way could a person whom you consider your enemy be God's anointed? How does knowing that God loves your enemy the same way He loves you change your attitude toward that person and begin the process of forgiveness?
4. David's statement in 1 Samuel 24:12 was very profound: "*Let the Lord judge between you and me, and let the Lord avenge me on you. But my hand shall not be against you.*" What quality could David have had in order to demonstrate such an attitude? How could you develop the level of trust that allows God to deal with your enemy without you getting involved?
5. Forgiveness is rooted in trusting God's plan. Why do people exact vengeance? Give some examples that usually keep people from forgiving the people who hurt them?
6. Read 1 Samuel 26. David did not have to worry about his circumstances because He believed that God was in control. Romans 12:19 says,

*"Vengeance is Mine, I will repay."* Have you witnessed how God had repaid someone who had done awful things to others? What assurance do you have that such a person will not get away from God's judgment?

7. Forgiveness does not expect reciprocity, only acceptance/approval in God's eyes. David valued Saul's life but didn't expect him to do the same. However, David knew that God would value his life and deliver him from all troubles (1 Samuel 26:23-24). If someone who has done you wrong asks you for forgiveness, would you give it unconditionally without expecting to receive the same from that person? Would God see you as someone who does the right thing by the way you forgive those who wronged you?

### Walk

Despite injustices thrown at Him, Jesus Christ still loved you and knew God's plan for you. His ability to forgive gave you the right to become God's child and allowed you to have the assurance of eternal life.

Forgiving others who truly hurt you may be the hardest thing to do, but the result of having done so is very much worth it. With God's grace, how can you start the process of forgiving others? Would you be like Saul who lived miserably because of the hate and jealousy he had in his heart? Or would you live like David, who respected God's anointed, trusted in God's plan, and forgave because he knew that all he needed was acceptance/approval in God's eyes?

### Worship & Prayer

**Join the Corporate Prayer Time every Friday, 7:15-8:00pm at the Balcony**

Pray for...

- Blessings for all the baptismal candidates as they step out in obedience by faith.
- Good bonding of GCCP family through sports.
- Healing for those who have been hurt and are struggling to forgive.
- Healing and salvation for VGM (coma), Mr. Chung (colon cancer), Neil Santos, Mrs. Tan, CA, Mr. Ang (colon tumor), Steve, AYC, DPT.
- Wisdom and integrity for Pres. Aquino and his cabinet members in handling graft and corruption cases.

David #8

## A Heart of Thanksgiving

### Word

#### Scripture Reference

2 Samuel 7:1-29

#### Discussion Questions

1. When was the last time you really thanked God for something or someone you have in your life? Please share with the group.
2. Read 2 Samuel 7:1-29. David was no longer running away from King Saul; he was now king of united Israel. In verse 2, what desire did David express to the prophet Nathan? What was the reason why God did not want David to act on this desire (v. 8-9)?
3. What did God mean in verse 11 when he told David, "I will make you a house"? How is God's promise to David to begin a dynasty of kings through him— an amazing legacy that will last forever, significant to you?
4. In verses 18-29, we see from David's prayer of thanksgiving that although he was now king over all Israel, his feet remained on the ground, an attitude that cultivated in him a heart of thanksgiving. We can learn three principles from David's prayer. The first one is to realize your unworthiness and recognize God's goodness. David felt that he was unworthy of God's goodness yet God still graciously gave it to him. Why would thinking that you deserve every good thing that is happening in your life be a roadblock in being thankful? How can you overcome the attitude of entitlement?
5. Psalm 103:1-2 is a good reminder to praise God and to not forget all His blessings. What are some ways we can thank God for the many benefits of being His child?
6. The second principle to cultivate a heart of thankfulness is to realize your insignificance and to recognize God's greatness. Every person is precious in God's eyes, but sometimes we tend to overrate ourselves, as

if the world will not move without us. We forget that we are only one person out of the seven billion people on an earth that measures a mere millimeter when compared to the vastness of God's creation. Which among all of God's creation reminds you of God's greatness and makes you appreciate Him more? How does the fact that the awesome and wonderful God who created the universe protects and cares for you personally impact you?

7. The third principle is to realize your changeability and recognize God's immutability\*. Looking at your life now, how had you and your life situation changed through the years? What should your reaction be to the fact that the God who says He loves you will never change? How can the fact that His character will always be true and right cultivate a heart of thanksgiving in you?

\* *Immutability means that God is unchangeable and thus unchanging... He is never inconsistent or growing or developing.* (C. C. Ryrie, "Basic Theology: The Perfections of God," p. 43)

8. 1 Thessalonians 5:18 tells us that it is the will of God for you to be thankful. Being thankful makes God happy and at the same time transforms your entire attitude and perspective. In what area of your life do you think that having a heart of thanksgiving could transform you?

### Walk

A person who has the attitude of whining or complaining will not experience the joy of the Lord. Count your blessings... name them one by one! Think and list down how this message has helped you to have a heart and attitude of thankfulness.

### Worship & Prayer

**Join the Corporate Prayer Time every Friday, 7:15-8:00pm at the Balcony**

Pray for...

- Blessings for newly baptized members.
- Wisdom for ongoing preparations for the Seniors Appreciation Day (敬老日).
- Complete healing for AOC, Steve, AYC, Mrs. Tan, DPT, Moses (dengue).
- Safe delivery and healthy baby for AGU.
- Salvation and grace for Tian Chin.
- Grace and guidance for JTL.
- Courage for HO to share Gospel to her parents and family members.
- Wisdom for RN to handle family issues.



David #9

## A Heart of Repentance

### Word

#### Scripture Reference

2 Samuel 11, 12; Psalm 51

#### Discussion Questions

1. What causes a man's heart to be hardened and calloused, and makes him lose his conscience?
2. 2 Samuel 11 tells us how David's personal life becomes entangled in sin, even though he was the one used by God to bring back peace and great military power to Israel. How did he fall into sin? What caused this sin to multiply?
3. Even David, described by God Himself as a man after His very own heart, fell flat on his face to sin when he allowed himself a lingering look on Bathsheba. Do you think there is a process in which you would fall into sin? How would entertaining temptation lead you to a full-scale sin? How can you avoid it?
4. God does not allow even His children to get away with sin. How did God feel about what David did (v. 11:27)? How did God confront David about his sin in chapter 12? What would be the punishment or consequences of David's sin (v. 12:10-11)? As a child of God, how do the possible consequences of sin keep you from sinning?
5. David realized and acknowledged his sin with genuine repentance and a contrite heart. In his public confession found in Psalm 51, we learn three principles for cultivating a heart of repentance. The first principle is that a heart of repentance confesses personal sins committed against a holy God, being truly sorry for what you have done. When you repent of your sin, is it because you were caught doing it? What should be the reason of our repentance (Psalm 51:4)?
6. A heart of repentance asks for forgiveness through the shed blood of

our Savior Jesus Christ, in order to renew our fellowship with God. What can we learn from David's prayer in verses 7-9? How does it make you feel that because Jesus Christ died in your place, you can be forgiven and start a new slate?

7. A heart of repentance desires inner spiritual cleansing because of sin's ugly effects, in order to experience true joy and peace in life (Psalm 51:10-13). What does inner spiritual cleansing mean? Would simply saying, "I'm sorry" do the trick? What else do you need to do so that sin will not keep the joy away from your walk with God?

### Walk

How does living in sin affect your life? Does it make your heart callous? Does it rob you of joy and peace in your walk with God? What can untangle the complicated life you have put yourself in because of sin?

There is no way to justify what David did, but he came to God with a broken and contrite heart to resume fellowship with God. Examine your heart for any unconfessed sin and ask God for forgiveness. Desire for inner spiritual cleansing and pray for a renewed fellowship with Him.

### Worship & Prayer

**Join the Corporate Prayer Time every Friday, 7:15-8:00pm at the Balcony**

Pray for...

- GCCP Christians to be holy and pure. Clarita 姐, Maxine Alessandra Tecson, Nestor.
- Joy and blessings for all elderly joining the Seniors Appreciation Day (敬老日).
- Wisdom and strength for all those helping in the church's 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.
- Healing and grace for Shane Chan, Steve, AOC, MTD, Rebecca 姐,
- Salvation and grace for Elizabeth Tan.
- Wisdom for TEN to excel in studies.
- Peace for Zamboanga; wisdom for the negotiators and safety of all hostages.

*David #10*

## A Heart of Humility

### Word

#### Scripture Reference

2 Samuel 15, 16; Psalm 3

#### Discussion Questions

1. If you have to name a humble person, who would it be? How is humility manifested in that person's life?
2. Read 2 Samuel 15-16 and discuss why David had to flee from Jerusalem, and how his son Absalom had something to do with it. What kind of person was Absalom? How did he steal the hearts of the people?
3. David must have thought about what he did wrong for his people to become disloyal to him. In present circumstances, what do you think changes the allegiance of people? Why are a lot of people disloyal to their companies or to the people close to them, even to their own families?
4. It must have been devastating for David to flee his own kingdom, especially when the coup against him was initiated by his own son. However, we can see that David had a heart of humility when he recognized the capriciousness of man. Do you accept the fact that you are fickle? How can you develop a more consistent and faithful character? How does it encourage you to be a faithful and reliable servant, knowing that the works you do for God will be remembered forever?
5. 2 Samuel 15:16-30 tells us that David and his men could have brought the Ark of the Covenant all the way with them to show the legitimacy of David's kingdom. But David wanted the Ark to be brought back to Jerusalem because he would rather submit to God and do what God wanted instead of his own. His heart of humility

accepted that he served at the pleasure of the true King. Do you humbly accept when God gives you something that you don't like? How does pride get in the way of how you see yourself? How can you tell when a person thinks too highly of himself than what he really is?

6. In 2 Samuel 16:5-11, a man was jeering and cursing David and his men. Even though he was surrounded by powerful men who were willing to protect him, David still let the man mock him, his humble heart allowing himself to be an object of ridicule and contempt. Do you care too much about how people see you? When do other people's opinions about you become detrimental to you as a person and more importantly to your walk with God?
7. Psalm 3 narrates how David's heart of humility made him turn to God for help in times of need. Are you always in need that you turn to God for help? How does having needs cultivate humility in you?
8. How did our Lord Jesus Christ exemplify humility in His life? What is the end result of Christ's humility?

### Walk

Humility is a sign of inner strength. How do you see yourself as the servant of the true King? Can you say with conviction, "Have Thy Own Way Lord?"

### Worship & Prayer

**Join the Corporate Prayer Time every Friday, 7:15-8:00pm at the Balcony**

Pray for...

- GCCP Christians to humble themselves and let God accomplish His good purpose in their lives for His glory.
- Wisdom and grace in preparing for a celebration to honor God's 45 years of faithfulness to His church.
- Healing and salvation for Katherine Lai, Sandesh Chhetri, Mrs. Ang, Steve.
- Healing of the Filipino nation through the empowering of God-fearing citizens.
- Raise a godly generation at GCCP who will make a difference in the world.

David #11

## A Heart of Submission

### Word

#### Scripture Reference

1 Chronicles 17, 22

#### Discussion Questions

1. What are some common reasons people use to justify their hatred towards the idea of submission? Share with the group which among these reasons is very true to you and why.
2. 1 Chronicles 17 narrates David's unselfish, noble desire to build a magnificent temple for God. However, God's answer was a non-negotiable "no." Anyone who wants something and doesn't get it naturally feels disappointed. What dream, desire, or ambition did you want so badly in your life but which God had not granted you? How did you feel about it?
3. God sometimes does not permit us to carry out our desire to honor Him because He wants us to serve Him in other ways. David intended to build a magnificent temple for God, but God intended for David's son Solomon to have that honor. If God chose to fulfil your desire through someone else, how would you react? Read 1 Chronicles 17:16-27.
4. A heart of submission accepts God's plan for your life without question. Have you ever questioned God about His plans for you? In what aspect of your life do you most tend to question Him? How does questioning God hinder you from cultivating a heart of submission?
5. 1 Chronicles 22 tells us that although God did not allow David to build His temple, He did allow David to make preparations. David gathered the best materials and the best workers to build a glorious, magnificent temple, because he knew and believed that God deserves only the best. Verse 5 tells us that David continued in this endeavour wholeheartedly until the end of his life. How do you demonstrate through your daily actions and decisions in your home, work, church or ministry, that the

God you believe and serve deserves only the very best?

6. A heart of submission strives for the best in light of new circumstances. When God redirects your path, do you have an attitude that "makes the best of your terrible situation," implying that God gave you something that is second-best, or do you live your life with the best in mind, joyfully serving God because you acknowledge that He never gives you leftovers?
7. A heart of submission acknowledges that God's reasons (if revealed to us) are always right. 1 Chronicles 22:6-10 tells us that the reason why God did not allow David to build the temple was because David had blood on his hands. It seemed that God was holding it against David even though David was acting only in obedience to Him, but David recognized that whatever reasons God had was not his concern. He simply accepted that God's ways are always the best and are always right. Our main reason for not submitting to God's authority is because we think that He may be wrong. Have you ever thought that God might have made a mistake in His plans for your life? Share with the group.

### Walk

*"God only gives special circumstances to special people."*

The journey you are in will wind and turn; it will not be what you want it to be. But when we choose to cultivate a heart of submission and our prayers begin to say, "Lord, may Your will be done in my life," God promises a life of joy and peace even when things don't go as we planned. What have you been desiring for or praying for recently? Is your heart submissive enough to take what God has to give for an answer?

### Worship & Prayer

**Join the Corporate Prayer Time every Friday, 7:15-8:00pm at the Balcony**

Pray for...

- Worshipers to humble and submit themselves fully to God.
- Wisdom and grace to complete all the preparations for the 45th anniversary.
- Oct 27 Thanksgiving Services and Musical to bring honor and glory to God.
- Healing for TS (injury of cornea), JTL, AYC Teresita Alcantara, Katherine Lai, Bert ㄨ.
- Spiritual maturity of Joy.
- Guidance for future direction of MY.
- Grace and protection for LT to overcome current challenges.

David #12

## A Heart of Worship

### Word

#### Scripture Reference

1 Chronicles 29

#### Discussion Questions

1. How do you show support to a person or team you are rooting for?
2. David very much wanted to build a temple for God, but God gave that responsibility to David's son Solomon. However, God allowed David to gather the materials to build the temple. The people of Israel responded with great generosity, bringing in what were needed freely and wholeheartedly. What are the needs around you that you are aware of? How do you respond to these needs?
3. Read 1 Chronicles 29: 10-20. The passage recounts the pinnacle of David's reign as king when he led the whole of Israel to worship God. We can learn from this passage four principles on how to cultivate a heart of worship. The first principle is that a heart of worship recognizes who God is and what He has done. What are the attributes of God mentioned in verses 10-12? In your own life, how do you acknowledge God's greatness and goodness? When was the last time you have thanked God for who He is and not only for what He has given you?
4. Worship is not only attending a worship service on weekends. True worship shows in how you live your life (Romans 12:1, 2). Share with the group how you can worship God as you are—as a parent, a student, an employee or a boss. How does knowing that how you live your life is an act of worship affect your actions?
5. David recognized that all the materials that they have collected to build God's temple were actually from God, and those were given back to Him with a pure heart (verses 16-17). The second principle we can learn is that a heart of worship requires a heart of integrity. You cannot worship God and God will not accept your worship if it is without integrity. At

some point you must have tried to worship God after or while committing a sin. How do you think God feels about it? How does sin rob you of joy in worship? What should you do so that your worship will not be hollow and empty, and that your heart will be in the same condition as your lips?

6. In David's prayer, he asked God that His people and his son Solomon would always be loyal to God (verses 18-19). The third principle you can learn is that a heart of worship expects unwavering loyalty to God. What keeps God's people from being loyal to Him? What excuses have you made in not making God the top priority in your life? What have you ever done that speaks of disloyalty to God?
7. David asked the people to bless God, which they did not only with their lips but by prostrating themselves before the Lord. The fourth principle we learn is that a heart of worship expresses itself in physical action. How can you show that you are prepared to truly worship God when you come to church? What are physical actions that you can do to show your loyalty to God when you worship Him?

### Walk

People usually show their support to a team by learning the traditions of the organization; by showing team spirit; by being creative in expressing their support; by giving money, time and effort; and by being loyal to that group through thick or thin. How can you apply these methods in worshipping the great and good God?

### Worship & Prayer

**Join the Corporate Prayer Time every Friday, 7:15-8:00pm at the Balcony**

Pray for...

- Worshipers to have hearts that honor and respect God in the way He deserves.
- For God's hand of discipline to be upon Christians who bring dishonor to Him.
- Blessings for GCCP's 45th anniversary to bring glory solely to His Name.
- Healing for Kevin, Teresita Alcantara, Nestor, Cecilio Ɔ, Segundo Ɔ.
- Mercy for RD (a Christian) who sought help of *albularyo* for a strange disease.
- Help for CF's health, emotional, financial and family problems.