

grow deep

The Life of David Edition

The Lord has sought out a man after his own heart and appointed him ruler of his people..."

-1 Samuel 13:14

Grow Deep Life of David Edition

"The Lord has sought out a man after his own heart and appointed him ruler of his people..." —1 Samuel 13:!4



This is the first edition of the Grow Deep series not specifically based on a particular biblical work, but rather a person. The Bible commends us to examine the lives of people because God connects His Word to our human story. He communicates a perfect word through imperfect people. He exerts His power in weakness. He extends righteousness through the testimony of the broken. Ultimately, He attaches His word to Jesus. His story becomes the redemption of the world.

David is one of the largest stories in the Bible. We know more about David's life from childhood to his death than any other figure in the Bible. We have a direct line into the thoughts of his heart. God chose David not for his great strength, leadership, musical talents or heroic qualities. God chose David because he pursued God's heart.

The New Testament quotes and speaks of David more than any other character of the Old Testament. His life and struggles are a picture of our own. Jesus Himself is called, "Son of David." Literally, David's family tree brings Jesus into the world. But more than birth line, David connects us to Jesus' mission. Through tragedy and triumph, failure and fame, heartache and hallelujah, we meet Jesus through David.

As you read from David's story, "Grow Deep." Look into your own story beside his. Let David take you to the Rock, the Deliverer, the Shepherd, Savior and Love of your life. Pursue Jesus with all your heart as you journey with David.

Grow Deep with Jesus!

The Lutheran Church of Webster Gardens
Pastors Joel Christiansen, Brian King, and Bill Geis
June 2015

Take It With You!

Summer is a time where we are scattered in many ways. It's also a growing season. This summer's "Grow Deep—Life of David" is one way we aim to grow and stay connected as a church family. So whether you're at home, work or on the road, take your Bible with you. Whether Bible, Kindle, our website, Webster App or text messaging (see below), stay connected to the Word of God and your church family.

Share your reflections with us—website, Facebook, email and in your small groups. Take your Bible with you wherever you go this summer and Grow Deep!

Grow Deep Daily Reminder

From June 2 through 22, Webster Gardens is providing daily text messages to support your Grow Deep reading plan. You'll receive one text message each morning with the reading for the day, a link to read the verse online and a reflection thought or question to encourage you to Grow Deep with Jesus and the Life of David. These messages include an easy link for smart phones to read the passage instantly. It's a great way to grow deep this summer.

Here's how to sign up with your cell phone.

To receive messages via text, text @growdeep to 81010.
You can opt-out of messages at anytime by replying, 'unsubscribe@growdeep'.

81010

Enter this number

Message:

@growdeep

Text this message

Standard text message rates apply

We Meet David for the First Time

Week 1 (June 8-13)

We are introduced to the kingdom under Saul, who falls out of favor with God. As that happens, God has selected the next king. Jesse is excited as the next king will come from his family—but it is not the son that Jesse would pick. God has other plans, as David is quietly anointed the next king. Note especially 1 Samuel 16:7. God shows favor to David and he excels in bravery and success in battle as a young man. Saul becomes jealous of David's favor with God and attempts to kill him. Pay close attention to the drama between Saul and David as it plays out.

Daily Readings

Monday:	Saul falls out of favor with God.	1 Samuel 15
Tuesday: <i>Man looks</i>	at the outward appearance, but God loo	1 Samuel 16 ks at the heart
Wednesday	y: David and Goliath.	1 Samuel 17
Thursday:	Saul's jealousy, yet God blesses Davi	1 Samuel 18
Friday:	Saul tries to kill David and God protects	1 Samuel 19 him.
Saturday:	David's prayer for deliverance.	Psalm 59

David Befriends Jonathan As Saul's Anger Burns Against Him

Week 2: (June 15-20)

Saul's son, Jonathan, understands what God is doing in David's life and they become fast friends. Jonathan tries to protect David, warning him of his father's—King Saul's—pursuit of David. Lots of action happens in this section as God protects David, which David documents in three Psalms. Anyone helping David is in danger. Saul takes out his anger on God's priests. How does David remain optimistic in the face of so much trouble?

Daily Readings

Monday:	1 Samuel 20
David and Jonathan's friendship. Confidence and trust in a loyal friend is beyond	d compare!
Tuesday: David flees, but his reputation precedes him	1 Samuel 20 to Gath.
Wednesday: Hiding at Gath is not possible due to David's r God is his protection.	Psalm 56 eputation.
Thursday: David's fears are eased by God's assurance of	Psalm 34 protection.
Friday: Saul's hatred of David results in the death of Go	1 Samuel 21 od's priests.
Saturday: Under siege, David realizes God is his re	Psalm 142 fuge.

Saul Pursues David in the Desert

Week 3 (June 22-27)

David seeks the Lord's guidance before he takes action against the Philistines on behalf of Keilah. He listens to God's direction and then proceeds accordingly. Rather than trying to find God's will after the fact, we should take time to discern God's will beforehand. Later, David is enraged when Nabal, a rich man, rudely refuses David's request to feed his men. Nevertheless, David stops to hear what Nabal's wife, Abigail, has to say before blood is shed. If he had ignored her, he would have been guilty of taking vengeance into his own hands. No matter how right we think we are, we must always be careful to stop and listen to others. The extra time and effort can save us pain and trouble in the long run.

Daily Readings

Monday: 1 Samuel 23

David seeks guidance from the Lord.

Tuesday: Psalm 63

In the desert, David's desire is for God's presence, provision, and protection.

Wednesday: Psalm 54

David calls for God to overcome his enemies.

Thursday: 1 Samuel 24

Even though Saul is trying to kill him, David spares Saul's life.

Friday: Psalm 57

When we face trials, God will quiet our hearts and give us confidence.

Saturday: 1 Samuel 25

David listens to Abigail's pleas to spare Nabal.

David Receives Protection And Strength from God

Week 4: (June 29 - July 4)

David and his 600 warriors seek refuge from Saul in Philistine territory. David pretends to be loyal to the Philistine ruler Achish, but David is put in a difficult position when Achish asks David to go into battle against Israel. But God protected David – the other Philistine leaders object to David's presence in battle; thus he does not have to fight his countrymen. David and his men leave the battlefield and return to Ziklag, only to find it raided by the Amalekites. David's men begin to turn against him because they have lost their families. But David found his strength in God and began looking for a solution instead of a scapegoat. When facing problems, it is useless to look for someone to blame. Instead, consider how you can help find a solution.

Daily Readings

Monday: 1 Samuel 26 David again spares Saul's life, because Saul is God's Anointed. Tuesday: 1 Samuel 27 David escapes to the land of the Philistines. 1 Samuel 28 Wednesday: Saul and the witch of Endor. Thursday: 1 Samuel 29 David leaves his alliance with the Philistines. Friday: 1 Samuel 30 David turns to God in a time of tragedy Saturday: 1 Samuel 31 The death of Saul.

David Laments Saul and Begins His 33-Year Reign as King

Week 5 (July 6-11)

Once David hears of the death of Saul and his son Jonathan, he laments and has his men join him. Once he becomes king the people become pleased with everything he does. He laments the death of Abner, has Ish-Bosheth killed, conquers Jerusalem, and defeats the Philistines...all in the name of the Lord. David then praises the Lord for everything given, provided, and done for him. Do we praise God for everything, absolutely everything? Or do we only praise Him for things we wanted?

Daily Readings

Monday: 2 Samuel 1

David's lament for Saul.

Tuesday: 1 Chronicles 11

David's mighty men.

Wednesday: 2 Samuel 2

David is recognized as king.

Thursday: 2 Samuel 3

David's wives and six sons.

Friday: 2 Samuel 5

David's reign at Jerusalem begins.

Saturday: Psalm 23

David's Shepherd Psalm

David Worships the Lord

Week 6: (July 13-18)

Worship is central to David's life, but here in a time of respite from his enemies, David goes all out. Not everything that is done is pleasing to the Lord. Some of his actions and ideas invite our own careful reflection. But when it comes to worship, David says, "don't hold back!"

Our God doesn't hold back either. He engages us in worship and always out-gives even our best. David offers the Lord the gift of a house (temple) and the Lord says, "I'm going to make you a house that will be an everlasting dynasty!"

The Psalms this week have been great worship songs for three millennia. Pour your heart into them with your own unfettered worship. Allow your worship to overflow in charity even as David does in reaching out to Mephibosheth. Whatever you pour into worship, God is sure to exceed with his grace.

Daily Readings

Monday: 2 Samuel 6 The Ark of the Covenant is returned to Jerusalem. Tuesday: 1 Chronicles 15:1-16:6 Tabernacle worship is established at Jerusalem. Wednesday: 2 Samuel 7 David proposes a house: The Lord gives a greater house. Thursday: Psalm 105 Worship Psalm remembering the works of the Lord Friday: Psalm 96 Worship Psalm of creation celebrating the character of the Lord 2 Samuel 9 Saturday: David provides for the welfare of Mephibosheth.

David's Peace is Broken

Week 7 (July 20-25)

The worship celebrations of Jerusalem are short lived. The peace is broken and bloodshed returns. Our readings begin with David's gesture of peace rejected and humiliated by the Ammonites. David's reflections in Psalm 60, however, show us the true failure is rooted in Israel's own national guilt. The breach of the peace is a result of their unfaithful heart. Tragically David is at the center of the problem. He follows his heart away from the Lord. He brings the young kingdom to near disaster with his affair and murderous cover up. The Lord, however, pursues this fallen king and nation. He will rebuke and punish. He will break David's heart. And it is because David's heart is broken—rather than hardened as Saul—that the Lord can turn this national tragedy into His victory.

Daily Readings

2 Samuel 10 Monday: David's ambassadors to the Ammonites are humiliated. Tuesday: Psalm 60 Psalm of repentance for the nation. 2 Samuel 11 Wednesday: David schemes to commit adultery and murder. Thursday: 2 Samuel 12 Nathan confronts David's sin. Psalm 51 Friday: Psalm of repentance from the king. 1 Chronicles 20:1-5 Saturday:

David defeats, plunders and claims all the Ammonite towns.

David's Family Battle

Week 8: (July 27 - August 1)

These are the darkest days of David's life. He has been in battle with the enemies of Israel most of his life, but now the battle is within. He's brought together a fragile coalition of tribes in unity as a nation, but at the expense of exerting that leadership in his household. Now incest, murder and a coup break apart the family. It thrusts the nation into civil war and sends David on the run. These are dark days and tough reading. The family and the nation need a miracle. "From the Lord comes deliverance," David prays over his family and the nation. "Don't listen to those who say otherwise," he says with a humble, yet certain faith. His faith leads the prayer for every desperate, broken, hopeless family, "Deliver me, my God!"

Daily Readings

Monday: 2 Samuel 13 Incest and murder in David's family. Tuesday: 2 Samuel 14 Joab seeks to reconcile David and Absalom. Wednesday: 2 Samuel 15 Absalom's revolt. Thursday: Psalm 3 David's prayer fleeing from Absalom. 2 Samuel 16 Friday: David's advisor Ahithophel disserts him for Absalom. Saturday: 2 Samuel 17 Jonathan and Ahimaaz spy for David.

David

Week 9 (August 3-8)

Grief for Absalom, more rebellion, famine and revisiting the ugly past and Saul's days all weigh heavy on David as he nears the end of his life. He's suffered pain at the hands of others and pain that he's brought on himself. Yet in his weakness, David finds his strength in the Lord. He cannot focus on the pain, the regrets, the fears for the future. He puts his focus on the ever faithful promise and love of God. David pursues God's heart. His pain is swallowed in perfect love. And so he begins to write his epitaph, "I love the Lord, my Strength... he gives his king great victories... shows his love to David and his descendants forever." (Psalm 18).

Daily Readings

Monday: 2 Samuel 18 Absalom's death. Tuesday: 2 Samuel 19 David mourns. Wednesday: 2 Samuel 20 Another rebellion. Thursday: 2 Samuel 21 Famine in the land. Friday: Psalm 18 Psalm of deliverance. Saturday: 2 Samuel 23 David's eulogy.

David Disobeys but the Plans for the Temple Move Forward

Week 10: (August 10-15)

David counts the fighting men in Israel, showing trust in his own might rather than God's. God sends a punishment on the nation for which David takes the blame. God has blessed David and Bathsheba and their son, Solomon, who will be the next king. God tells David that he will not build the temple, but his son, Solomon, will. But David gets to be involved in planning for the temple construction and he directs a capital campaign to gather funds and items for the temple from all the people. In a beautiful prayer, he thanks God for the people's generosity. It is a lesson for our giving even today.

Daily Readings

Monday: 2 Samuel 24 David disobeys; God intervenes. God relents; David repents. Tuesday: 1 Chronicles 21 An expanded version of 2 Samuel 24. What's different? Wednesday: 1 Chronicles 22 David makes preparations for building the temple. Thursday: Psalm 30 A psalm at the gathering of items for the temple. Friday: 1 Chronicles 28 David's plans for the temple... Saturday: 1 Chronicles 29:1-20 Gifts for the temple gathered; David's prayer.

David Avoids Coup and Solomon Anointed King

Week 11 (August 17-22)

The transition of king from David to Solomon seems a foregone conclusion, but David's fourth son makes one last effort to seize the throne. But the Davidic line triumphs and David is able to glorify God for His mercy throughout David's life in a psalm written in his old age. David is able to see Solomon become king, and gives Solomon some final advice before David dies. He is also able to compose a psalm recounting God's forgiveness for all David's sins. David is laid to rest as Israel mourns. We conclude with two New Testament readings that honor David's prophecies of the Savior and his faithfulness.

Daily Readings

Monday: 1 Kings 1:1-27

David's fourth son Adonijah tries to seize the throne.

Tuesday: Psalm 32 & 71

David recalls and shares his peace in old age.

Wednesday: 1 Kings 1:27-53I

David makes Solomon king.

Thursday: 1 Kings 2:1-13

David's final words to Solomon.

Friday: 1 Chronicles 29:21-30

Solomon anointed king in public ceremony.

Saturday: Hebrews 11:32-34

Reflections on David's faith:
One who struggled but remained faithful.

Coming Late Summer

Dozens of Small Groups Forming and Re-Forming with:



Kick Off Sunday—September 13

Mark your calendar for The Summer Re-Group you won't want to miss!.

- Talk to your small group leader today.
- Volunteer to host a group
- Don't have a group? Perfect time to connect with many new groups forming.

Contact Small Groups Pastor Bill Geis - Bill@webstergardenschurch.org



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The Lutheran Church of Webster Gardens

