

THE STORY

YOU'RE WRITING

GROUP GUIDE





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**"ALL WE HAVE TO
DECIDE IS WHAT TO DO
WITH THE TIME THAT
IS GIVEN TO US."**



Gandalf, "The Lord of the Rings"

I did not consciously base on any thing, but a complete 'invention', like the supposed Elvish languages. But there is no invention in the word, and naturally in the legends of literature. But not specially of England and Wales (for Goidic is mine). Of ancient English or Welsh myths also nothing remains, and of ancient legends very little.

INTRODUCTION

More is written about David than any other person in the Old Testament. The amount of space given to his story makes sense to me, as he is arguably one of the most fascinating people ever to have lived. If we divided his life into different chapters, the headings would include things like:

Shepherd
Outcast
Poet

Warrior
King
Musician

David was a true Renaissance man. He had a sensitive, artsy side, but he was also a brilliant politician and brutal soldier who achieved many victories in battle. There were defeats too—and not just the military kind. He was an undeniably imperfect husband, father, and leader.

With all of that in mind, here's how God summarized the totality of David's life:

“Now when David had served God's purposes in his own generation, he fell asleep.” — Acts 13:36

In other words, David did what God had for him to do in the time that he had. That's quite a story.

What do you hope will be said about you after your time is done? The great news is that our life stories are still being written... and we have a say in the plot! We can choose to live out what God has for us by being intentional in some key areas. That's what this guide is all about.

We'll use David as inspiration to think about the stories we're writing and the legacy we want to leave behind.

So, invite a few friends to join you for some story-shaping conversations. I really believe these next few weeks can be a time for us to grow together and even change entire plotlines for generations to come.

Thanks for jumping in!

JEFF JONES

LEAD PASTOR OF CHASE OAKS CHURCH

USING THIS GROUP GUIDE

This guide is designed to help your group have a great journey over the next **five weeks**. Here's a brief overview of the different sections you'll find for each week.

(A typical group meeting is about **90 minutes** long, so we included suggested times for each section to help things flow smoothly!)

1 Set the Scene (10 minutes)

Each week opens with a brief thought and a question or two to help prep everyone for the discussion ahead.

2 Explore David's Story (20 minutes)

In this section, your group will read the Bible, learn about a chapter from David's life story, and talk about what it means for us today.

3 Write Your Story (45 minutes)

After looking at David's story, this section will help your group focus on your own life stories. We included some reflection exercises to make these concepts more applicable.

4 Pray Together (15 minutes)

Use the prompts from this section to help guide your group as you spend some time talking with God together.

5 Go Deeper (Between Sessions)

If you want to go deeper on your own, we've included five short Bible verses and reflection questions for the week ahead. Use these to help you connect with God's Word between meetings.

KICKSTARTING YOUR STORY

These suggestions
can help you make
the most of this
experience:

Get in a Group



The Story You're Writing is designed to be done in a group. If you're not in a group yet, visit chaseoaks.org/storygroups to join one.

Show Up



Commit to being at every group meeting. It takes time and consistency for any group to grow from "good" to "great"!

Join In



Don't just listen—jump into the conversation. Share your story and perspective; ask questions. Your voice adds value to the group.

Be Real



None of us have it all together. Just be yourself; growth happens when we're honest about who and where we are.

Safeguard Trust



What's shared in your group stays within your group.

"YOU CAN'T GO BACK

**AND CHANGE THE
BEGINNING**



**BUT YOU CAN START
WHERE YOU ARE AND**

CHANGE THE ENDING."



with kind regards

C. S. Lewis

June 1938

C.S. Lewis

WEEK 1



NARRATIVES

Set the Scene



Every story starts somewhere. Before the first victory or defining moment, there's a narrative—a set of beliefs about who we are. Some of those beliefs were handed to us early on by a parent, teacher, family member, or friend. Others we picked up along the way, formed by our experiences and even our fears. But here's the thing: not every story we believe about ourselves is true. Which voices should we listen to? Which ones should we let go of? The narratives we believe about ourselves will shape the lives we live.

- Take turns introducing yourselves. Where did you grow up? What was something great about your hometown? What wasn't so great?
- When you were in elementary school, how would your teachers have described you? Was there a story or label you remember believing about yourself (true or not) that stuck with you for a while?

EXPLORE DAVID'S CHAPTER

David's story begins with Samuel, who was sent to find God's chosen person to replace Saul as king. **Read 1 Samuel 16:1-13.**

- David's relationship with his family was complicated. What messages do you think his father and brothers communicated to him about his value? What narratives might he have had?
- Have you had to work through difficult messages from your family? How have those messages shaped the story you tell about yourself?
- What was God looking for in Israel's next king, and how did it differ from what Samuel and Jesse expected? How does it challenge our usual measures of worth or success?

David's story starts with two defining moments: being anointed as Israel's next king despite being overlooked by everyone else, and choosing to believe God's voice when others doubted. In this second moment, he faces an immense foe: a Philistine warrior named Goliath. Read about this encounter in **1 Samuel 17:26-37.**

- Before David faced Goliath, he faced opposition from his own brother. What narratives did Eliab try to impose on David?
- What can we learn from David's response? How did he resist these false narratives and choose to believe what God had already shown or said about him instead?

WRITE YOUR STORY



- Whose voices—spoken or unspoken—have most shaped how you see yourself? Why do you think those voices have been so influential?
- How might your life look different if you believed what God says about you? Imagine God looking at you right now. What do you think he sees?

Take 5-10 minutes to do the writing exercise
“The House That Built You” on page **8**.



- What three words did you write down to describe your home growing up? Why did you pick these words?
- What from your childhood home do you hope to carry with you into the future? What do you want to be different?
- Do you sense a narrative you’ve held onto that God is inviting you to rewrite? Share with the group.

PRAY TOGETHER



Spend some time praying for one another. You can use this prompt to guide your time:

God, help us to hear your voice above all others. **Thank you** for choosing differently than the world does—for using **broken, imperfect, and overlooked people** to accomplish extraordinary things. Rewrite the false narratives we've believed about ourselves and **replace them with your truth.** Teach us to live as people who are deeply, **unconditionally loved by you.**

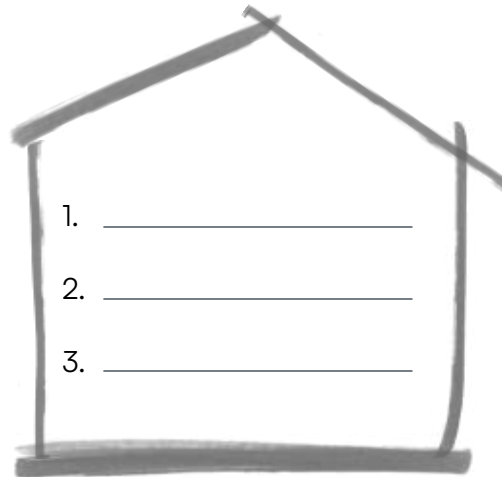
Amen



WRITING EXERCISE:



- Take a few minutes to remember the home you grew up in. Think beyond the physical space—what was the atmosphere like? What three words best capture that feeling?



- What from your childhood home do you hope to carry on in the home you're creating? What do you want to be different?

"The House That Built You"

GO DEEPER



Day 1



Day 2



Day 3



1 Samuel 16:1-13

God chose David, not for his appearance but for his heart. What does God see in your heart?

1 Samuel 17:26-37

David believed God's story over others' doubts. Whose voice do you tend to believe most?

1 Samuel 17:38-50

David stepped into his calling with courage. Where can you show faith and courage today?

→ Day 4 → Day 5

Psalm 139:13-18

You are fully known and crafted with purpose. What parts of yourself do you struggle to see as fearfully and wonderfully made?

Ephesians 2:8-10

You are God's handiwork, created for good works. How do you see God's fingerprints in your life story so far?

"WE ARE FRIENDS FOR LIFE. WHEN
WE'RE TOGETHER, THE YEARS FALL AWAY.

ISN'T THAT WHAT MATTERS? TO HAVE
SOMEONE WHO CAN REMEMBER **WITH YOU?**

*
TO HAVE SOMEONE WHO REMEMBERS
HOW FAR YOU'VE COME?"

Judy Blume

WEEK 2

SUPPORTING CHARACTERS

Set the Scene

Think of your favorite movie or book. Every main character has people around them who make the story possible: the friend who believes in them when no one else does, the mentor who offers guidance, the companion who walks through the hardest chapters. The people in our lives shape the story we're writing, for better and for worse. These supporting characters, and how we let them into our lives, play a major role in who we become.

- Take turns sharing about an important “supporting character” from your childhood or teen years—someone who helped shape that season in a meaningful way.
- In which stage of life was it easiest for you to make friends? Which stage has been the most challenging? Why do you think that is?
- Jim Rohn famously said, “You are the average of the five people you spend the most time with.” Do you agree? Why or why not?

EXPLORE DAVID'S STORY



Read 1 Samuel 18:1-4.

- This scene took place soon after David defeated Goliath. How do you think seeing David's faith that day impacted Jonathan?
- Has seeing someone else's faith inspired you? What did you notice, and how did it affect you?

David and Jonathan made a deep commitment to one another, and they didn't just make it one time. They reaffirmed it through both words and actions. **Read 1 Samuel 20:16-17 and 23:15-18.**

- What stands out to you about Jonathan and David's friendship? Where do you see sacrifice, love, and commitment at work?
- Why is commitment essential for depth and vulnerability in friendship? What makes that kind of commitment so challenging and rare?
- Who in your life helps you find strength in God? Who have been—and who are now—your Jonathans?

Sadly, David and Jonathan's interaction in **1 Samuel 23** was to be their last conversation. Jonathan was killed in battle soon after. David never cultivated another friendship like the one he shared with Jonathan, and over the years he became increasingly disconnected from other people.

- Have you ever found it hard to invest in new friendships after an important one ends, whether by choice, hardship, stage of life, or a move? If you're comfortable, share more with the group.

WRITE YOUR STORY

 Take five minutes to do the **"Seven Cs"** writing exercise on pages **16-17.**

- After you finish, look at your **Coaches** and **Comrades** categories. Do you have enough people in these categories?
- It is easy to have a lot of **Casual** relationships in our lives. What have you learned about deepening these relationships into **Comrades** (intentional, purposeful, committed friendships)?
- Look at your **Chronics** and **Contaminants** spaces. Do you need to make any changes in how you relate to the people in these categories? Do you need help?
- How can you be a great supporting character in someone else's story? Jonathan went out of his way to serve David. What is one way you feel led to serve someone else this coming week?

PRAY TOGETHER





Spend some time praying for one another. You can use this prompt to guide your time:

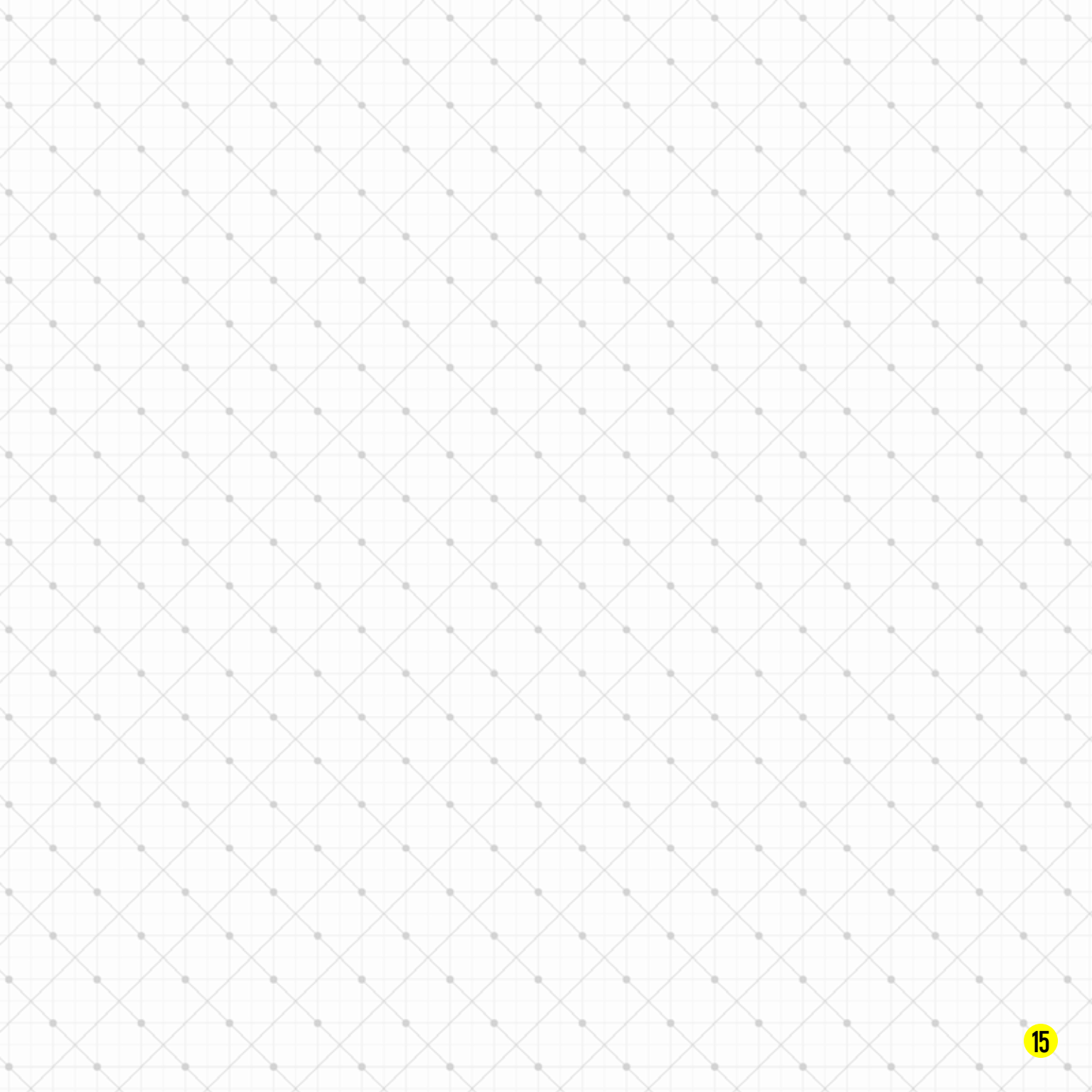
God, thank you
for the people you've placed in our lives
who make our stories richer.



Teach us to love each other better,
encourage one another often, and walk
faithfully with those you've placed in
our stories.



Amen



WRITING EXERCISE:



"The Seven Cs"

Some relationships fuel us. Others, we pour into. If we want to live healthy stories, we need to understand our different connections, strive for balance, and establish good boundaries. This tool by Dr. Henry Cloud will help you assess the different connections in your life. For each category, write the names of people who fit that description for you.

COACHES

People who don't need you, but you need them to teach you a skill.

TIP: High-capacity leaders are coached 1-2 hours per week.

COLLEAGUES

People we team up with to accomplish the mission of the organization (key co-workers).

TIP: Find people who are mutually committed to the mission and comfortable in their own skin.

COMRADES

An assembly of friends engaged in growth. These are two-way relationships.

TIP: A structured meeting is helpful. Often, we need to go after comrades—these relationships won't just happen.

[illegible]

CASUALS

People we spend time with in a healthy way.
With structure and purpose, they could
become comrades.

TIP: Be careful not to place all your relational capital in this category.

CARE

People in need; possibly people you mentor or develop.

TIP: Be careful not to place all your relational capital here, either.

CHRONICS

These people are stuck in your care.

TIP: Have a short leash and strong boundaries with them.

CONTAMINANTS

These people want to harm you,
sometimes unknowingly.

TIP: Protect yourself. Build a firewall and grieve the loss.

GO DEEPER

Day 1



Day 2



Day 3



1 Samuel 18:1-4

Jonathan and David formed a covenant friendship. Who have been (and currently are) your Jonathans?

1 Samuel 19:1-7

Jonathan risked his father's anger for David's sake. Have you ever been inspired by someone else's loyalty or courage?

1 Samuel 20:1-17

The covenant friendship was tested. How do you continue to love people when it costs you something?



Day 4



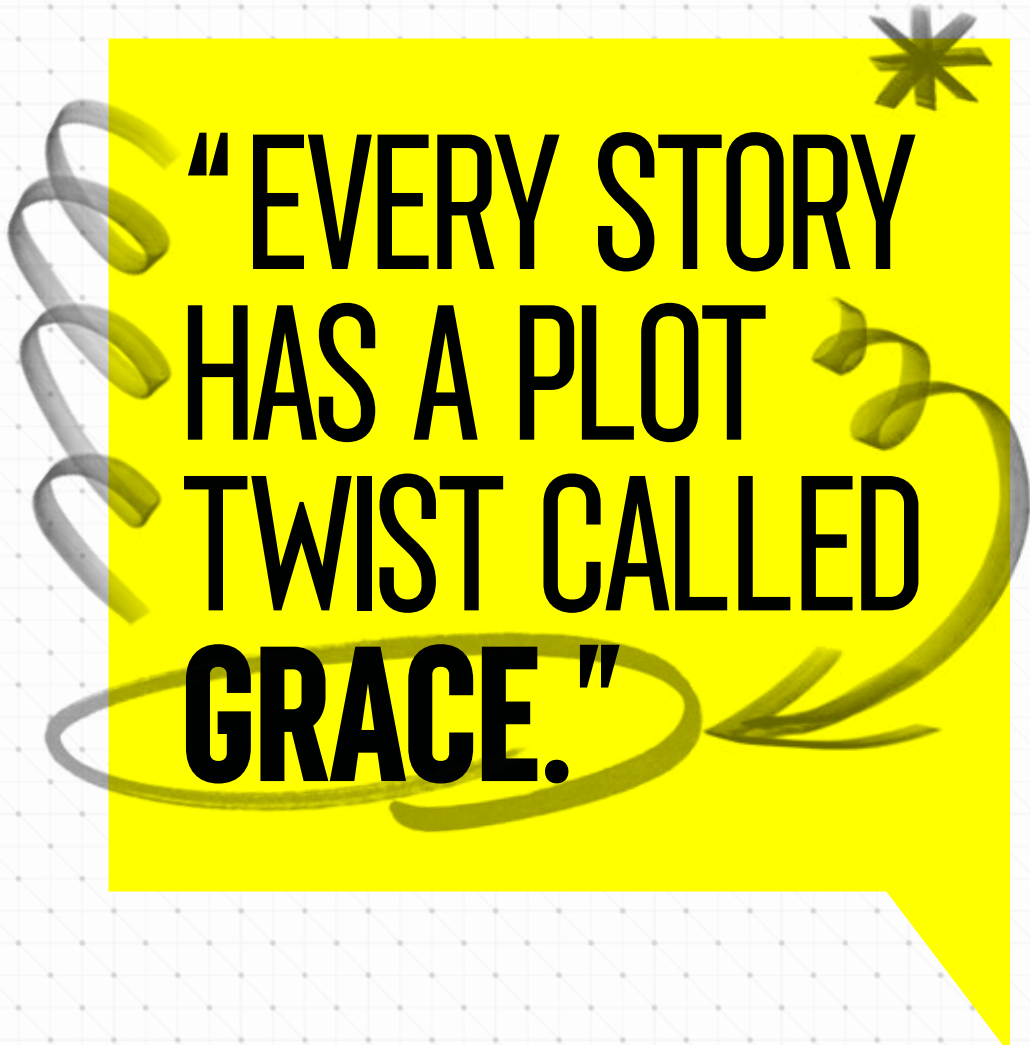
Day 5

1 Samuel 23:15-18

Jonathan helped David “find strength in God.” Who does that for you?

Proverbs 27:5-10

True friends are honest, faithful, and close by. How can choosing honesty and consistency help deepen your friendships?

A yellow speech bubble with a star in the top right corner and a swirl of grey lines on the left side. The text is in bold black capital letters.

**"EVERY STORY
HAS A PLOT
TWIST CALLED
GRACE."**

A grey oval frame surrounding the text.

Anonymous

WEEK 3



TURNING POINTS

Set the Scene



The best and most complex stories are layered with chapters full of twists and turns, ups and downs, surprises and suspense. They include critical moments that test the main character's resolve—sometimes revealing strength and integrity and other times exposing weakness and failure. Three-dimensional characters aren't perfect, and that's what makes them relatable. They, like us, are continually "in process" as they journey forward.

- Have you ever wondered how different your story might have been if a key event or choice had gone another way? Maybe a move (yours or your family's), a school choice, or a job offer you took or passed up? Share about a key turning point that shaped your story.
- What would you title the current chapter of your life? Think in terms of the last five years.

EXPLORE DAVID'S STORY

The chapters of our lives are often defined by our choices. Some decisions we're proud of; others we wish we could redo. David's story had both. He was a complex man with moments of great integrity and deep regret.

Read 1 Samuel 24:1-12

- Pastor and author Andy Stanley said people of character “pay attention to the tension”—they notice when their conscience is pinged. What tension did David face in this passage? How did he choose to respond to that tension? What role did his faith play?
- David chose not to harm Saul, even when it seemed like a shortcut to fulfilling his calling. Have you ever had a moment where doing the right thing cost you something? When you had to resist taking the easy way out or refuse to repay a wrong with a wrong? What happened?
- What do you think would have happened if David had killed Saul in this moment? How might it have changed the rest of his story, including his leadership, reputation, and relationship with God?

Read 2 Samuel 11:1-5 and 12:1-13.

- What clues does the narrator give us about this season in David's life and what led to his big mistake? What have you observed about how “little” compromises can lead to major regrets?
- How did Nathan go about confronting David? What have you learned about speaking hard truth to a friend or loved one?
- What stands out about David's response? How could this moment have turned out very differently? What does genuine repentance look like?
- What do these chapters—one of integrity, one of failure—reveal about David? What do they reveal about God?

WRITE YOUR STORY

- Is there a tension in your life you need to pay attention to or a place you are wrestling to know how to live into what God has for you? Share with the group.

Take 5 minutes to do the
"Chapters" writing exercise on pages **25-26.**



- Share your chapter headings with each other. Reflecting on your story, what moments stood out as particularly impactful or important? Share with the group.
- Where have you seen God's grace show up in your story? Think about the highs, the lows, and the turning points.
- Is there a major decision or difficult situation you're facing right now? How can our group pray for you?

PRAY TOGETHER

Spend some time praying for one another. You can use this prompt to guide your time:



God, thank you for meeting us in both
our **best and worst moments.**

Help us to live **with integrity.**



Thank you that **failure isn't final** and
that through it all **you are with us.**

Draw us to you and **give us wisdom**
for **the decisions we make today.**

Amen

WRITING EXERCISE:

"CHAPTERS"

Think of the last three “chapters” of your life (start in five-year increments if you’re unsure). Give each chapter a title that best describes what was happening at the time. Then, for each chapter list a high point, a low point, and a turning point (a key decision that impacted your story in a big way).

Current Chapter: _____ to now

Ex: 2020 to now

Chapter Title: _____

High Point: _____

Low Point: _____

Turning Point: _____

Latest Chapter: _____ to _____

Ex: 2015-2020

Chapter Title: _____

High Point: _____

Low Point: _____

Turning Point: _____

Previous Chapter: _____ to _____

Ex: 2010-2015

Chapter Title: _____

High Point: _____

Low Point: _____

Turning Point: _____

GO DEEPER

Day 1



Day 2



Day 3



1 Samuel 24:1-12

David spared Saul's life. When have you had a chance to "get even" with someone? How might mercy tell a better story?

Psalm 57:1-11

David cried out to God while hiding from Saul in a cave. Where do you need to rest in God's protection instead of taking control?

2 Samuel 11:1-5

David had a major failure with Bathsheba. What small compromises do you need to be mindful of?



Day 4



Day 5

2 Samuel 12:1-13

How does God's truth bring freedom, even when it's painful?

Psalm 32:1-11

David experienced joy after repentance. What's one area where you've experienced God's forgiveness and peace?

WE BECOME
WHAT WE CHASE.
SO CHASE THE ONE
WHO MADE YOU.



Bob Goff

WEEK 4



THE HEART OF IT

Set the Scene



David was a gifted writer, lyricist, and poet. His Psalms—sometimes raw, sometimes joyful, always authentic—are windows into his heart. They give us glimpses into the deepest places within him, including his greatest passions, highest hopes, and innermost feelings. Our heart is at the core of our story. It's what drives and compels us, and it's central to who we are and why we do what we do.

- Share a favorite movie, book, song, or work of art that resonates with your heart. Why is it so meaningful to you?
- On a scale of 1-5, how much of an open book are you? (1 = “I’m extremely hard to read” and 5 = “I wear my heart on my sleeve”)

EXPLORE DAVID'S STORY

Before we get to David, let's see what we can know about God's heart in the way he describes himself. **Read Exodus 34:6-7.**

- What can we learn about God's heart (not just what he does, but who he is at the core)? Does this match up with what you learned about God earlier in your story?
- When you think about God's heart, which of his qualities (compassionate, gracious, patient, or loving) is hardest for you to believe about him? Why?

Read a few of David's psalms together: **Psalm 42:1-5; 51:1-12; and 145:1-9.** (Since these are longer passages, consider having a few readers.) As you listen, notice David's heart and perspective.

- What are some words or phrases from these psalms that stand out to you? How do you see David reflecting and responding to God's heart?
- In **Psalm 42**, when David's heart is in distress, what does he do with his pain? What have you learned about handling distress and pain in your own life?
- **Psalm 51** was written after Nathan confronted David with his sin. David prays, "Create in me a clean heart, O God." What do you think that meant for him, and what might it mean for us?
- Make some observations about what worship looks like in **Psalm 145:1-9**. Given what you know about David's story, what do you think fueled his worship?
- David was deeply imperfect, and yet he was described as a man after God's own heart (**Acts 13:22**). What do you think it means to be after God's own heart?

WRITE YOUR STORY




- David's faith journey could be described as raw, authentic, and passionate. What two or three words would you use to describe your faith right now? Why?
- If an outside observer looked at your life, what might they say drives you? What's motivating your choices and priorities? What would you want them to say is at the heart of your story?
- How might your life look different if your primary motivation was simply to seek God's heart above all else?
- Knowing that God is compassionate, gracious, patient, and loving changes everything. How does this truth affect the way you approach him when you've fallen short or your heart is hurting? What do you most need from him today?
- We all worship differently. What does authentic worship look like for you? Is there a way you might need to take a step out of your comfort zone to express your gratitude and passion for God more fully?

On your own, complete the **"Still Waters"** writing exercise on pages **34-35** over the next few days. It will guide you through meditating on Psalm 23 as a way to invite God into your story this week.

PRAY TOGETHER



Spend some time praying for one another. You can use this prompt to guide your time:

God, you are compassionate, 
gracious, slow to anger,
abounding in love and
faithfulness. **Thank you for**
loving imperfect people like
us. Help us make you our
main pursuit, and **be at the**
heart of our story.

Amen



WRITING EXERCISE:

"Still Waters"

This week, spend some unhurried time alone with **Psalm 23**. Read it slowly; let each line sink in as if David's words were written for your story. Consider reading out loud, one verse at a time, pausing after each line to ask God to speak to your heart. You might also try personalizing it by replacing "my," "me," and "I" with your own name as you read.

Reflection Questions

- Where do you sense God leading you right now?
- Where do you need God to restore your soul?
- What "valley" are you walking through? How does God's presence change it?

PSALM 23



The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing.

He makes me lie down in **green pastures,**

he leads me beside **quiet waters,**

he refreshes my soul.

He guides me along the right paths

for his name's sake.

Even though I walk
through the darkest valley,

I will fear no evil,

for you are with me;

your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies.

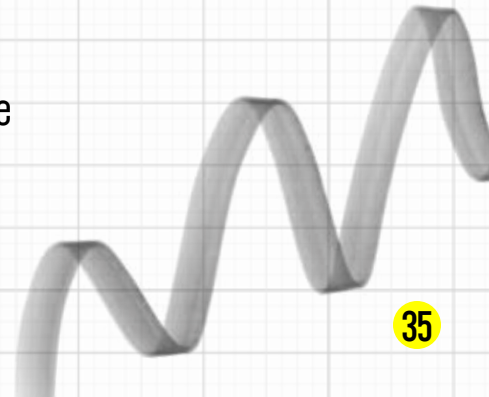
You anoint my head with oil;

my cup overflows.

Surely your goodness and love will follow me
all the days of my life,

and I will dwell in the house of the LORD

forever.



GO DEEPER



Day 1



Day 2



Day 3



Psalm 23:1-6

Do the “Still Waters” Exercise. Reflect on the Shepherd who restores our souls.

Psalm 63:1-8

Consider a heart that longs for God. What do you find yourself longing for most right now?

Psalm 51:1-12

David experienced grace and a renewed heart after failure. Where do you need to ask God to “create in me a clean heart”?



Day 4



Day 5

Psalm 103:8-14

God's compassion
never runs out.
When have you
experienced his
kindness instead
of condemnation?

John 4:19-24

We are to worship
God in spirit and
truth. How can
your worship
this week be
more honest and
wholehearted?



**"YOUR LEGACY IS
EVERY LIFE YOU
HAVE TOUCHED."**



Maya Angelou

WEEK 5



THE FINAL CHAPTER

Set the Scene



We all leave a legacy—something that continues after our final chapter ends. What would you want said about you when your story concludes? David left a complex legacy, one marked by both success and strife, especially within his own family. And yet, at the end, God says he fulfilled his purposes in his generation. What would it take for the same to be said of us? The legacy we leave matters. Each of us has the ability to shape the stories of others for generations to come.

- Who is someone, past or present, who you believe has lived (or is living) a remarkable life? What makes them so inspiring to you?
- Who is someone in your personal life whose story or legacy has impacted you for the better? How did they shape your story?

EXPLORE DAVID'S STORY



David left a complex legacy, especially within his family. His relationship with his son Absalom reveals the cost of unresolved pain. When Absalom's sister Tamar was violated by their brother Amnon, David became angry but did nothing **(2 Samuel 13:21)**. That silence planted a seed of bitterness in Absalom's heart. He took justice into his own hands, killing Amnon and fleeing into exile. When he finally returned to Jerusalem, his father refused to see him for two years **(2 Samuel 14:24, 28)**. Absalom's resentment eventually turned into open rebellion—he led a coup against David. The story ends with Absalom's death and one of the most gut-wrenching cries of regret in all of Scripture. **Read 2 Samuel 18:33-19:4** together.

- Given David's overwhelming grief after Absalom's death, why do you think he was so passive and distant while his son was still alive? Have you seen this kind of struggle or stubbornness in your own family?
- Why do you think David struggled to approach his family with the same courage and engagement he had shown earlier as a leader and king?
- We often want to categorize people as either all good or all bad. What have you learned about processing the legacies of imperfect people, acknowledging both the harm and the good they left behind?

Read 1 Chronicles 28:8-10 and Acts 13:22, 36.

- In 1 Chronicles, David passed along his final charge to his son, Solomon, who became king after him. What stands out to you about his words? What do they reveal about what mattered most to David at the end of his life?
- What does it look like to “finish well,” even when parts of our story haven't gone as planned?
- What do you think it means that David “served God's purposes in his own generation”? How would you know if you had served God's purposes in your life?

WRITE YOUR STORY



Take 5 minutes to do the
“Begin with the End” exercise on pages **43-44.**



- Who came to mind as you did this exercise? What would you hope they might say at your funeral?
- Stephen Covey says this exercise provides clarity and motivates action for today. How does thinking about the end shape what is most important to you right now?
- What steps, big or small, can you take today that will help you finish your story well? Are there any changes you need to make to leave the legacy you want to leave?
- David’s story included significant family and relational pain. What would it look like for you to address unresolved conflict and relational dysfunction in a healthy way—one that doesn’t lead to long-term regret? Is God bringing anyone to mind?
- As this study and series comes to a close, what has been a highlight or key insight for you? What’s one next step you can take to stay intentional with the story you’re writing?

PRAY TOGETHER



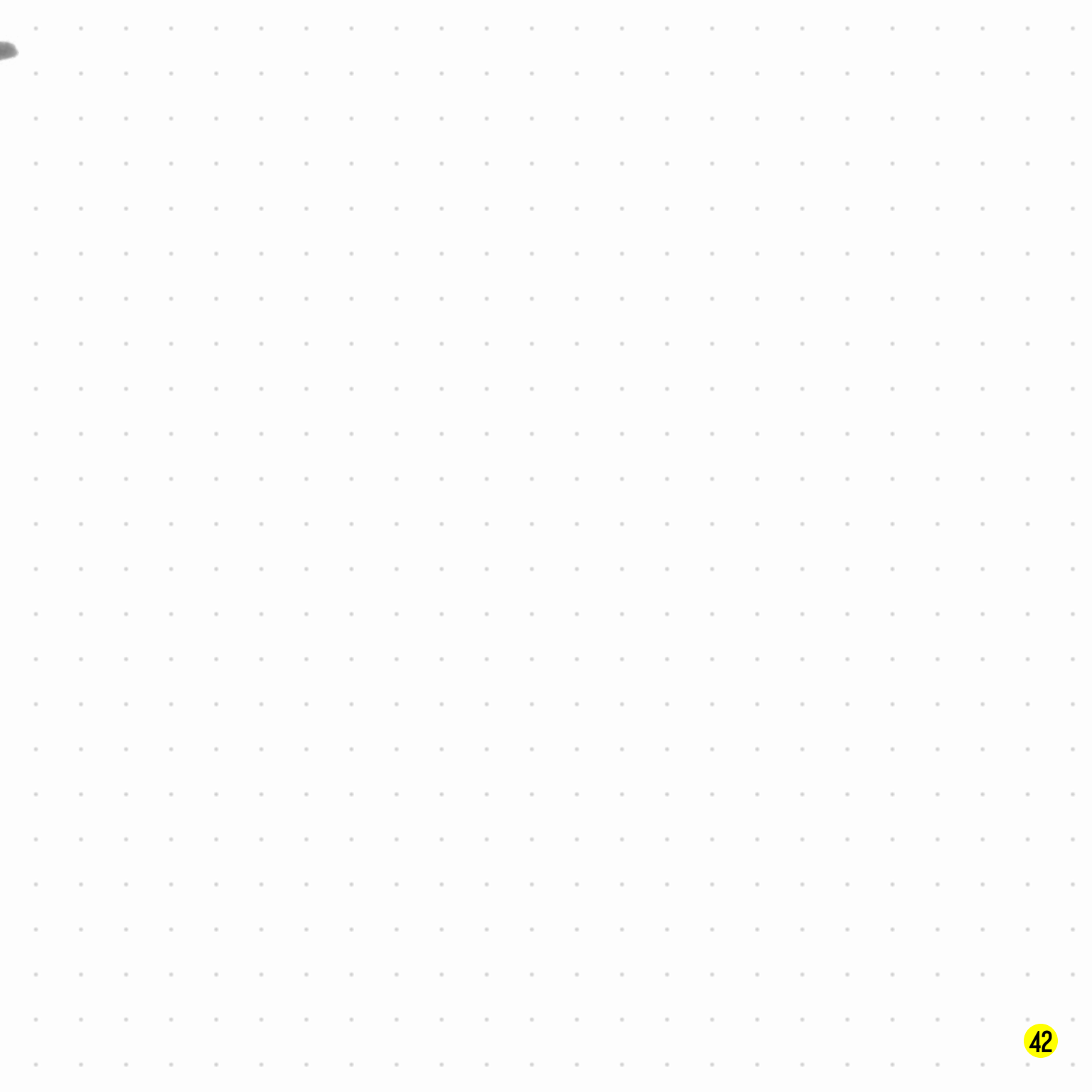
Spend some time praying for one another. You can use this prompt to guide your time:



God, thank you for authoring all of our stories. Help us to leave a legacy that points to **you, inspires others, and leaves behind love, faith, and courage that ripple outward long after we're gone.**



Amen



WRITING EXERCISE:

“Begin with the End”

This exercise comes from Stephen Covey’s “The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People”. In it, he asks us to visualize our own funeral.

Imagine the Scene:



Who are the key people you see at your funeral? List 5-10 people (family, friends, co-workers, community members).

Imagine the Eulogies:



Consider what you would hope each of these people might say about you and your life. Write out a few sample statements you would like to hear.

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Motivate Action:



Seeing the “end” clearly helps us make choices today that align with what matters most—and helps us avoid future regrets. What clarity does envisioning your final chapter bring to the choices in front of you now?

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GO DEEPER

Day 1



Day 2



Day 3



1 Chronicles 28:9-10

David gave a final charge to Solomon. What do you hope to pass along to the next generation?

1 Kings 2:1-4

David's instructions were to be strong and walk faithfully. How do you hope to inspire courage in others?

2 Samuel 23:1-5

David's last song celebrated God's enduring covenant. How does knowing God's promises are unshakable give you peace about your future?



Day 4 → Day 5

Acts 13:22-23

David's legacy found its fulfillment in Jesus. How does it inspire you to know your story fits into God's larger story?

2 Timothy 4:6-8

We are told to finish the race and keep the faith. What small steps today will help you finish your story well in the future?

WHAT'S NEXT?



Your Group's Next Chapter



Your group's story doesn't have to end here. Keep connecting with *Established*!

Something within all of us longs for more in life—in our relationship with God, our work, home, or church experience and faith.

Established is an eight-week small group experience that will help you build confidence in Christ and connection to community. Explore life-changing elements of Christianity as you learn about topics like Jesus, the Bible, prayer, and purpose.

Find out more at chaseoaks.org/established.

Find Your Volunteer Fit



One of the best ways to propel your story forward is to serve others. Grab a friend or group member and explore serving at Chase Oaks!

When you join a Dream Team at Chase Oaks, you join a group of people who are using their passions and talents to change the world.

Whether you're a people person or more behind-the-scenes, have a little time or a whole lot, we have opportunities for every skillset and schedule.

Ready to change the world? Visit [**chaseoaks.org/dreamteams.**](https://chaseoaks.org/dreamteams)

MY GROUP:

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KEY CHARACTERS IN THE LIFE OF DAVID

There's quite a cast of characters in the life of David. We've compiled a list of them here for easy reference.

David

Shepherd, musician, friend, king, warrior, sinner, worshiper, father, husband

Samuel

Prophet who anointed both Saul and David as kings of Israel

Jesse

David's father and the head of a large family in the countryside

Saul

Israel's first king, chosen for his impressive presence but often controlled by fear; Jonathan's father

Jonathan

Saul's son and David's closest friend; outstanding in loyalty to David, even when it put him at odds with his own father, the king

Eliab

Jesse's oldest son; initially doubted and dismissed his youngest brother, David

Goliath

Philistine giant who challenged Israel to single combat; defeated by David with a sling and a stone, launching David into national prominence

Amnon

One of David's sons, whose harmful actions created devastating consequences in the family; the half-brother of Tamar and Absalom

Uriah the Hittite

Bathsheba's husband and one of David's elite warriors

Absalom

One of David's sons, whose rebellion against David became one of the most painful chapters in David's life; the full brother of Tamar and half-brother of Amnon

Bathsheba

Uriah's wife; later married David after his sin led to Uriah's death

Nathan

Prophet who delivered God's messages to David; bravely confronted David about his sin involving Bathsheba and Uriah

Tamar

David's daughter, whose story of deep injustice shaped the relational dynamics of David's family; full sister of Absalom and half-sister of Amnon

Solomon

Son of David and Bathsheba who was known for his wisdom; became king after David, built God's temple, and led Israel into a time of prosperity

TIMELINE OF DAVID'S LIFE

1. Shepherd Boy

David grows up tending sheep in the countryside and is anointed by Samuel as the future king.

5. Fleeing Saul

David becomes a fugitive, hiding in caves and in the wilderness while writing many psalms.

9. Ruling the Kingdom

David's reign brings military success, stability, and national growth.

2. Music and Friendship

David plays music in Saul's court and forms a deep friendship with Jonathan.

6. Grief

Saul and Jonathan die in battle, and David mourns them with a heartfelt lament.

10. Sin and Repentance

David sins with Bathsheba and arranges Uriah's death, then repents after Nathan confronts him.

3. Defeating Goliath

David kills Goliath and becomes known throughout Israel as a courageous warrior.

7. Becoming King

David becomes king (over Judah first, then all Israel) and makes Jerusalem the nation's capital.

11. Family Conflict

David's household unravels (Amnon assaults Tamar; Absalom kills Amnon and leads a rebellion against David).

4. Rising Success

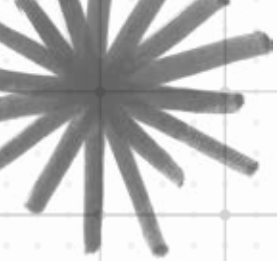
David's popularity grows, fueling Saul's jealousy and prompting the king's repeated attempts to kill him.

8. God's Covenant


David brings the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem and receives God's promise of an everlasting dynasty.

12. Legacy

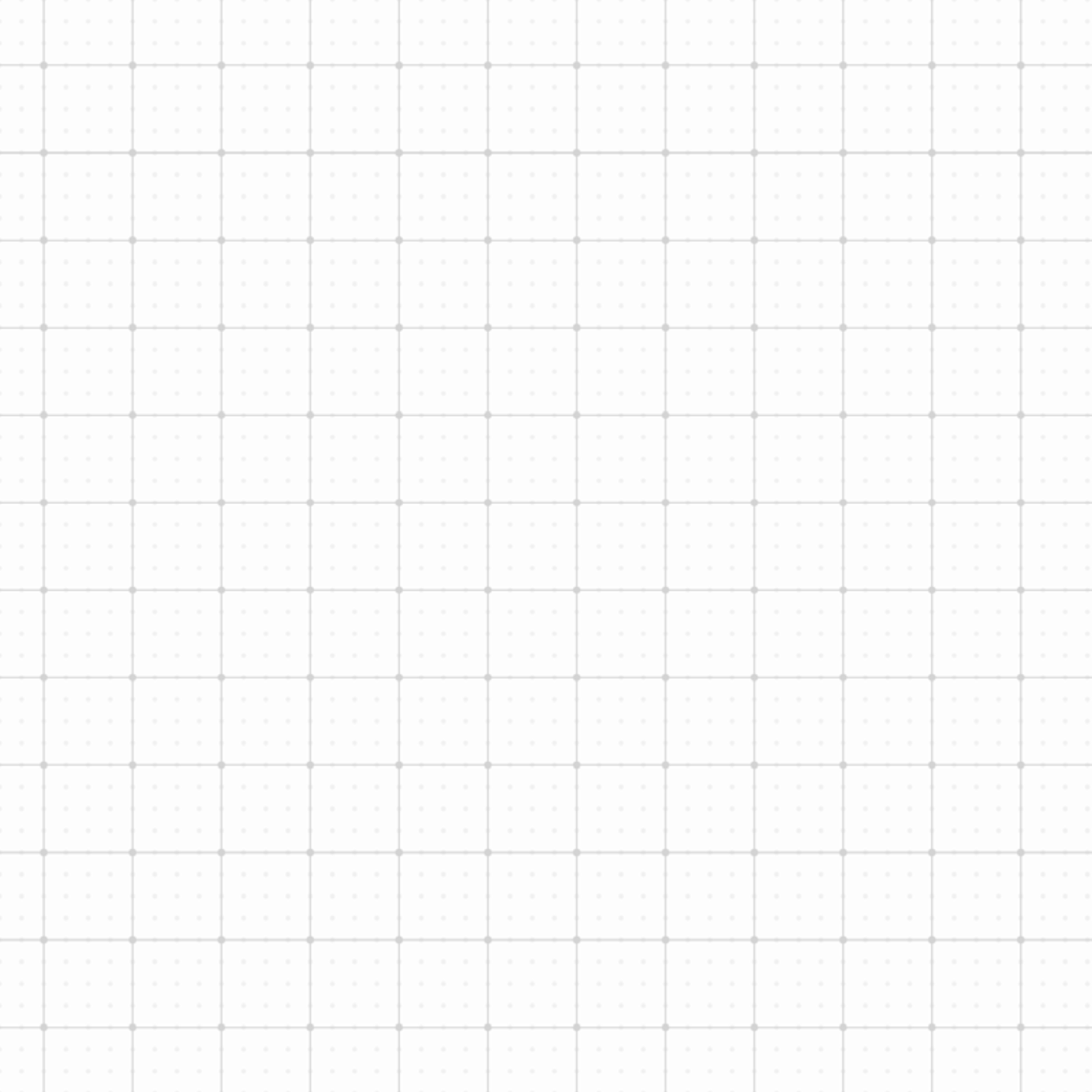
David stabilizes the kingdom, charges his son Solomon to follow God, and dies after 40 years as king.



SURELY YOUR **GOODNESS**
AND LOVE WILL FOLLOW
ME ALL THE DAYS OF MY
LIFE, AND **I WILL DWELL**
IN THE HOUSE OF THE
LORD FOREVER.



David



The background of the image features six hand-drawn, thick black arrows on a light gray grid. The arrows are arranged in a circular pattern, all pointing towards the center where the text is located. Starting from the top and moving clockwise, the arrows are: a straight arrow pointing down, a curved arrow pointing down and to the left, a curved arrow pointing up and to the left, a straight arrow pointing up, a curved arrow pointing up and to the right, and a curved arrow pointing down and to the right.

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