

# Running with the Big Dogs

## Leader of the Pack

Introduction to II Samuel 1-4

### The 5 Purposes of the Purpose Driven Life

- **Worship**—You were planned for God’s pleasure
- **Fellowship**—You were formed for God’s family
- **Discipleship**—You were created to become like Christ
- **Ministry**—You were shaped for serving God
- **Evangelism**—You were made for a mission

Every group has a “leader of the pack”, the “alpha” dog that sets the pace and filters the final decisions. Some attain that status officially, like King Saul in Israel, and others attain it because it is inherent in their nature. King David illustrated the second type in this week’s study. Not only had he officially been anointed as Israel’s second king, his natural leadership abilities began to display themselves as he transitioned into his kingly role. David’s leadership qualities are worth emulating for those who desire to make an impact on others by influencing them to positive change. The first of these qualities is seen in David’s ascension to the throne: effective leaders honor their peers. David showed this humble trait in the aftermath of Saul and

Jonathan’s death. Not only did he pronounce judgment on the one who assisted Saul’s death, he also wrote a moving poetic eulogy for Saul, his former enemy, and Jonathan, his best friend. He further declared blessing on the men of Jabesh-Gilead for recovering the bodies of Saul and his sons. We then see in 2 Samuel 2-3 the reality that effective leaders rise to the top. Sometimes this occurs in a round-about way, as in David’s case; but leaders eventually become the leader of the pack as they act like leaders and others recognize their ability to influence others to change. A third leadership characteristic is then seen in this section: effective leaders accept help. Just as David accepted Abner’s help in



**When you run with God and follow His lead, you will have success in life.**

reigning over the northern tribes of Israel, so good leaders, realizing the job cannot be done alone, willingly accept the honest help of others. Finally, David demonstrated consistency, a fourth characteristic of effective leaders. Just as he had honored Saul and Jonathan, so now he insisted that Abner and Ish-bosheth be honored in their deaths. He acted like a true “leader of the pack”.

## Study/Discussion Questions for II Samuel 1-4

*(For answers to questions attend an ABF or go to [www.celebrationnet.com/resources/leader](http://www.celebrationnet.com/resources/leader) resources)*

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| <p>1. Look at 1:1-16. What was the Amalekite’s story (v6-10), and David’s response (v11-12)? How did he react to the young man (v13-15), and why was this right (v16)? How should this be</p> |  |
| <p>2. Read 1:17-27. How did David honor Saul and Jonathan (v17-18), and for what did he commend each of them (v19, 22-23, 24, 26)? What was the theme of this lament (v19, 25, 27)?</p>       |  |
| <p>3. Using 2:1-11 what 2 actions did David take (v1-3, 5-7), and what were the varied results (v4, 8-10)? How did David show his wisdom (v10-11)?</p>  |  |

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## II Samuel 1-4 Study Questions (cont)

4. Looking at 2:12-23 who were the 2 commanders (v12-13), what did they decide (v14), and what was the immediate result (v15-17)? What else did Abner do and why (v18-23), and how did he try to minimize the damage (v20-22)?

5. From 2:24-3:1 who continued the fight against Abner (v24), and how did he respond (v25)? What positive step did Abner take (v26), and what resulted (v27-29)? What were the overall results (v30-31), and long-term trend (3:1)?

6. Using 3:2-11 what mistake did Ish-bosheth make (v6-7), and how did Abner react (v8)? To what did it lead (v9-11)? What can we learn from Ish-bosheth's mistake?

7. Based on 3:12-21 what did Abner offer to David (v12), and what was David's condition (v13)? What was the result (v15-16)? What 3 things did Abner do to deliver Israel to David

8. In 3:22-30 how did Joab react to news of Abner's visit (v23-25)? What action did he take as a result (v26-27), and what was David's immediate response (v28-30)?

9. Read 3:31-39. What did David command (v31), and how did he reinforce it (v31-32)? What else did David do (v33-34, 35), and say (v38-39), and what did this convey to all the people (v37)?

10. According to 4:1-12 what happened to Ish-bosheth (v1, 5-8), and Jonathan's son (v4)? How did David respond to Ish-bosheth's murderers (v9-12), and why? What does this teach us?

11. Summarize how David showed that leaders honor their peers (1:1-27), that they rise to the top (2:1-3:11), that they accept help (3:12-30), and that they show consistency (3:31-4:12).

### Scripture to Remember

*“Now may the Lord show loving-kindness and truth to you.”*

*2 Samuel 2:6*

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### Life Group Questions

*(Using questions based on today's message, Life Groups meet in homes to build supportive relationships with others at Celebration Fellowship that enable us to grow in Christ.)*

1. Tell the group about one of the most meaningful gifts you ever received. What made it so meaningful to you, both then and later?
2. Talk about your “preferred” way of expressing affirmation through physical touch—hug, handshake, slap on back, “holy kiss”, etc. Why does this bless us?
3. Share how you encourage those around you with your words. When does the attempt to encourage actually help, and when does it not?
4. Think of someone who really “believes” in you. What does it do for you to know that is true, and how do they communicate that to you?
5. Describe how someone in your life has pictured a great future for you. How have they followed through with helping you achieve that?
6. Discuss specifically how you could pass on the blessing to someone else this week through these 5 ways.