

Running with the Big Dogs

First Things First

Introduction to II Samuel 5-7

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

In his book, “First Things First”, Steven Covey advocates giving priority to those things that are not urgent, but vitally important—such as relationships, values, and life mission. Typically, people are ruled by the “tyranny of the urgent”; but for life to be truly meaningful and productive, we must be guided by the right priorities (“true north”). As we look at this week’s study, Israel’s new king, David, deals with “first things” first. In the very act of becoming king he accepted the mantle of shepherding all of Israel, which had previously been divided. His acceptance united the kingdom, which was an obvious priority for Israel. David then embarked on the task of advancing the kingdom, beginning with the capture of Jebus, a Canaanite city in Judah. He

accomplished this with God’s help and made it the capital city, Jerusalem. Once Hiram of Tyre built him a palace and the royal family began to grow, he defended Israel in two battles against the Philistines. Significantly, David did this with an obvious dependence upon God, and God gave him the victory. Finally, and most importantly, David honored God in two ways. First, he tried to move the Ark of the Covenant from its temporary home in Baale-Judah, to Jerusalem. Unfortunately, God’s guidelines for moving the Ark were not observed, and when it was jostled, some of the priests touched it as they tried to stabilize it; the result was an untimely death for them. After it rested in another place



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

for a while, they moved it again, correctly this time, resulting in a great worship celebration. David then asked God if he could build Him a house, but God said, “No”; however, He promised to build David a lasting dynasty instead. David was overwhelmed by God’s grace, and prayed for His continued blessing. At the beginning of his reign, David definitely put “first things first”.

Study/Discussion Questions for II Samuel 5-7

(For answers to questions attend an ABF or go to www.celebrationnet.com/resources/leader resources)

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| <p>1. Look at 5:1-5. What 3 things did the tribes of Israel admit about David (v1-2)? What was the responsibility of the tribes to David, and David to the tribes when he became king (v2-3)?</p> | |
| <p>2. In 5:6-16, what events solidified David’s kingship (6-10, 11-12, 13-15), and why do you think each was important? What did David realize in this time (v12), and how can we apply this?</p> | |
| <p>3. Using 5:17-25 what occurred and why (v17, 22), and what was David’s response each time (v17-21, 23-25)? How did God’s direction change (v19, 23-24) and why was David’s reaction good?</p> | |

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II Samuel 5-7 Study Questions (cont)

4. Looking at 6:1-8 what did David lead Israel to do (v1-2), and what was the atmosphere (v5)? How did they do it (v3-4) and what was the result (v7)? What did they do wrong (v6, see Exod 25:14, 1 Chron 15:13)? What can we learn here?

5. Using 6:9-19 where did the Ark temporarily rest (v9-10), and what did this cause (v11-12)? How did David respond to this news (v12), what did he change (v13), and what were the 2 reactions (v13-15, 16, 17-19)? Apply this.

6. From 6:20-23 what did Michal accuse David of (v20), and how did David react immediately (v21-22), and long-term (v23)? How would you evaluate Michal's and David's responses?

7. Based on 7:1-7 what did David want to do (v1-2), and why was this a good desire? How did God answer him (v4-7), and what does this teach us?

8. Read 7:8-17. What had God done for David (v8-9), and what did He promise to do for Israel (v10-11), for David (v11, 16), and his descendants (v12-15)? Why does this say about God?

9. In 7:18-24 how did David react to God's promises (v18-21)? For what did he specifically praise God (v22), and why (v23-24)? How does this show the connection between thanking God for what He does for us and praising Him?

10. According to 7:25-29 what did David ask God to do (v25, 29), and on what basis (v26-28)? How can we apply these principles to make our prayers to God more effective?

11. What can we learn from David's responses to the role God gave him (5:1-5), to the tasks He placed before him (5:10-25), and to God's responses to his desires (6:1-23, 7:1-29)?

Scripture to Remember

"How great you are, O sovereign Lord! There is no one like you and no God but you."

2 Samuel 7:22

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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. Share with the group your definition of spiritual maturity. How has that changed over the years?
2. Talk about why we tend to rely on ourselves, and our ability to manipulate, to get what we want. Why is it so easy to be deceptive in this whole process?
3. Discuss some of the patterns that keeping "kicking you" as you do life. What kind of relational damage do these most often cause for you?
4. As you look back on God's guidance and support in your life, what are some of the things that stand out most to you? Tell the group about these.
5. Describe what your old "nickname" could have been, and how God is giving you a new name. Why is it good to remember that it's about progress, and not perfection, in this transition?
6. Discuss anything else that impressed you from the message today if you have time.