

Running with the Big Dogs

Leveraging Your Blessings

Introduction to II Samuel 8-10

- 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

"Leveraging your assets" is an accepted business practice. The idea is that one's assets can be used as collateral against which to borrow money, which can be reinvested to make even more money. King David did this with his blessings in this week's study. He not only enjoyed God's blessings personally, but he invested those blessings in the lives of others. As the story opened the Philistines were finally subdued by David, then he defeated the Moabites, making them his servants. After this Hadadezer, king of Rehob, went to battle against David, but was soundly defeated as well. This resulted in significant spoils, as David took Hadadezer's servants' golden shields, and then gathered large amounts of bronze from Hadadezer's cities. After this

Toi, the king of Hamath, sent his son to David with silver, gold and bronze, all of which he dedicated to the Lord. As David accumulated these blessings, his reputation grew also, as he killed 18,000 Arameans, subdued Edom, and reigned over Israel with justice and righteousness. As David considered how God has blessed him, he desired to invest these blessings in the lives of others. He first looked to the descendants of Jonathan, his best friend, and discovered that Mephibosheth, his crippled son, had been neglected. He invited him to live in Jerusalem, eat at the king's table, gave him all that had belonged to Saul, then ordered his servant, Ziba, to take care of him. This was a great picture of God's grace



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

to us, and exemplified the type of response that one who is blessed should have. David then attempted to bless Hanun, whose father, Nahash, had been kind to him. However, he was rebuffed, leading to David's defeat of them in battle. This shows that not all respond well to our attempts to bless them, but we must persevere in doing good anyway. By this we are able to leverage our blessings.

Study/Discussion Questions for II Samuel 8-10

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

<p>1. Look at 8:1-8. List David's victories (v1, 2, 3, 5), and the results of these victories (v1, 2, 4, 5-7). What spoils did he accumulate (v2, 4, 6, 7, 8), and what was the secret of his success (v6)?</p>	
<p>2. In 8:9-12 who blessed David (v10), and why (v10), and what did he do for David (10)? What did David do with all the presents and spoils he was receiving (v12), and how can we apply this?</p>	
<p>3. From 8:13-14 what other "asset" of David was growing (v13), and how (13-14)? What cause of his success is repeated here (v14), and what point is being made by this repetition?</p>	

(Continued on Next Page)

II Samuel 8-10 Study Questions (cont)

4. Using 8:15-18 characterize David's rule in Israel (v15), and identify his key people (v16-18). What picture does this present regarding David's administration of Israel?

5. Read 9:1-8. What did David want to do (v1-3), and why (v1, 3)? Who was the recipient of David's desire (v6), and what things made him an unlikely candidate (v3, 5, 8)?

6. From 9:7-13 what did David do for Mephibosheth (v7, 9-10, 11, 12, 13)? How is the story of David and Mephibosheth similar to God and us?

7. Based on 10:1-5 what other kindness did David attempt to show (v1-2), but how was this interpreted (v3)? What occurred as a result (v4), and how did David's men feel about this (v5)?

8. Looking at 10:6-7 how did the Ammonites respond to the news that David was displeased with them (v6), and how did David react (v7)?

9. In 10:8-14 how were the battle lines drawn against Israel (v8), and what was Joab's strategic response (v9-11)? What advice did he give Abishai (v12), and what was the result (v13-14)?

10. According to 10:15-19 how did the rest of the Arameans react to their defeat (v15-16), and what was David's response (v17)? What were the results of the battle (v18-19)?

11. Recap the blessings God gave David in 2 Samuel 8-10, and how he responded to God. List some of your blessings, what you are doing with them, and how this is affecting others.

Scripture to Remember

“Be strong, and let us show ourselves courageous for the sake of our people.”

2 Samuel 10:12

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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 family's attitude towards money when you were growing up. How has that affected you today?
2. Talk about something you have bought that either deteriorated, depreciated, or was stolen. What would be some healthy and unhealthy responses to that?
3. Discuss some of the changes you have seen in people that acquired a measure of wealth. Why does money tend to make us independent, prideful and falsely secure?
4. Why is it true that earthly treasure can never satisfy our deepest needs?
5. What does the fact that all earthly treasure is eventually going to burn up (go away) do for you? If we really took this truth to heart, how could we apply it?
6. Discuss anything else that impressed you from the message today if you have time.