

05
JULY 2020

2 SAMUEL 8: 9-14

VICTORY COMES FROM GOD

David defeated many people from many nations. God gave him victory after victory. The Bible says, "The Lord gave David victory wherever he went." That is so amazing. However, David did not become arrogant or say that it was his own hand that brought him victory. David knew that his victory came from God.

Since the first time David went into a battlefield, which is when he fought against Goliath, David had declared that his victory did not depend on sword and spear. His victory was only in the name of the Lord Almighty. Moreover, David also said that the battle belonged to the Lord. David knew that the Lord his God was the one who went with him to fight for him against his enemies.

God has given us a victorious life. He will bring us from one victory to another in every battle and struggle we have in life. Just trust in Him completely that He is with you to fight for you.

Key verse:
Deuteronomy 20:4
For the LORD your God is the one who goes with you to fight for you against your enemies to give you victory.

Prayer
Dear God. You are mighty and powerful. Thank You for giving me a victorious life. I will always trust in You and let Your name always be glorified through every victory in my life. Amen.





06
JULY 2020

2 SAMUEL 9

SHOWING KINDNESS

David asked if there was anyone from Saul's family that was still alive so that he could show kindness to him. One of the servants named Ziba said that Saul's grandson named Mephibosheth was still alive. Mephibosheth was crippled. David called Mephibosheth and told him that he wanted to be kind to him because of his friendship with his father, Jonathan. David had made a covenant with Jonathan to show kindness to Jonathan's family. David gave Mephibosheth all the land that used to be Saul's and Mephibosheth would eat at the king's table with David. David treated Mephibosheth like his own son.

Jonathan had passed away and David could have just easily moved on and forgotten about Jonathan's family, but he didn't. He knew God taught His people to be kind to everyone and he wanted to show the same kindness that God had showed him.

Just like how God has been so kind to you and me, let's show our kindness to the people around us. Even the tiniest act of kindness matters.

Key verse:
Ephesians 4:32
Be kind and loving to each other.

Prayer
Heavenly Father, thank You for all the kindness I have received from You. Teach me to show kindness to the people around me. Amen.





07
JULY 2020

2 SAMUEL 12:13-15

CONSEQUENCES OF SINS

David committed a sin and he tried to hide it, but God knew about this. There is nothing we can hide from God. God sent his prophet named Nathan. Nathan told David that he had to be punished for his sins. David repented and pleaded for God's forgiveness. God is a forgiving God and He forgave his sins. However, the consequence of his sin still had to take place. His son died.

If God is forgiving, why do we still have to bear the consequences of our sins? God is love. He always forgives. But remember:

1. He is also just and fair
2. He is holy
3. He wants to teach His ways to His children

Let me give you an example. A student steals a pen from his classmate and gets caught by the teacher. He asks for forgiveness and he is forgiven by the pen owner. BUT the student will still be punished by the teacher for his wrongdoing. It is because a teacher has to be fair to all of his students and he also needs to reinforce the rule. Moreover, by facing the consequence, the wrong-doer will also learn form his mistake and will try not to repeat it in the future.

There is a consequence to every sin. But, if we come to God and repent whole heartedly, He will strengthen us to go through it all.

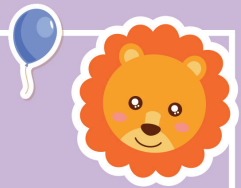
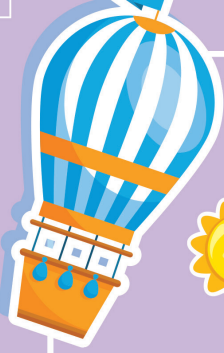
Key verse:

*Psalm 32:1
Happy is the person, whose sins are forgiven, whose wrongs are pardoned.*

Prayer

Dear God, forgive me for all my mistakes and sins. Help me to be the person You want me to be. Amen.





08

JULY
2020

2 SAMUEL 13:21-29

MY SIBLINGS ARE MY BEST FRIENDS

Absalom, Tamar and Amnon were David's children. One day, Amnon bullied and violated Tamar and it made Absalom so angry. When David found out about this, he was very angry but he did nothing to punish Amnon. Absalom found David's action disappointing and he held some bitterness towards Amnon and David. He felt that he had to take this matter into his own hands. Two years after this awful incident, Absalom got a chance to take revenge on Amnon. It is so heartbreaking when siblings fight, violate and hate each other.

You cannot choose your siblings but your siblings are part of God's perfect plan in your life. Siblings are created for love and friendship. Your siblings can help you grow into a better person as you grow up together. They are the people in your life who see you at your worst yet still love and accept you. No matter how badly you quarrel with your siblings, eventually you will patch back and have each other's back.

Why don't you buy your sibling his or her favorite snack when you are going back home from school later?

Key verse:

Proverbs 17:17

A brother is always there to help you.

Prayer

Dear God, thank You for my siblings. Help me to be more understanding and patient with them. I want to love them like You love me. Amen.





09
JULY 2020

2 SAMUEL 15:1-12

THE DAMAGES CAUSED BY A BITTER HEART

David and his son Absalom had some disagreement and conflict in the past. After some time, David called Absalom and reconciled with him. He forgave his son. However, Absalom did not forgive his father. Secretly, he still held some bitterness in his heart towards David.

Driven by this bitterness, Absalom made a plan to overthrow his own father from the throne. He influenced many Israelites to go together with him in this act of betrayal. As a result, David and his loyal men had to run away to escape from Absalom and his men.

Bitterness is anger and disappointment at being treated unfairly by someone. Bitterness has the power to turn the best of you into the worst of you. Bitterness builds the desire to make someone else suffer. The damage caused by bitterness is very harmful. God wants us to forgive others as God Himself has forgiven us. If you have bitterness inside your heart, let God pull it out and heal your heart with His love. The Holy Spirit can help you forgive those who have treated you badly.

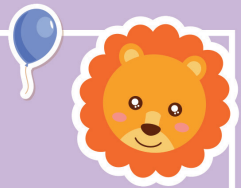
Key verse:

*Job 21:25
Another dies in bitterness of soul, never having enjoyed anything good.*

Prayer

Dear God, I don't want to be controlled by bitterness. Let Your love take control of my heart. Amen.





10

JULY
2020

2 SAMUEL 18:9-17 & 33

UNCONDITIONAL LOVE

Absalom was still trying to overthrow his father, David. However, as a parent, David told his men not to hurt his son but to be gentle to him. During the battle, when Absalom met David's men, his head got stuck in a big tree and he was unable to escape. One of David's soldiers, named Joab, found out about Absalom's position and took this chance to take Absalom's life. Absalom passed away. When David found out about this, he was in so much sorrow and grieved for his loss. Even though Absalom had disrespected him greatly, it never changed David's love for his son. He loved him dearly, still.

This is the love of parents to their children. No matter how you have disappointed or disobeyed your parents, they still love you. A parent's love is truly selfless, unconditional and forgiving.

Similarly, this is also how God's love works. We might have disobeyed Him or become unfaithful to Him, but He still loves you and me. Put this into your heart: GOD LOVES ME unconditionally. No matter what you do, He will never stop loving you.

Key verse:

Jeremiah 31:3

... He said, I love you people with a love that will last forever;

Prayer

Dear God, thank You for loving me unconditionally. I want to always obey You and walk according to Your words. Amen.





11
JULY 2020

2 SAMUEL 22:1-3 & 38-50

SONG OF PRAISES

David loved music. He loved to praise and worship God, especially after God delivered him from the enemies. David wrote many songs of praise to God. David had won many battles, such as the battles against Goliath, the Philistines, the Ammonites, Saul and also Absalom. God delivered him from all his enemies. David praised God and said "The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer."

Big rocks are powerful and strong as they can shield you from the enemies. Big rocks cannot be shaken or moved! God is our rock. It means God is so strong and powerful!

A fortress is a safe place during the war because it is a big strong construction that can protect a city from the enemies' attack. God is our fortress. It means when you are in Him, you are safe and protected from the enemies.

A deliverer is a person who rescues someone from his enemy or from any bad situation. God is the only one who can rescue His people from the enemies.

Praise is an expression of our respect and gratitude to someone. Praise is an essential part in our fellowship with God. God is worthy of all our praise and worship in good times and in bad times. Just like David, let's give all glory to God by praising and worshipping Him because everything is from Him, through Him and to Him.

Key verse:

*Psalm 18:2
The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer.*

Prayer

Dear God, I worship You, I praise You, I give You thanks. I love You with all my heart, mind and soul. Amen.

