

BE TRUTHFUL

avid asked Joab to number Israel. Israel did not belong to David. Instead, Israel belonged to God. Rightfully, David could only number Israel upon God's command. David did not receive such command from God but he still insisted on doing it.

Joab knew that numbering Israel would bring God's anger on Israel. He was clearly concerned about this and he tried to warn David to cancel his plan. However, his wise advice was ignored.

Joab knew the truth and tried to speak out the truth. Be a friend who speaks the truth, no matter how hard the circumstances and situations are.

Pointing out wrongdoing might be difficult, but it is a true act of sincere friendship. As long as you speak the truth in a gentle way and don't confront your friends in a hurtful way, it can strengthen your friendship.

In the same way, when your friends try to remind you about your wrongdoing, be thankful for having such wise friends. Treasure them!

Key verse:

Proverbs 27:5 A truly good friend will openly correct you.

Prayer

Dear God, thank You for the friends you have put into my life. Help me to be truthful to them. Amen.



PREPARE CHEERFULLY

When David knew he could not accomplish his desire to build the temple of God, he dedicated his final years ensuring that the temple would be built accordingly.

Even though he would not be able to see the temple of God with his own eyes, he prepared all the materials that were needed for this. Knowing he wouldn't be physically there to lead the making of the temple of God, he encouraged all the Israelites to support his son, Solomon.

David did more than just preparing, he actually prepared cheerfully and abundantly. His preparation for the building of the temple was admirable. He prepared all things that were possible to build the temple of God for the glory of God, not his own.

Whenever you make some preparation for God's work or for helping others, keep in mind that it is all for the glory of God. Most importantly, your heart should be doing it cheerfully. God notices and sees your hard work. Your preparation for God's work is never wasted.

Key verse:

1 Corinthians
15:58
Always give
yourselves fully
to the work of
the Lord. You
know that your
work in the Lord
is never wasted.

Prayer

Dear God, whenever I prepare myself for Your work, I want to do it with a cheerful heart. To You be all the glory. Amen.



PRAISE GOD ALL THE

avid made the rule to ensure that the Levites did the job of worshipping God both with their voices and musical instruments. They did this to honor God and also to encourage others to worship God. They worshipped God every morning and evening. David wanted people to give thanks to God when the day started and before the day ended.

There are many opportunities in your life that allow you to praise God - when you wake up in the morning and are greeted by a beautiful sunrise, when you reach school safely and meet with your friends, when you are able to buy your favourite snack after school, when you have family time with your parents or when you are going to have a good night's sleep.

Praising God should be done frequently throughout each day since His mercy into your life is renewed every single morning. Therefore, let's praise God for everything and at all seasons. Give thanks for His mercy all the time.

Key verse:

Psalm 113:3
From the rising of the sun to the place where it sets, the name of the Lord is to be praised.

Prayer

Dear God, how wonderful Your provisions are, how incredible Your blessings. How marvelous Your love is, how magnificent Your mercy. I praise You. Amen.



HEART AND MIND

avid taught Solomon a way to live. The key was to have a genuine commitment and relationship with God and to serve God with his heart and mind. Our heart controls our emotions, hopes and dreams. Our mind controls our intellect, reason and thoughts.

Heart and mind are important in order to truly serve Him. To know God is to serve Him. David gave Solomon a reason to commit his heart and mind to God. The reason is because God searches all hearts and understands all the intent of the thoughts. There is nothing God does not know.

Serving God with your heart means showing love to God by obeying all His commands. You also show kindness to other people who are in need.

Serving God with your mind is thinking about and remembering all God's words and telling God's words to others. You can also think about what you could do to others who are in need.

Key verse:

Psalm 26:2 Lord, try me and test me. Look closely into my heart and mind.

Prayer

Dear God, help me to guard my mind and heart to always focus on You and to serve You and others who are in need. Amen.



WEALTH IS FROM GOD

avid was someone who was blessed with both wealth and honour in his entire life. However, David knew that those things came from God and not from his own strength.

When God blesses you with all the good things in your life, you have to use them wisely and carefully. Everything that you have and everything that you can enjoy come from God through your parents or through anyone else. God is the source of every blessing.

When you have the mindset that whatever you have right now is entrusted to you by God, its rightful Owner, then you will have the right attitude. You will be able to stay humble and to give thanks to God for everything that you have been blessed with

It is also important to return some of the blessings to God; for example, by giving your tithe, offering or helping people who are in need.

Key verse:

1 Chronicles 29:12 Wealth and honor come from You; You are the ruler of all things.

Prayer

Dear God, You are the ruler of all things including my life and all my belongings. From You are all things and I want to use them to glorify Your name. Amen.



WHEN GOD SENDS SOMEONE TO HELP YOU

When Solomon was about to build the temple of God, he asked for help from David's long friend named king Hiram. King Hiram helped him sincerely. He even sent someone skillful to help Solomon.

It is true that when you are in need, the first person you should come to is God. God will certainly help you. God helps His children in many and mysterious ways. One of the ways is by sending someone to help you, just like God sent king Hiram to help Solomon build the temple of God.

The people you know in your life are part of God's plan for your life. God has special purposes for placing them around you. God placed king Hiram as one of David's friends and one of the purposes was to help David's son build the temple of God.

Let's appreciate everyone that God has placed around us and be a blessing to them as they are part of God's plan in your amazing life.

Key verse:

Psalm 20:2 May He send you help from His temple.

Prayer

Dear God, thank You for the people You have placed around me. And thank You for sending them to help me in many ways. Amen.



WHERE GOD IS, NOTHING ELSE MATTERS

The Levites and priests praised God together with the musical instruments in the temple of God. Everyone ensured they had sanctified themselves. They praised God wholeheartedly. God's presence filled the temple when the hearts of the people of God were turned to Him. God pours out His glory when His people praise Him.

When His glory filled the temple, the priests could not continue ministering. When the glory of God takes over the space, you will see that your sadness, pain and worries are nothing compared to God's glory. Where God is, nothing else matters.

Just like God manifested His presence in the form of clouds in His temple, now God reveals Himself to us in Jesus Christ. As long as you have faith in Jesus and walk faithfully with the Holy Spirit, His presence will stay in your heart and His glory will shine on you.

Key verse:

Matthew 24:30
And then all
the peoples of
the earth will
mourn when
they see the Son
of Man coming
on the clouds
of heaven, with
power and great
glory

Prayer

Jesus, Your presence and glory is all that I need in my life. My problems and sadness will be wiped away in the greatness of Your glory in my heart. Amen.