



Honest to God

David: Profiles of an Authentic Life

Session 11 – Authentic Legacy

“Whatever you are, be a good one.”—President Abraham Lincoln

If you’ve ever visited a presidential library, you know what a monumental task it is to bring together pictures, letters, and innumerable bits of memorabilia into an interesting display that gives an honest appraisal of the man, his life, and his service. We’ve attempted to do that with this series.

A president’s legacy aims to honor the man, but King David would have none of that. Better to finish with David’s own prayer. “O our God, we thank You and praise Your glorious name! O Lord...make Your people always want to obey You. See to it that their love for You never changes” (1 Chronicles 29:13, 18 NLT).

Goals for this Session:

- Discover more about David’s legacy of prayer and praise.
- Consider how even unfulfilled desires work into God’s perfect plan.
- Examine how we respond when God says no.
- Pray honest prayers that lead to praise and hold steady with hope.

Ice Breaker

If you could write your own legacy in one sentence, what would it be?

Day One – The Big Picture

Read **1 Chronicles 17:1–27** and **1 Chronicles 29:1–20** to get the overall picture. Follow the story line closely but without getting bogged down in details.

1. What is the central topic? State the main point of this passage in a sentence or two.
2. What insight does this chapter give you into God’s ways and our relationship to Him?
3. The Bible shapes our core beliefs about God and our conduct toward others. Share one takeaway lesson from this chapter and how you can apply it to your life.

Day Two – David’s Plan, God’s Answer

Read 1 Chronicles 17:1–15.

This first scene took place in the early days of David’s reign, shortly after he brought the ark to Jerusalem. That was a high point for Israel and for David personally, so building a house for the Lord seemed to be a natural next step.

1. David contemplates all that God has done. After years of exile, hardship and living in caves, the Lord has blessed David with a beautiful home and rest from his enemies. Briefly describe the conversation (here and in 2 Samuel 7:1–3) between David and Nathan. What did Nathan think of David’s idea?
 - a. According to Psalm 132:1–5, how important was this plan to David?

2. After a night of prayer, Nathan returns to tell David that his building permit has been denied. Briefly consider the Lord’s answer to David.
 - a. Did God mind dwelling in a tent? Why or why not?
 - b. How does God graciously remind David of all they have been through together?
 - c. What “I will” promises did God make?
 - d. What “I will not” promise did God make?

3. Sometimes God says no because He has a better plan. You may think of a time when the Lord didn’t permit you to go forward with a plan that seemed to be good and for His glory. In hindsight, you may or may not see why. Briefly share what that experience taught you about trusting God.

God will never deny us what is good without giving us what is best. We may not understand, and He does not always explain. When God says no, what does He want us to know?

Isaiah 55:8–11

Jeremiah 29:11

Romans 11:33–36

2 Corinthians 12:8–9

Memory Verse

Write the verse and let it be part of your prayers every day. Ask the Holy Spirit to work it into your heart and mind.

The Lord lives! Blessed be my Rock! Let the God of my salvation be exalted.
Psalm 18:46 NKJV

Think it over . . .

Whatever else may shift and change, what is always true about the God of my salvation?

Day Three – Who Am I?

Read 1 Chronicles 17:16–27.

David's dream of building the temple was motivated by his sincere desire to honor the Lord. It was a good plan, but it wasn't *God's* plan. More accurately, David wasn't the *man* for the plan.

1. What is the first thing that David did in response to Nathan's message from the Lord?
 - a. When God changes your plans, what is likely to be your first response? What would you like it to be?
2. At this point in the narrative, we get the sense that David is blown away and needs time to absorb what the Lord, through Nathan the prophet, has told him. What stands out most to you about David's prayer?
 - a. What does David acknowledge about himself?
 - b. What does David praise God for?
3. God assured David that the desire in his heart was good (1 Kings 8:18), *but you won't be the one to build Me a house, and it won't be in your lifetime*. So, even as David praised God for what He promised to do in the future, it meant letting go of his own desire and the joy of actually seeing his dream come true.

Disappointment is a normal part of life, but it's like a seed. In a complaining heart, it grows discouragement. In a grateful heart, it grows a blessing in disguise. When disappointment threatens to uproot your faith, what will keep you growing and going forward?

Romans 8:28

Colossians 3:23–24

Hebrews 13:15–16

4. David counted his blessings instead of his disappointments. “Who am I, O Lord God, and what is my family that You have brought me this far?” Sometimes it’s good to sit before the Lord and count our blessings. Why not take time now to consider what God has done for you and finish this sentence...

Who am I, O Lord God, that You would...

Memory Verse

The Lord lives! Blessed be my Rock! Let the God of my salvation be exalted.
Psalm 18:46 NKJV

Think it over . . .

Because God is my sure and solid Rock, how will I honor Him in every aspect of my life?

Day Four – God’s Plan, David’s Answer

Read 1 Chronicles 29:1–20.

David wasn’t allowed to build the Lord’s house, but he determined to help the one who would.

1. God said that David would have a son who would build the Lord’s house. A few years later, Solomon was born. Before Solomon’s twentieth birthday, David began to draw up plans and stockpile building materials (1 Chronicles 22:1–5).
 - a. David did more than develop a plan for the temple; he began to instill the vision in his son. Read 1 Chronicles 22:6–13 for what may have been the first time that David shared his dream with Solomon. Note how David encouraged his son.
 - b. David enlisted Israel’s leaders to help Solomon fulfill God’s call on his life. It would take more than one man to lead Israel to worship the Lord as He had instructed them to. These men were the influencers of their day. What did David say they would need to do first and always? (See 1 Chronicles 22:19)
 - c. Does this resonate with you? We all have a sphere of influence, whether few or many. As you think about your roles and responsibilities in life—those you lead, and those you serve and support—what do you want your legacy to be?

“When you serve your own generation faithfully, you also serve future generations.”

Warren Wiersbe

At the beginning of 1 Chronicles 29, the scene is already in progress. King David has called an assembly and hundreds of men fill the room—princes, governors, religious leaders, military men, high-level servants in David’s administration. And common citizens too...men who managed David’s property and took care of his livestock—blue-collar workers.

David is in his late sixties. He holds a blueprint in his frail hands—but use your imagination and you can still see him pull back hard on a slingshot, flash a sword, or pluck the strings on a lyre. His ruddy complexion is covered in lines and whiskers, but the spark in his eye can still set hearts on fire when he speaks. And that’s what he’s here to do on this day.

David has just finished sharing plans for the temple building project and the work that’s already begun. It wasn’t just material preparation. Now that the ark will have a permanent home, David restructured the Levitical duties of the priests. Twenty-four thousand caretakers will be assigned to twenty-four groups, each serving two weeks a year. There will be six-thousand appointed officers and judges. Four thousand gatekeepers (guards) serving on rotation.

David took special interest in the temple worship—everything from compiling a songbook to appointing choir directors and setting guidelines for the selection and training of musicians and singers. There will be four thousand musicians and choristers.

2. David poured himself tirelessly into the work, paving the way for his son to build the temple. But he wasn’t doing it for Solomon, or for himself. According to 1 Chronicles 28:19–20, where was David drawing strength and inspiration for the work? What did he declare to Solomon in the presence of all these witnesses?
3. Sometimes a Bible narrative can be like reading a text message—without the tone of voice or facial expressions, we may easily get the wrong impression. Was David proudly displaying his gifts and generosity for all to see and applaud? If Michal had been watching from the window, that’s probably what she would have seen. But we know David better than that. Just as David had danced before the Lord with all his might, now he says, “For the house of my God I have prepared with all my might” (1 Chronicles 29:2 NKJV).

As you read David’s dedication prayer and praise, keep in mind that David is standing where the temple *will* be someday. But he knows he will never see the magnificence of Solomon’s temple with his own eyes. But he can’t pour out enough gratitude and praise. What a legacy. Read it again and take your time. Pull out one or two phrases that you will commit to pray and praise God for this week.

Memory Verse

The Lord lives! Blessed be my Rock! Let the God of my salvation be exalted.
Psalm 18:46 NKJV

Think it over . . .

Who needs to hear about the God of my salvation? Pray for them by name.

Day Five – After His Heart

“The eyes of the Lord search the whole earth in order to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to Him.” —2 Chronicles 16:9 NLT

“God found in David a man who would stand in the gap, a man whose heart was fully committed to Him. Will He find that in you?”

Greg Laurie

For you personally, what has been the most important discovery or insight from this study?

How will you put living it into practice in the days ahead?

Prayer Requests

Notes
