A Fugitive Spares His Rival

Summary and Goal
David, the young shepherd boy, had squared off against the fierce giant named Goliath and, through the Lord’s power, defeated him and won the victory for the Israelites. It wasn’t long before Israel’s hero became King Saul’s nemesis. When Saul heard the people praising David, jealousy began consuming his heart, leading to multiple attempts to kill David. As a result, David feared for his life and fled to the wilderness. In this session, we will see David’s character on display as he, a fugitive, refused to take an opportunity to eliminate his rival. At the same time, we’ll see how this story points us to Jesus, who loved His enemies in even greater ways than David, to the point of dying for them.

Session Outline
1. God’s chosen one refuses an opportunity to defeat a rival (1 Sam. 24:1-4).
2. God’s chosen one makes a promise to preserve a rival’s life (1 Sam. 24:8,11-15).
3. God’s chosen one makes a promise to preserve a rival’s family
   (1 Sam. 24:16-17,20-22).

Session in a Sentence
God’s people are to trust in Him for justice and are to demonstrate grace, mercy, and kindness to all.

Christ Connection
David refused to take the life of his rival, Saul, even when his own life was in peril, because he trusted in God for justice. Jesus trusted His Father’s plan and laid down His life for His enemies so that they would be spared from death and become part of God’s family.

Missional Application
Because we were once enemies of God but are now His sons and daughters in Christ, we seek the welfare of all, even those who are our enemies, so that they too might become part of God’s family.
**Group Time**

**Introduction**

**EXPLAIN:** Use the C. S. Lewis quote in the DDG (p. 48) to raise the issue of the gap we often have between what we believe and what we do.

C. S. Lewis once wrote, “Every one says forgiveness is a lovely idea, until they have something to forgive.” ¹ We love the idea of forgiveness, but when it comes to actually forgiving someone who deeply wounded us, well, that is another story altogether.

Do you see the problem here? There is a gap between what we believe and what we do. As Christians, we often celebrate and even champion certain virtues or biblical mandates, but do we live out these convictions? Do we take the steps necessary to make our visions and ideals a reality or are we more content with what we believe to remain abstract ideology? Are we in love with the idea of being Christians rather than being in love with Christ Himself and living in such a way that reflects our identity in Him?

**INTERACT:** Ask group members the following questions.

¿What are some biblical commands that we might love in concept but struggle to live out? (love for our enemies; trusting the Lord to accomplish justice and vengeance on our behalf; praying for those in authority; looking out for the interests of others; making disciples)

**EXPLAIN:** Connect the issue discussed above with the story about David in 1 Samuel 24.

- In 1 Samuel 24, David had this choice to make: Would his trust in God be an idea or would it be real? Would he trust God in all situations or would he select the times when it was easiest and safest for him to do so?
- Remember that David was a real person with real fears and doubts. In doing so, we will be able to grapple with the tension he surely felt between whether he would trust and obey God or take matters into his own hands.

**SUMMARIZE:** In this session, we will see David’s character on display as he, a fugitive, refused to take an opportunity to eliminate his rival. At the same time, we’ll see how this story points us to Jesus, who loved His enemies in even greater ways than David, to the point of dying for them.

*For session-by-session training videos, please visit MinistryGrid.com/GospelProject.*
*For additional teaching options and other resources, please visit GospelProject.com/additional-resources.*
Point 1: God’s chosen one refuses an opportunity to defeat a rival (1 Sam. 24:1-4).

SAY: After David’s battle with Goliath, Saul became jealous and suspicious of David. Eventually he wanted to destroy David to protect his place as king over the nation, in spite of Samuel’s prophecy (1 Sam. 15:26-29). So the hero turned fugitive and fled from Saul, the king who pursued him to kill him.

READ 1 Samuel 24:1-4 (DDG p. 49).

1 When Saul returned from pursuing the Philistines, he was told, “David is in the wilderness near En-gedi.” 2 So Saul took three thousand of Israel’s fit young men and went to look for David and his men in front of the Rocks of the Wild Goats. 3 When Saul came to the sheep pens along the road, a cave was there, and he went in to relieve himself. David and his men were staying in the recesses of the cave, 4 so they said to him, “Look, this is the day the Lord told you about: ‘I will hand your enemy over to you so you can do to him whatever you desire.’” Then David got up and secretly cut off the corner of Saul’s robe.

EXPLAIN: Use the first paragraph in the DDG (p. 49) to highlight the tension David must have felt in the cave with Saul when presented with the alignment of his desire, his circumstances, and his community.

Saul, alone, vulnerable, and unaware, was at the mercy of David. David easily could have taken Saul’s life to fulfill God’s prophecy and to ascend to Israel’s throne. God had told David that he would be king, and he desired to become king. The circumstances of Saul’s entering the cave David was hiding in seemed like a gift from God, and David’s community of fighting men saw it as such and encouraged him to end this struggle. This seemed to be God’s will, but David spared Saul’s life. Why?

• Desire: The battle with Goliath showed that David desired and deserved to be the one who would lead God’s people. David trusted and loved God deeply, and he was willing to do whatever it took to make God’s name known in all the earth (17:46-47). In contrast, we never see anything like this in Saul.

• Circumstances: At this point in the story, David has not made any attempts on Saul’s life, and nothing indicates that David wanted to harm Saul in any way. But with Saul vulnerable and unprotected in the same cave, perhaps this was the time to usher in a new kingdom that would honor God. The circumstances seemed to align perfectly here. Was God providing the perfect way for His will and David’s desires to come to pass?

• Community: The men who loved David, who endured a difficult life on the run with him and who would seemingly do anything for him, said he should take Saul’s life. They saw these circumstances as a fulfillment of a prophecy from the Lord. In their minds, the hand of God had served up Saul to David on a silver platter.
INTERACT: Ask group members the following question.

**What are some ways people try to determine the will of God?** *(based on what feels good and right; going on what makes sense; getting the advice of others; praying; searching the Scriptures)*

EXPLAIN: Use the second paragraph in the DDG (p. 49) to explain how David’s *conscience* and no clear *command* from God caused him to stay his hand from attacking the Lord’s anointed. Then take a moment to apply this scenario to our own understanding of God’s will.

Killing Saul made sense in the moment and seemed to fall into the will of God, which others affirmed. But David stayed his hand. Why? Because he refused to lift his hand against the Lord’s anointed (24:5-7). For David, this would be sinning against the God he loved. His *conscience* was captive to the word of God; David was unwilling to act where there was no clear *command* from God to do so. This was not an opportunity for God to show His faithfulness to David but for David to show his faithfulness to God.

- **Conscience:** Without Saul even knowing it, David got close enough to Saul in the cave to cut off a portion of his garment, proof that he held Saul’s life in his hands. However, as soon as he did this, his conscience struck him (v. 5). Though Saul sought to end his life, David still considered him the Lord’s anointed (v. 6), and he had no right to cause him harm.

- **Command:** What was missing in this scenario was an explicit command from the Lord for David to attack the Lord’s anointed, and that was vital. Therefore, David was forced to interpret the situation differently than his men did. David saw through it all and discerned that taking action here would be wrong, a violation of God’s command not to murder.

Application: The pull toward self and sin is so strong that we can easily interpret what is around us in such a way that our rebellion against God makes complete sense. We believe that if the right *desires, circumstances,* and support from our *community* are in place, we must be in the will of God. Maybe so, but we ought to dig deeper. This account teaches us that perception is not always prescription. We must listen to our Spirit-sanctified *conscience,* but above all, we must submit ourselves to the *commands* and teachings of the Scriptures. When something clearly violates God’s Word, we must refuse to take matters into our own hands. David knew that the word of God trumps all other factors. We should follow his example in this.

INTERACT: Ask group members the following question.

**Why must the Word of God be the final arbiter on God’s will for us?** *(as sinners, we are prone to view things the way we want to see them to justify our desires; circumstances can line up for us but still lead to sinful choices; our community of faith is still full of sinners who can be wrong; our consciences, while informed by the Holy Spirit for believers, are still tainted by our sinful nature; in His Word, God has revealed to us all we need for life and godliness)*
Point 2: God’s chosen one makes a promise to preserve a rival’s life (1 Sam. 24:8,11-15).

READ: Ask a volunteer to read 1 Samuel 24:8,11-15 (DDG p. 50).

8 After that, David got up, went out of the cave, and called to Saul, “My lord the king!” When Saul looked behind him, David knelt low with his face to the ground and paid homage.

11 Look, my father! Look at the corner of your robe in my hand, for I cut it off, but I didn’t kill you. Recognize that I’ve committed no crime or rebellion. I haven’t sinned against you even though you are hunting me down to take my life.

12 “May the LORD judge between me and you, and may the LORD take vengeance on you for me, but my hand will never be against you. 13 As the old proverb says, ‘Wickedness comes from wicked people.’ My hand will never be against you. 14 Who has the king of Israel come after? What are you chasing after? A dead dog? A single flea? 15 May the LORD be judge and decide between you and me. May he take notice and plead my case and deliver me from you.”

EXPLAIN: Use the first paragraph in the DDG (p. 50) to point out how David’s godly character and trust in God were evident in this interaction with Saul.

Though falsely accused and in danger from Saul, David refused to act out in anger in this confrontation. David pleaded his case before Saul—he was innocent of rebellion against the king—but he rested in God’s tender care for him. David glorified God in obeying Him, in honoring the Lord’s anointed, and in his patient trust in God’s justice.

INSTRUCT: Ask group members to consider their own response to conflict using the scale in their DDG (p. 50).

How do you tend to respond to conflict?

With Hostility  With Civility  With Patient Trust in God

EXPLAIN: Reference the second paragraph in the DDG (p. 50) as you highlight three things worth emulating from David’s godly character on display in his words to Saul.

David demonstrated godly character in this conflict with Saul. Here we find three things worth emulating when it comes to responding to conflicts and rivalries: David took the initiative, David humbled himself, and David refused to fight back.
• **David took the initiative.** David was the victim; Saul had initiated this conflict. Saul should have begged for forgiveness, but instead, we see David make the first move to try to put an end to the conflict. Moving toward the offender and seeking reconciliation when we are the ones who have been wronged requires God’s work in our lives. This pattern is also one that Jesus commands (Matt. 5:23-24).

• **David humbled himself.** When David confronted Saul, he didn’t start with a rebuke. Where we might be quick to cast darts at a rival, David humbled himself instead. He bowed low to the ground and even referred to himself as a dead dog and a flea (1 Sam. 24:8,14). David showed that he was no threat to Saul.

• **David refused to fight back.** David left Saul in God’s hands (vv. 11-12,15). He did not trust in himself for justice; he trusted God to do what was right, so he didn’t take matters into his own hands. He believed that God would deliver him from the hand of Saul, and that was why he refused to fight back. God would work for his good; God would defend his cause (see Ps. 57).

**INTERACT:** Ask group members the following question.

What must one believe about God to exhibit godly character in the midst of a conflict or rivalry? (that God is just and will fulfill His justice in the world; that God gives grace to the humble but opposes the proud; that God forgives our sins when we confess them; that God will not allow unjust suffering to continue forever)

**FILL IN THE BLANKS:** Provide group members with the answers for the call-out in their DDG (p. 50).

**God Is Just:** God establishes standards for His moral creatures that are in accordance with His righteousness, and His moral creatures will be judged according to those righteous standards.

**Essential Doctrine “God Is Just”:** God establishes standards for His moral creatures that are in accordance with His righteousness, and His moral creatures will be judged according to those righteous standards (Lev. 11:44-45; Rom. 2:5-11; 2 Cor. 5:10). It would be an injustice if God were not to uphold His righteousness, for such a failure would require God to violate His own righteous character. Since humanity has sinned by failing to live up to God’s righteous standards, God has taken it upon Himself to make provision by being both just and the justifier of those who place their faith in Christ (Rom. 3:25-26).
Point 3: God’s chosen one makes a promise to preserve a rival’s family (1 Sam. 24:16-17,20-22).

READ 1 Samuel 24:16-17,20-22 (DDG p. 51).

16 When David finished saying these things to him, Saul replied, “Is that your voice, David my son?” Then Saul wept aloud 17 and said to David, “You are more righteous than I, for you have done what is good to me though I have done what is evil to you.

………

20 “Now I know for certain you will be king, and the kingdom of Israel will be established in your hand. 21 Therefore swear to me by the Lord that you will not cut off my descendants or wipe out my name from my father’s family.” 22 So David swore to Saul. Then Saul went back home, and David and his men went up to the stronghold.

EXPLAIN: Use the first paragraph in the DDG (p. 51) to illustrate the beautiful picture of mercy and grace painted by David in his promise to preserve Saul and his family.

David showed restraint against Saul as the Lord’s anointed, but he was under no such obligation to Saul’s family. Apart from Jonathan, Saul’s son, who shared a covenant with David (20:14-17; 23:16-18), the rest of Saul’s descendants would be potential threats to David’s monarchy. And Saul was guilty of trying to eliminate David and his future descendants. Yet David showed mercy to Saul by not taking his life and extended grace in promising to preserve his family. Truly David lived by a higher standard.

- Given his circumstances, David acted with surprising kindness toward Saul. Indeed, he was more righteous than Saul, which Saul admitted. So even at his own peril, David promised to preserve Saul’s family. An ousted family might attempt a future claim to the throne or take matters into their own hands and one day assassinate a rival king. But once again, David entrusted himself to the Lord and promised unmerited grace to Saul and his family.
- David would honor this promise to Saul and his covenant with Jonathan in his interaction with Mephibosheth (2 Sam. 9:1-13), a story we will study in a couple of weeks.

FILL IN THE BLANKS: Provide group members with the answers for the call-out in their DDG (p. 51), and emphasize that we do not deserve grace either.

Saul didn’t deserve this kindness, but grace is never deserved.
PACK ITEM 6: JESUS’ LOVE: Use the second paragraph in the DDG (p. 51) to shift your group's focus from the example of David to the gospel of the greater David—Jesus. Then reference the Tertullian quote on the poster as you run through the bullet points below to show how the elements of David’s kindness toward Saul point us to the greater David who was to come.

David’s godly character helped him to navigate this conflict with Saul in a way that honored God, and we have much to learn from his example of extending mercy and grace to an adversary. But as good as his example was, it is not the perfect example we need. As good a king as he would be, he was not the perfect King we need. David’s example was always designed to point us to the greater David—Jesus. In all the ways that David exemplified how to handle our rivals, Jesus showed us an even better way, the way leading to our salvation by faith in Him.

- Think of the way Jesus spared our lives—He gave His own: “This is why the Father loves me, because I lay down my life so that I may take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down on my own. I have the right to lay it down, and I have the right to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father” (John 10:17-18).
- Think of the initiative Jesus took—He came to us first: “For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save the lost” (Luke 19:10).
- Think of the way Jesus humbled Himself—He died on a cross: “He humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death—even to death on a cross” (Phil. 2:8).
- Think of how Jesus didn’t fight back against His enemies—He forgave them: “Then Jesus said, ‘Father, forgive them, because they do not know what they are doing’” (Luke 23:34).
- Think of the power Jesus refused to wield: “For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ: Though he was rich, for your sake he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich” (2 Cor. 8:9).

SAY: Only when we see Jesus in faith—sparing our lives, humbly taking upon Himself the death and punishment that we deserve to save us from our sins—only then can we genuinely posture ourselves in humility toward our rivals in a way that honors God and shows that we trust Him.

INTERACT: Ask group members the following question.

How should faith in Jesus Christ change the way we approach conflict with others? (we should view conflict as an opportunity to display the grace of Jesus to others and to share the gospel with unbelievers; we can honestly seek reconciliation for the good of a brother or sister in Christ; we can endure unjust treatment and trust in God's justice for His people)
My Mission

EXPLAIN: We have seen God’s mercy and grace in the account of David sparing Saul and going beyond to seek the welfare of his family. To a greater degree, when we turn to Christ in faith and place our situations in His loving care and rely on His transformative power to work in us and through us, we too can extend forgiveness to others. We love because we have first been loved (1 John 4:19), and we forgive for the same reason (Luke 7:47). God’s Son became God’s enemy to make us, God’s enemies, into His beloved sons and daughters. This is why we love our enemies, extend grace to all, and seek to bring many into God’s family by sharing the gospel of Christ.

READ the following missional application statement in the DDG (p. 52), and encourage group members to choose at least one of the options below as a way to respond to the truth of God’s Word.

Because we were once enemies of God but are now His sons and daughters in Christ, we seek the welfare of all, even those who are our enemies, so that they too might become part of God’s family.

• How will you respond to the grace and forgiveness God has extended to you in Jesus Christ?
• What are some ways your group or church needs to practice godly, Christ-empowered forgiveness and conflict resolution?
• With whom are you in conflict right now that you can initiate forgiveness or ask for forgiveness as part of showing the power of the gospel?

CLOSE IN PRAYER: Father, You bless the merciful because You show mercy. Help us to trust in You for justice as we treat others, even those who do us harm, with grace, mercy, and kindness. By the power of the Holy Spirit, mold us into the image of Your Son, Jesus, who laid down His life for His enemies so that they would receive mercy. Grant us boldness to announce Your saving mercy to sinners as it has been offered to them in Christ. Amen.

INSTRUCT: As your group departs, encourage group members to read and respond to the Daily Study devotions in their DDG (pp. 53-55), which build and expand upon the group study. Also advocate for small groups or families to use Encourage One Another (p. 56) for mutual accountability and fellowship grounded upon the foundation of God’s Word.
Daily Discipleship

Throughout the week following the session, use the ideas below to remind and encourage your group members to live as disciples of Jesus Christ. The Daily Study devotions in the DDG (pp. 53-55) will help group members get into God’s Word and study it for themselves. Encourage One Another (p. 56) will help group members and families fellowship with one another with purpose.

Daily Study

Brief daily devotions in the DDG (pp. 53-55) will help group members take initiative in their own discipleship.

- Make sure all group members have access to a Bible to read. Have some Bibles available to give to guests who may need one, or offer to get one and arrange a time to meet to give it and show how to navigate it for the devotions.
- Share the following idea from the devotion for Day 3 as a part of point 1 in the session: Sometimes a situation seems too good to be true because it is. We must seek the face of the Lord and trust in His guidance rather than our own perceptions.

Consider leading by example and reading the daily devotions yourself with your own DDG. Based on your study, use brief messages throughout the week (group text, email, social media) to encourage your group to keep up with their daily time in God’s Word and to live it out. Here are a couple of examples you can use:

- **Day 2:** “Jesus stepped into the world and not only risked His life but also laid it down on behalf of the very world that had rejected Him.”
- **Day 4:** “We can never forget our need to extend grace and mercy to others, in the same way God has extended grace and mercy to us.”

Visit www.GospelProject.com/Blog for additional content and resources you can use to help group members gain more insight into their daily studies. Send group members a link or a portion of a blog post or other content that you believe will be helpful and encouraging for their time in God’s Word.

Encourage One Another

This brief plan for fellowship and accountability in the group member’s DDG (p. 56) will help groups of 2-4 people to meet sometime during the week to reflect on the session and to share how God is working and they are responding. It could also be used for family discipleship with students and children who are using The Gospel Project in their groups.

- Encourage group members to reflect with one another on the radical mercy that God has shown to them in Christ.
- See yourself as a member of the group who also needs encouragement in the faith, and participate in such a group this week.
Additional Commentary

**Point 1:** God’s chosen one refuses an opportunity to defeat a rival (1 Sam. 24:1-4).

“David moved stealthily to Saul’s location and used his weapon aggressively against the king. However, the aggression was symbolic in nature; he ‘cut off a corner of Saul’s robe.’ This act was far from meaningless because David’s confiscation of a portion of the royal robe signified the transfer of power from the house of Saul to the house of David. Furthermore, by removing the corner of the robe, David made Saul’s robe to be in a state of noncompliance with Torah requirements (cf. Num. 15:38-39; Deut. 22:12); thus, Saul’s most obvious symbol of kingship was made unwearable. In essence, David had symbolically invalidated Saul’s claim to kingship. David immediately recognized the powerful implications of his act and was conscience stricken (v. 5). By voiding Saul’s claim to kingship, he was at some level lifting his hand against ‘the anointed of the Lord’ (v. 6). This was more than an act against the king; it was rebellion against the Lord, who had commanded the Israelites not to curse their rulers (Ex. 22:28), and had previously punished Israelites who had expressed a rebellious attitude against constituted authority (cf. Num. 12:2-15; 16:1-35). Having repented of his own actions, David then worked to prevent his men from sinning in a similar manner (v. 7). Meanwhile, Saul, who somehow remained oblivious to all of this, returned to his men.”

“We must come to grips with this quite plainly: neither our desires nor our circumstances are good guides to the will of God. This is not to say they can never be used by God, but both are so deceptive that we would do better to evaluate our desires and circumstances by a more fixed measure—the Word of God. Only when the Scriptures take primacy can we rightly interpret our desires and circumstances.”

**Point 2:** God’s chosen one makes a promise to preserve a rival’s life (1 Sam. 24:8,11-15).

“David calls on the Lord as his witness and asks him to judge between them (24:12-13). He reaffirms that he will not touch Saul and reinforces his promise with an old saying that since he is not wicked, he will not do wicked deeds. Finally, referring to himself as a despised or insignificant animal, David argues that Saul’s actions do not befit a king, and he calls on the Lord to vindicate him by protecting him against Saul (24:14-15). By choosing to act compassionately and morally, David attempts to break the cycle of violence.”
“David had the opportunity to kill his enemy. David chose to show mercy, acting as a godly leader even before he became king. He did this even though Saul was trying to kill him. It was a test for David and an example for us. The temptation for revenge is always strong. It did not make it any easier that David’s men urged him to seize this situation as an opportunity from God to kill his enemy (1 Samuel 24:4). But David stood his ground and did not yield to the pressure. He did not see Saul as an enemy to be defeated, but as the Lord’s anointed. He recognised that God had placed Saul in his position of authority (Romans 13:1) and would hold Saul accountable for his actions. David also acknowledged God would scrutinize his own actions. He understood that to attack those God placed in authority was not right. In acting decisively, he prevented his soldiers from doing wrong (1 Samuel 24:7). David showed he was in control of them, instead of being controlled by them. Samuel had already prophesied that David would be king. David was confident that God would rescue him and that he would be made king in God’s time. Because David trusted God, he did not try to force the issue. David also chose not to attack Saul’s supporters or tribesman (1 Samuel 27). Had David killed Saul, Saul’s own tribe may not have supported him when God did hand the kingdom over to David.”

Point 3: God’s chosen one makes a promise to preserve a rival’s family (1 Sam. 24:16-17, 20-22).

“Here again, the text is intended to defend David from later accusations of ruthless hostility to Saul and his descendants (v. 21). The chapter makes it abundantly clear that David not only spared Saul’s life but also took a solemn oath to spare the lives of Saul’s family after him. The emphasis in David’s words on the sacredness of the king’s person and life may have been a sermon to later men and groups who wished to overthrow kings by assassination or rebellion.”

“If David took an oath not to cut off Saul’s descendants, why did he later allow the Gibeonites to kill seven of them? David’s agreement was that he would not wipe out Saul’s descendants as a way of ‘cleaning house’ when he took over the kingship of Israel. That was the normal practice in the ancient Near East when a ruler established a new dynasty (that is, a ruler of a different family line from the previous king); it was done to eliminate other potential claimants to the throne (see 1 Kings 15:29; 16:11; 2 Kings 11:1; 25:7). David not only kept his agreement, he invited a member of Saul’s family line to eat at the royal table and restored a generous inheritance to him (2 Sam. 9:1-13).”

References
In this volume of *The Gospel Project*, we cover the roughly one hundred and twenty years of Israel’s heyday: the united monarchy. After decades of the devastating cycle of sin and deliverance and being ruled by a series of judges, the Israelites called on Samuel to appoint a king for them—one like those of the nations around them. God warned His people that what they were requesting would lead to heartache and trouble, but they insisted. So God, in His kindness, gave them what they wanted in order to teach them to trust Him.

What followed was a series of three kings: Saul, David, and Solomon, each ruling for about forty years. In some ways, these kings provide us with examples to follow: the fierce determination of David not to stand for anyone impugning God’s character; the mercy and kindness David showed to a foe and his family; the wisdom of Solomon. But we also discover that each of these three men fell woefully short of being the king God’s people wanted and needed, each one proving God’s warnings true. Bookending God’s people crying out as one for a king at the start of this volume, by the time we finish, we encounter God’s people being divided into two kingdoms.

Our takeaway is clear: The hope of humanity does not rest in any human king or leader but is fixed solely and securely in the King of kings, Jesus Christ. But at the same time, we see that God delights in using His people despite their failings. God would fulfill His covenant with David, even though he committed adultery and murder. This reaffirmed the promises God had made to Abraham generations before. And though Solomon would succumb to polygamy and idolatry, God used him to build the temple, a place for God’s people to worship and be in relationship with God.

So consider as you study: What might God do through us?