

THE BIG STORY

Power & Prophets

Week of
November 1

Worship

Connect Group / Family Discussion

*Re-orienting our allegiance around
the Lord as King*

What struck you from the sermon this past Sunday?

The stories from David's life this week follow his path from musician in Saul's court to the Anointed King on the throne of Israel. As a group you may want to read a few of these stories out loud, listening for what strikes you about David's relationship to authority – God's authority, the King as the Lord's Anointed, even spurious claims to authority by Goliath...

- David is Anointed (1 Samuel 16:1-13)
- David in Saul's Court (1 Samuel 16:14-23)
- David and Goliath (1 Samuel 17:20-58)
- David's Wilderness Years (1 Samuel 24)

Read Psalm 57. Laurie's story of David on Sunday emphasized his importance as a poet and songwriter – the worship leader of Israel. Worship established the fitting relationships between David as Israel's king and the LORD as the king of the whole earth. Is this your personal experience of worship?

Serve

Following our King Jesus on Mission...

*Re-orienting our actions in obedience
to the Lord*

Heading into election week is a good time to remind ourselves that we are citizens of the Kingdom of God – praying every week that God's kingdom come, God's will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

This week our Sunday worship focused on David and worship – next week we will linger on the connection between worship and justice – since justice was the primary calling of Israel's kings.

To prepare, pay attention this week to the kingdoms of this world – who claims authority? How do they enact and protect that authority? To whom, if anyone, does that authority give answer?

"The prayer of David traditionally assigned to this story [1 Sam. 24] is Psalm 57. While there are lines in that psalm that convey David's fugitive state at the time, its overwhelming impression is of energetic and ebullient praise of God. This means that while Saul was the occasion for David's being in the wilderness, Saul neither defined nor dominated the wilderness. The wilderness was full of God, not Saul."

– Eugene H. Peterson
*Leap Over a Wall: Earthy Spirituality for
Everyday Christians*

Daily Worship & Reflections

The Bible readings this week follow David's story as King and are paired with readings from the Psalms of David. The Reflections are on worship – contemporary wisdom on worship that centers our allegiance on Jesus as King.

Monday, November 2

2 Samuel 11-12 and Psalms 15, 26, 32, 38, 51

"Worship is a meeting at the center so that our lives are centered in God and not lived eccentrically. We worship so that we live in response to and from this center, the living God. Failure to worship consigns us to a life of spasms and jerks, at the mercy of every advertisement, every seduction, every siren. Without worship we live manipulated and manipulating lives. We move in either frightened panic or deluded lethargy as we are, in turn, alarmed by specters and soothed by placebos. If there is no center, there is no circumference." – Edmund Clowney

Is there a centering practice you can use throughout the day – a small act of worship that helps you respond to God at the center of all things? Centering practices include a verse we memorize and repeat as a prayer – set times of prayer throughout the day – breathe prayers... other?

Tuesday, November 3

2 Samuel 13-15 and Psalm 3

"When we worship God as we ought that's when the nations listen." – Edmund Clowney

It is election day in the United States. Today we remember that our allegiance is wholeheartedly with God in Christ – the King of Kings and Prince of Peace. We act with conviction and loyalty in our sphere of influence and then continue to act with conviction and loyalty in our prayers – for our God is on the throne, is worthy to rule and will judge the nations with justice and righteousness. Yours, Pastor Laurie

Wednesday, November 4

2 Samuel 17:24-19:8 and Psalm

"Worship works from the top down, you might say. In worship we don't just come to show God our devotion and give him our praise; we are called to

worship because in this encounter God (re)makes and molds us top-down. Worship is the arena in which God recalibrates our hearts, reforms our desires, and rehabilitates our loves. Worship isn't just something we do; it is where God does something to us. Worship is the heart of discipleship because it is the gymnasium in which God retrains our hearts." – James K.A. Smith

What in your heart, soul or mind do you long to have transformed – remade, recalibrated and reformed – in the deep love of Jesus our King?

Thursday, November 5

2 Samuel 22-23:7 and Psalms 18, 62

"The Psalter is the prayer book of Jesus Christ in the truest sense of the word. He prayed the Psalter and now it has become his prayer for all time... we understand how the Psalter can be prayer to God and yet God's own Word, precisely because here we encounter the praying Christ...because those who pray the psalms are joining in with the prayer of Jesus Christ, their prayer reaches the ears of God. Christ has become their intercessor..." – Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Jesus clearly had multiple psalms memorized and prayed them when his own words failed. What if you chose a psalm to memorize this week?

Friday, November 6

2 Samuel 23:8-24 and Psalms 28-31

"The most valuable thing the Psalms do for me is to express the same delight in God which made David dance." – C.S. Lewis

What would it mean today for you to delight in God? Do you practice praise?

Saturday, November 7

1 Chronicles 28-29 and Psalms 143-145

"The core of the person is what he or she loves, and that is bound up with what they worship – that insight recalibrates the radar for cultural analysis. The rituals and practices that form our loves spill out well beyond the sanctuary. Many secular liturgies are trying to get us to love some other kingdom and some other gods." – Dallas Willard

What ritual practices – every day habits – align your love and devotion to 'some other kingdom and some other gods'?