

# The Bigger Story – Led, Being a Disciple

## Week Thirty-Six

*In September, The Bigger Story will trace themes of leadership in how God worked through David.*

Sept. 3rd: Characters: each human is sinful and fallible, which shows our need for a perfect leader: God. ***How do we accept His authority and leadership? How are we led by Him? How does He call, equip and send us?***

### Background Information:

1st Samuel and 2nd Samuel were originally one book. 1st Samuel covers approximately 100 years, written around 1000 BC while 2nd Samuel covers 40 years, written after 960 BC. Both books record the history of Israel, transitioning from being a nation under judges (Samuel) to a nation under the rule of kings. The people, wanting to be just like the surrounding nations, desire a king and reject God's kingship (1 Sam 8:6-7). After warning the people about what the installation of a king would mean, Samuel, under the direction of God, anoints Saul (1 Sam 10:1, 17-24).

### Who was Saul?

“Saul” (pronounced Shaw-ool in Hebrew) means “asked”. The people asked for a King and God gave them what they wanted: a wealthy (1 Sam. 9:1) handsome man (1 Sam. 9:2) from a reputable family. Sometimes, longing to be like others, we desire things that are outside God's plan for us... ***discuss***.

King Saul started out well, he had some victories in battles (chapter 11) but then makes a series of serious mistakes and acts in disobedience to God:

- He makes an unauthorized sacrificial offering, overstepping his role (1 Sam. 13:9-14)
  - Later he visits a witch, a direct violation of God's law (1 Sam. 28:1-20)
- He makes a rash and foolish vow (chapter 14)
- He disobeys a direct command from the Lord (1 Sam. 15:3) and lies about it
- He acts in violence towards his own son (1 Sam. 20:33)
- He is consumed by rage and jealousy and tried to murder David (1 Sam. 18:10, 19:10, 23:14)
  - This blinding rage compels him to order the murder of 85 priests (1 Sam. 22:18-19)

Due to Saul's rebellion, God chooses another to reign and removes His Spirit from Saul (1 Sam. 16:14).

### What are some lessons we can learn from the life of Saul?

Obey God and seek His will, rather than our own. Saul developed a low opinion of God's commands and a high opinion of himself. He tried to vindicate himself (1 Sam. 15:16-28)

- ***How do we know the will of God?***
- ***How are we vindicated? Is it our own actions? Do we earn it?***
- Do not misuse the role and power given to us, recognizing God is the giver. He is the King.
  - ***How did Saul, who started out humble, sink into pride? How can we guard against this?***
- Lead how He tells us to lead, following Jesus' example (see 1 Peter 5:2-10)
  - ***How should we lead? How are we first led?***
- Guard against things not of God... Saul had riches, beauty, honor, yet he died in despair. He struggled against his flesh, like we all do (Romans 7:21-23). He faced problems we all encounter... of the heart. ***How is obedience to God's will essential? If we, in pride, rebel against Him, make ourselves king, how do we set ourselves up for loss?***

### Who was David?

“David” means “Beloved” or “Loved One”. This is the only man with this name in the Bible. He is referenced prophetically in 1 Sam. 13:14, 15:28. He is mentioned more than 1,000 times in the Bible. Jesus comes from the line of David.

While Saul looked like a King, David didn't seem like much at first, but God evaluates the heart (1 Sam. 13:14). ***What can we learn from David's humility and integrity, paired with his boldness for God and his commitment to prayer?***

*“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.” John 3:16*

David was filled with the Spirit and came into King Saul's service as a harpist / armor bearer (1 Sam. 16:21). He, showing God's strength, kills Goliath and becomes a national hero (chapter 17) which began Saul's jealousy (1 Sam. 18:7-8). David became friends with Saul's son Jonathan (18:1), served in Saul's court and married his daughter. Saul's jealousy turns violent, and David spent the next **10+** years fleeing from him, writing Psalm 57, 59 and 142 during this time. ***How can you see God at work in the waiting times?***

David harm Saul (1 Sam. 19:1-2, 24:5-7), honoring the authorities God had in place and trusting in His perfect timing. He led an army while on the run, always asking for God's hand and instruction before battle (1 Sam. 23:2-6, 9-13). He was a powerful military commander, soldier and King. Though he was a man after God's heart, he was sinful. His life, like all of ours should, points to God, who is the perfect leader. The Shepherd, Warrior, King.

David, the author of many psalms, is thought of as a shepherd king and a warrior poet. Scripture calls him "the sweet psalmist of Israel" (2 Sam. 23:1). David's life saw many ups and downs. But through it all, David turned to God and trusted Him. Even in the Psalms when David is downcast or despondent, God lifts up his eyes and David praises God. This reliance on God and continual pursuit of relationship with God is part of what makes David a man after God's own heart.

### **Notes & Discussion Questions on 1 Samuel 16:1-14**

1 Samuel 16:1-3: God tells Samuel to go and anoint a new king over Israel:

- God's work goes above man...He appoints kings and seasons. His work doesn't fail at the failure of man. Years before this (before David was even born) God choose him (1 Sam. 13:14, 15:28)

1 Samuel 16:6-10: God doesn't choose any of Jesse's older sons. Samuel evaluates age and appearance. ***How does God evaluate?***

1 Samuel 16:11: Samuel asks about an absent son. David's father didn't mention him by name nor originally invite him. He was called because Samuel insisted. ***How does God exalt the humble? How does God use unlikely people to showcase His power and do His work? What other examples of this do you know from Scripture?***

***What did keeping the sheep teach David?***

- Keeping the sheep was the job of a servant. This family was not wealthy. This task gave David plenty of time to think, seeing the beauty of God's creation (Psalm 8, 19:1-4).
- Keeping the sheep involved special care, God was preparing David's heart (Psalm 78:70-72) and showing him more of Himself (Psalm 23).
- Keeping the sheep mean trusting God during dangerous times, which increased His trust in God.
- Keeping the sheep was the task God had called David to at that moment, before his anointing. David was going about his chore, faithfully doing the small things, for God's glory. ***How can we do likewise?***

1 Samuel 16:12-13: David is chosen and anointed (estimated at between 10 and 15 years old here)

- David was a shepherd, but there were lots of shepherds, was pleasant looking, but so were a lot of people, was young, but so were many...***Why did God choose David?***

1 Samuel 13:14: The Lord has sought for Himself a man after His own heart, and the Lord has commanded him to be commander over His people.

David was selected because He longed after God's heart. ***What does this mean? How can we likewise be women and men after God's heart?***

<b><u>This Week's Readings</u></b>					
Psalm 107-110, 1 Cor. 10	Psalm 111-118	Psalm 119 1 Cor. 11	Psalm 120-135 1 Cor. 12	Psalm 136-142 1 Cor. 13	Psalm 143-150 1 Cor. 14
1 Samuel 16: 1, 7-12, Psalm 119:113-120, Galatians 2:17-21, Matthew 16:21-28					

# The Bigger Story – Lead, As One Among Others

## Week Thirty-Seven

*In September, The Bigger Story will trace themes of leadership in how God worked through David.*

Sept. 10th: Heart and Spirit: *What does it mean to be after God's own heart? That God looks at the heart? That God sent a spirit to distress Saul? How can we lead, in all seasons, as one among others, all united in our love and service to Christ?*

### Background Information:

1st Samuel and 2nd Samuel were originally one book. 1st Samuel covers approximately 100 years, written around 1000 BC while 2nd Samuel covers 40 years, written after 960 BC. Both books record the history of Israel, transitioning from being a nation under judges (Samuel) to a nation under the rule of kings. The people, wanting to be just like the surrounding nations, desire a king and reject God's kingship (1 Sam 8:6-7). After warning the people about what the installation of a king would mean, Samuel, under the direction of God, anoints Saul (1 Sam 10:1, 17-24).

### *How can we understand God sending an evil spirit to Saul?*

(1 Sam. 16:14, 15-16, 23, 18:10, 19:9)

- God never initiates or performs evil; He is the Father of lights, in Him there is no darkness (James 1:17, 1 John 1:5). However, God may choose to withdraw His protection, allow evil to come, without being the source of the evil itself.
- The evil spirit was “from” God because it was given permission to harass Saul (see also Job 1:12, 2:6). All things are under God's control and this thing was a part of God's judgement upon Saul for his actions.
  - He had directly disobeyed God (1 Sam. 13:1-14, 15:1-35)
  - **How do you understand all things are under God's authority and control?**
  - **What verses does this fact recall? Other Biblical stories?**
  - **How can this fact help us to understand God and have hope in the trying times?**
- God used this evil spirit to bring David to the Kingdom, into the life of Saul.
  - Saul's servants suggested David's music would calm Saul (1 Sam. 16:15-16, 21-23)
  - **How can God use things not of Him, for good? What does this mean?**
- The distressing spirit was temporary. It came on multiple occasions but also departed. Previously, Saul had the Spirit of the Lord upon him (1 Sam. 10:10) but rebelled against God, in essence, telling the Spirit “No” or “Go Away”. So God gave Saul what he wanted...
  - **Was Saul freer after God's Spirit departed? Or in bondage to the distressing spirit?**
  - Even here, Saul could repent, receive corrections from God and respond with a repentant heart... **What does this indicate to us? What does it show about God? Sinners?**
- Evil spirits fear the power of Jesus, of God (Mark 5:1-13), Evil spirits are no match for God's power, authority and might. **Read** Ephesians 6:10-12.
  - **How do you take comfort in God's power?** (John 15:4-5, 1 John 4:15, 16)
  - **In the continual presence of the Holy Spirit?** (Romans 8:9-11, 1 Cor. 6:19-20).

### *What does it mean that God looks at the heart?* (1 Sam. 16:7):

- Saul was tall and handsome. Samuel first thought David's brother Eliab would be the one to anoint, as he looked the part (1 Sam. 16:6) **How do people often judge character? Worth?**
- David was selected as he had a heart after God.
  - In his time shepherding the flock, He knew God as his Shepherd (Psalm 23)
- God looks at the heart.
  - **Read** Proverbs 4:23 and Luke 6:45

***How can looks be deceiving?*** (See [John 6:70](#)) ***How is this a good reminder of God’s perspective, wisdom, authority and judgement?***

God knows hearts, motivations, minds...everything there is to know about us, He knows ([Psalm 139:1](#)) and He seeks to strengthen the people whose hearts are committed to Him ([2 Chronicles 16:9](#)).

David was far from perfect. Yet, God grew him to be a man who would depend on Him for strength and guidance ([1 Sam. 17:45, 47](#)), who would unabashedly worship Him with all he had ([2 Sam. 6:14](#)).

God led him to be a man who would be convicted of his sin and repent ([2 Sam 12](#)), who would experience God’s forgiveness ([Psalm 51](#)) and better understand God’s love for him ([Psalm 13:5-6, 106:1](#)) who would be a man after His own heart ([Acts 13:22](#)).

### **Notes & Discussion Questions on 1 Samuel 17:11-19**

**1 Sam 17:1-10:** Goliath the Philistine challenges Saul and the Israelite Army at the Valley of Elah

- Goliath challenges any man to come down and fight him. The wording here uses the phrase “champion” which comes from the Hebrew word indicating a “middleman, the man between the two”
- The idea is that there would be a man who stood between the two armies and fought for His people.  
***Who is this imagery reflective of? What does it indicate about servant leadership?***

**1 Sam 17:11:** The fear of Saul and all Israel: they were already defeated by fear alone. ***How is fear a strategy in battle? Of the devil?***

Saul was the King, taller than others ([1 Sam. 9:2](#)), a military leader ([1 Sam. 14:52](#)) and the logical choice to battle Goliath. ***What was his reaction? Trace*** where he is in the story. ***Was he acting as a good leader? What makes a good leader?*** This battle is after God’s Spirit left Saul ([1 Sam. 16:14](#)).

**1 Sam 17:12-15:** David is the youngest of 8, occasionally returning to the fields. Likely an early teenager.

**1 Sam 17:17-21:** Goliath’s continual taunts and David brings homemade goodies to camp  
“Presented himself forty days, morning and evening”: Goliath taunted the army, especially Saul, twice a day.  
Picture two armies camped on either side of the Valley of Elah, on opposite hillsides. Goliath would parade and shout insults while the Israelites cowered.

***What would this have been like for the average Israelite soldier? Who would fight for him?***

David “left the sheep with a keeper” He shows the shepherd’s heart, caring for his flock. ***Discuss.***

<b><u>This Week’s Readings</u></b>					
Proverbs 1-5 1 Cor. 15	Proverbs 6-9	Proverbs 10-13 1 Cor. 16	Proverbs 14-17 2 Cor. 1	Proverbs 18-21 2 Cor. 2-3	Proverbs 22-25 2 Cor. 4
1 Samuel 17:11-19, Psalm 119:121-128, 1 Timothy 1:12-17, Matthew 16:21-28					

#### **P. Ayin ☞: The servant of God seeks His Word**

**Psalm 119:121-122:** A prayer for protection from the proud. A recognition that following God makes the believer’s life look different... we stand in God’s justice and righteousness. Though we may face opposition, we walk with Him.

**Psalm 119:123-125:** The servant of God seeks His salvation and His Word. ***How can we look to God alone? How can we act as His servants? His students? Know His testimonies? Where does understanding come from?***

**Psalm 119:126:** A request for God to act, not because the psalmist is being oppressed, but because God’s law is being broken. ***What is the difference? What examples of this have you seen throughout Biblical history*** (see [Judges 21:25](#)). ***Today?***

**Psalm 119:127-128:** The Word of God is valuable and right. ***How can we value God’s Word? What does it mean that it is “right and true”? Why does this make us hate the false way?*** (see [Matthew 6:24](#))

# The Bigger Story – Lead, In All Seasons

## Week Thirty-Eight

In September, *The Bigger Story* will trace themes of leadership in how God worked through David.

Sept. 17th: Goliath: *What was Goliath like? What can we learn from him?*

*What does David's approach to the battle teach us about God? Faith? Trust? Leadership?*

### *What was Goliath like?*

- 1 Sam. 17:4: A cubit is about **18** inches, making him approximately **9** feet and **9** inches tall
  - The average height of a mature man during this age was **5** foot **6** inches
- 1 Sam. 17:5: His bronze armor weighted **125** pounds
- 1 Sam. 17:7: His spearhead weighted about **15** pounds
- 2 Sam. 21:15-22: Suggests Goliath had four brothers, a common theory as to why David choose five stones, one for each brother.
- Goliath means “uncovered” or “exile”

### *What can we learn from the story of David and Goliath?*

- Goliath was taunting God...challenging God's people, none of whom (including their King Saul) was willing to face him until David came.
  - *What does this show about leadership? The role of God's people? The power of God?*
  - *Will God be mocked?* (see Galatians 6:7)
- David, remembering how God has given Him victory in the past, believed God would go before him and enable him to defeat this giant, for God's namesake (1 Sam. 17:36-37)
  - *How does remembering God's past faithfulness, mercy, trustworthiness and strength encourage and equip us today?*
- God can defeat any giant. He is stronger than any giant.
  - *How can we fully trust in Him, no matter what we face?*
  - James 1:2-4: sometimes life involves battles and trails, yet we, through God, can develop patience, perspective and perseverance during these times, standing in the power of God and trusting our Savior, who wins.

### Notes & Discussion Questions on 1 Samuel 17:31-37

1 Sam 17:22-27: David witnesses Goliath's challenges and the fear of Israel's soldiers and is concerned for God's honor

All of those in the army were “dreadfully afraid,” fleeing when Goliath came out to taunt them. Courage is not the absence of fear but acting despite fear... *Discuss. Where does courage come from?*

Any man who defeated Goliath would be enriched: Saul, not willing to fight himself, offered a three-part reward: money, a bride, tax exemption... *However, what did David, a man after God's heart focus on?*

- The reputation of Israel, God's people and the honor of God!

*Compare and contrast* what David vs. the army focus on. *How does David, how can we, see things from God's perspective?*

1 Sam 17:28-30: David is misunderstood and falsely accused by family: *Why was Eliab angry?*

He emphasized David's chores as a shepherd, angry that a boy with such an insignificant job could come in and speak bold words, *who can use “insignificant” people to accomplish His goals?*

He accused him of pride and insolence of heart, *who truly knows and judges our hearts and motivations?*

He accused David of just wanting to see a fight, perhaps provoking a battle. Eliab was tall (1 Sam. 16:7) and may have been acting out of fear. He was angry as David was right...when we are afraid, it is maddening when someone tells us to “be brave” *Discuss.*

“What have I done now? Is there not a cause?”

*Developed with the notes and resources of: Got Questions, MacArthur, Hamrick, Bruce, Morris, Spurgeon, Luther, Guzik, etc. Thanks!*

Despite insults, David remained concerned with God's cause before anything else: before personal safety, personal glory or personal honor. He was concerned for God's cause.

1 Sam 17:31-37: Preparing to fight Goliath

David's words were reported to Saul... **Where was he? What kind of leadership was he showing?**

"Your servant will go and fight with this Philistine" **Discuss** the difference between "someone should do something about that" and "here I am, I will do" **How is David's resolve, boldness, courage increasing? Who is increasing it?**

Saul disqualified David due to his youth, size, inexperience. **Why does God sometimes pick the weak, but willing? How does it showcase His power?**

David traces how God has prepared him for this battle when he was a shepherd. He reminds himself of God's past faithfulness, he rests in the strength of the Lord.

- This may be seen as God's pattern for preparation: He calls us to be faithful right where we are, then uses our faithfulness to accomplish greater things. If David ran scared at the lion or the bear, he would never have been ready to fight Goliath. But he was faithful then, so he will be faithful now. **Discuss.**
- David's boldness increases: First, someone should fight Goliath for a righteous cause (1 Sam 17:26, 29). Then he would fight Goliath (1 Sam 17:32). Now he will kill Goliath! All while emphasizing the Lord's strength and deliverance.

### This Week's Readings

Proverbs 26-29 2 Cor. 5	Proverbs 30-31, Ec. 1, 2 Cor 6-7	Eccles. 2-5 2 Cor. 8	Eccles 6-9 2 Cor. 9	Ec. 10-12 SOS 1-3 2 Cor. 10	Song of Sol. 4-8 2 Cor. 11
----------------------------	-------------------------------------	-------------------------	------------------------	--------------------------------	-------------------------------

1 Samuel 17:31-37, Psalm 119:129-136, 2 Timothy 4:1-8, Matthew 18:21-35

**Pe D:** Our steps are directed by God's wonderful Word... **Why are God's Words wonderful?**

Psalm 119:129:

"Wonderful" indicates miraculous, supernatural in nature (free from error) and supernatural in effect (His Words cut, strengthen, instruct, comfort, guide, evaluate...)

"Therefore my soul keeps them": the supernatural effect of the Words of God prompt obedience (in actions but also in the soul)

Psalm 119:130-131: His wonderful Word gives light and understanding... God's Word makes things clearer, not less. They illuminate and give understanding.

"The word finds no entrance into some minds because they are blocked up with self-conceit, or prejudice, or indifference; but where due attention is given, divine illumination must surely follow" Charles Spurgeon

**Why do we long for His Word?** (see Psalm 42:1) **To know, keep and teach His commandments?**

**How does knowing it personally help us teach and lead others?**

Psalm 119:132-135: **Examine** each request: Look, Direct, Redeem, Shine Your face, Teach me... **What do we learn about our merciful and attentive God here? About ourselves?**

- What do you notice about the order of these requests?

A plea for mercy, then what we should do with that loving mercy... walk rightly before God, being redeemed by Him, obeying Him, knowing His lessons, His peace, grace and goodness

• "Direct my steps by Your Word" – **What directs our steps? Feelings? Friends? Circumstances? Expectations? How can we ensure it is God's wonderful Word directing us? Jesus leading us?**

Psalm 119:136: Expressing sorrowing in others not following God, not keeping His Word

• Our hearts break with what breaks God's. Jesus was grieved over the hardened hearts of the religious leaders (Mark 3:5) and over Jerusalem (Matthew 23:37-39). **What does this indicate about leadership? About caring for others? About caring as Jesus does?**

# The Bigger Story – Lead, From the Back

## Week Thirty-Nine

*In September, The Bigger Story will trace themes of leadership in how God worked through David.*

Sept. 25th: Battle is the Lord's: ***What does it mean that the battle is the Lord's? How is God the ultimate Victor, Leader, King? How does God win?***

***What does it mean that the battle is the Lord's?*** (1 Sam. 17:47, see also Deut. 20:1)?

In 1 Sam. 17:47, when David says, “the battle is the Lord's” he is leaning on promises found within the Mosaic Law (Deut. 20:1), remembering the specific ways God worked victorious in his own life and identifying God as the powerful force who will determine the outcome of every battle.

God used the youngest and physically weakest of a shepherding family to display His might, strength and power for the whole world to see.

God repeats this pattern of utilizing the weak to shame the “strong” of the world, displaying His might and bringing Himself glory (1 Cor. 1:27). ***What does this reveal about God?***

David indeed won a battle, but Jesus won the ultimate victory at the Cross. ***What did Jesus defeat? What does this mean? Why is this essential? How can we see God's victory here? In our own lives?***

***How can we see David's victory in this story as a foreshadowing of Jesus?***

Jesus:

Represented the people

Was sent to the battlegrounds by His Father, but went willingly

Was scorned and rejected by His own

Fought the battle without concern for human armor, strategies, etc.

Fought when the enemy was dominating the people with through fear and intimidation

Fought a battle where victory was assured even before the battle started

Won the battle, though the enemy didn't give up willingly

### Notes & Discussion Questions on 1 Samuel 17:38-54

1 Sam 17:38-40: Arming up to fight Goliath

Saul is outfitting David in the armor of the human King.

Literally, the armor didn't fit. Spiritually, the armor didn't fit. Armor, military technology or human strength/wisdom would not win this battle. God would win this battle.

***Are you more familiar with the armor of this world? Or of the armor of God?***

***What happens when you try to fight with another's armor? What armor does God outfit us with?***

David used the same tools of his shepherding trade (stones, sling) trusting what God used before.

Some say David selected five stones as Goliath had four relatives (2 Sam. 21:18-22)

He “drew near” God strengthened David with the faith to not just talk, renounce and prepare, but to go.

1 Sam 17:40-47: Goliath curses God and His servant David

Goliath was insulted that young David was sent to fight him, “Am I a dog?”

The same Hebrew word for “dog” is used for male homosexual prostitutes (Deut. 23:18) Goliath's manhood was insulted

In Hebrew, “to curse” is declarative...Goliath was declaring that David was insignificant because of his stature and age – David responds by declaring his power is the God of Israel!

***Compare and contrast*** the two sides: sword + spear vs. Name of the Lord, the God of the armies of Israel

Saying: “I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts” means: “I come as a representative of the Lord, the God who has heavenly armies at His command. I am a sent man, a man on a mission from God.” This is a bold claim – ***who can claim it?***

“This day, the Lord will deliver you into my hand” ***Trace*** David's increasing boldness, yet his humility. ***Who is delivering Goliath? Who is defeating him?***

*Developed with the notes and resources of: Got Questions, MacArthur, Hamrick, Bruce, Morris, Spurgeon, Luther, Guzik, etc. Thanks!*

**For what goal?** “That all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel”  
**How would this serve to remind Israel of God’s might, authority and power?**

1 Sam 17:48-49: David, hastened, ran and kills Goliath – **What can we learn here?**

The stone sank into Goliath’s forehead and he fell on his face: Just like the Philistine “god” Dagon fell on his face before God (1 Sam 5:2-5), now a worshipper of Dagon falls on his face!

1 Sam 17:50-54: David beheads Goliath – **What can we learn here?**

David ran, took Goliath’s sword and cut off his head with it...He had to make certain the enemy was dead.

We can’t mess around with sin or spiritual enemies...we must kill them dead (Colossians 3:8-11)

When the other Philistines saw their champion was dead, they fled...even though they had agreed to surrender to Israel if Goliath lost (1 Sam. 17:9).

We should never expect the devil to keep promises.

God shining through David’s example gave the Israelite soldiers courage!

<b><u>This Week’s Readings</u></b>					
Isa. 1-4 2 Cor. 12	Isa 5-7 2 Cor. 13	Isa 8-10 Gal 1	Isa 11-14 Gal 2	Isa 15-19 Gal 3	Isa 20-23 Gal 4
1 Samuel 17:38-47, Psalm 119:137-144, Titus 2:2-9, Matthew 20:1-16					

**R: Tsadde ז:** “The initial letter with which every verse commences sounds like the Hebrew word for righteousness: our keynote is righteousness.” Charles Spurgeon

Psalm 119:137-138: The righteousness of God and His Word – **How can we learn of the character of God through His given Word? Of His Righteousness? How does He lead us into greater understanding?**

His rules are right, as His is righteous, His Words are faithful and true as He is faithful and true. The Words of God and His actions are consistent. **Discuss.**

“The Bible mirrors the character of God. Anyone who cares about knowing what is righteous and wants to act righteously should study the Bible.” Boice

Psalm 119:139-140: Learning zeal and love for His Words: The more God’s Words are rejected, the more zeal the psalmist feels.

Zeal implies energy, dedication and action. The living, active and sharp Word of God brings out a response in the reader. **What examples of zeal do you recall?** (Psalm 69:9, John 2:13-17) **How can this be applied today?**

“Pure” indicates: refined, purified, absolutely perfect. The Word of God is without error/pure.

Psalm 119:141-142: “I am small and despised, yet I do not forget Your precepts”

**How can we find strength and comfort in the Lord and God’s Word?**

**How does our small and weak state** (like David: 1 Sam. 16:10-13) **showcase our strong and mighty God?** Why should we not neglect His Word even when we feel tiny and timid?

Psalm 119:142: “Your righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, and Your Law is truth”

He is righteous and will not change (Malachi 3:6, Hebrews 13:8, James 1:17)

His law is truth...**Read John 18:37-38: What is truth?** The Biblical message is true, fundamentally, apart from how anyone receives it into her life...

Psalm 119:143-144: God’s Word gives delight and life in troubled times.

**How can we appreciate God and His Word in good times and troubled times? How can remembering His righteousness, purity and promises help?**

**What didn’t the psalmist ask for?** Rescue from his troubles. Instead, he requested understanding and life... **what does this indicate?**