



# David Becomes King

2 Samuel 5:1-5; Psalm 37

BIBLE BACKGROUND  
FOR LEADERS

## David Mourns King Saul

We begin this quarter of Old Testament studies with the anointing of David as king of Israel. Many years earlier, Israel's first king, Saul, had turned from the Lord, and God had selected David to succeed Saul. For years after that, Saul sought to have David killed. However, David had refused to act against Saul or to become king until he was certain of God's timing. He had lived a difficult life, almost as an outlaw. Now Saul was dead; after being wounded in battle, he had taken his own life. In fact, Saul and three of his sons, including David's friend Jonathan, had died in the same battle (1 Samuel 31:1-6). So the door was wide open for David to become king of Israel.

David didn't rejoice when he learned of the deaths. Instead he and all his men mourned and wept the entire day (2 Samuel 1:1-12). David even wrote a song in honor of Saul and Jonathan, which can be found in 2 Samuel 1:19-27. He was truly saddened that their lives had ended as they did.

## Uniting the Kingdom

David was made king of Judah. Israel followed Abner, the commander of Saul's army, who made Ish-Bosheth, a son of Saul, king over Israel (2 Samuel 2:1-9). After years of much fighting, intrigue, and bloodshed, Ish-Bosheth was murdered, and the leaders of Israel came to David to make him king over them.

## David Leads Israel

David was 37 when he became king over all Israel. He had first been anointed to succeed Saul many years earlier, while still in his teens. After his long, patient wait, David was able to lead Israel to great prosperity, fend off the Philistines, and expand the boundaries of Israel during his reign. David wasn't perfect, but as

he relied on God, God rewarded him and Israel with prosperity.

David wrote Psalm 37, which describes his trust in God even when he was surrounded by enemies. In this psalm, David says to "delight yourself in the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart" (Psalm 37:4). This could have been the theme of David's life.

## The Jesus Connection

Through Jesus, God showed us how to take every step of life relying on him. Because of Jesus' courage, we can believe that trusting God will always be worth it!

What past experience has God used to teach you how to rely on him?

God has a wonderful way of not letting teachable moments in our lives go to waste. What is God using to teach you right now?

Ask God for wisdom to see and strength to move forward with faith, knowing that he'll always have everything you need. You can write your prayer here.



**David Becomes King**—2 Samuel 5:1-5; Psalm 37

► **Bible Point**—We can rely on God.

**Key Verse**—"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble"  
(Psalm 46:1).

## DIGGING DEEPER

## Daily Challenges

Choose one or more of these activities to do this week.

- Look up other Scripture passages that highlight God's ability and willingness to provide protection, strength, and hope. Think about how you can apply these passages in your daily life.
- Think of ways you can invite God further into your everyday life—your work, your home, your relationships. Then start making it happen.
- Share with a friend or family member how relying upon God has changed your life. Let God help you with what to say, then trust God with whatever happens.

## Through the Week

Use the following passages to explore additional biblical perspectives on relying on God.

### Monday: Psalm 37:5-6

- How can you "commit your way to the Lord"?

### Tuesday: Psalm 37:18

- According to this verse, why should you rely on God?

### Wednesday: Psalm 37:23-24

- What is an example of one way the Lord holds you up when life gets difficult?

### Thursday: Psalm 37:30-31

- How can you be this kind of person this week?

### Friday: Psalm 37:39

- How has the Lord been a stronghold in your life?

### Saturday: Psalm 37:4

- How has God helped you recently?

## Talk Topics

- Tell about a time you learned a lesson about relying on God.
- Talk about why it's important for us to rely on God and not just on ourselves or our friends.
- Discuss the kinds of difficulties in which God can provide help.
- Talk about how you can trust God more when difficulties arise.

**OK  
TO COPY**