



2 Samuel
 Wednesday in the Word

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Wednesday in the Word

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How to Study a Narrative

Setting

Read the text to get a feeling for the setting of the action. Where or under what circumstances is the action taking place? Describe this setting based upon the events of the preceding passage and/or upon the opening few verses of this passage.

Outline

Read the entire passage carefully noting the shifts in focus on persons and events or the shifts of scene from one place to another. Separate the passage into major scenes and write a one sentence summary of each scene, putting the story into your own words.

Observations

For each of the scenes in your outline answer the following questions:

- What words are repeated in the text?
- List common themes in each scene. Note key words that help lead to your conclusions.
- List the similarities and contrasts between the scenes.

Characters:

- Who are the main characters?
- How does the passage give insight into the characters and what motivates them?
- Describe the relationships between the characters in each scene, noting any changes from preceding passages and chapters.
- Do you see God at work either explicitly or implicitly?
- If God's prophet (Samuel) appears in the scene, what is his function?
- If God's King (David or Saul) is in the scene, what is he suppose to learn?

Themes & Spiritual Principles

- Consider the descriptions, actions of and reactions to the people of God in this scene. Does any of it remind you of passages in the gospels concerning Jesus? Or other New Testament characters?
- Look for and state any spiritual principles from this passage. (A spiritual principle is a universal, timeless truth.) For example, does this passage teach something about the nature of mankind that is always true of one who has the Spirit and/or one who does not? Does something in the text reveal God's character, or how He works or acts?
- Do you see themes in this passage that go beyond this text and are repeated in other passages of Scripture?

Application:

- Look for patterns or examples of success or failures and what we learn from them that we could apply to our lives today.
- Look for lessons about God that are applicable to our lives today.

Suggested Reading

How to Study the Bible

- [Basics of Bible Interpretation, by Bob Smith](http://www.raystedman.org/leadership/smith/) – a classic! great for the beginner. Now available FREE online, though I believe you can still buy a paper copy.
<http://www.raystedman.org/leadership/smith/>
- [Adventuring Through the Bible: A Comprehensive Guide to the Entire Bible, by Ray C Stedman](http://www.raystedman.org/bible-overview/adventuring) – this is my favorite one-volume commentary; It is often my starting point when beginning a new study. You can buy a paper copy or access it FREE online.
<http://www.raystedman.org/bible-overview/adventuring>
- [Precepts Austin – How to do an Inductive Study](http://www.preceptaustin.org/inductive_bible_study.htm) — Complete at least the first 3 lessons in how to do an inductive bible study. Then explore the rest of the resources on this helpful site. http://www.preceptaustin.org/inductive_bible_study.htm
- [*Living by the Book*](#), (Book and Workbook) by Howard G Hendricks & William Hendricks – also available as an ebook and a video series. Don't be intimidated by the size of the book. The writing is clear and engaging and you will learn a lot.
- [*How to Read the Bible for All It's Worth*](#), by Gordon Fee & Douglas Stuart – this is a must have resource; no Bible student should be without and it now comes as an e-book. Re-read the chapter for your particular type of passage when you start a new study.
- [*He Gave us Stories: The Bible Student's Guide to Interpreting Old Testament Narratives*](#), by Richard L Pratt Jr

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2 Samuel 1:1-2:7 - David learns of Saul's death

1. Mark every reference to *death, dying, killing*. Also mark *love* and *anointed*.
2. Note the geographical references in the chapter.
3. Who were the Amalekites? (See Exodus 17:8-16; Deut. 25:17-19; 1 Sam 15)
4. What significant things happened in Hebron? (Gen 13:18; Gen 23:2, 17-20; Gen 35:27; Joshua 14:13; Joshua 21:8-13) What significant thing happens in Hebron in 2 Samuel 2:4?
5. How should you respond when someone brings you news but they have an ulterior motive?
6. Some people have used 2 Samuel 1:26 to argue that David & Jonathan had a homosexual relationship. How would you answer them?
7. What have you learned from Scripture about dealing with the loss of a loved one?

2 Samuel 2:8-32 David made king over Judah

1. Mark the references to time, place and key words in this chapter, including *inquired of the Lord*.
2. Make a list of “who’s who” in David’s camp and in Ish-bosheth’s camp. Note what happens with each person and how each is identified.
3. Write a brief synopsis of the events of this chapter.
4. David does not make a move before seeking direction from the Lord. How do you seek God’s guidance?
5. What are the lessons of Asahel’s character for us today? When should you “turn aside” and when not?
6. How do we balance a concern for justice with knowing that God is the one who vindicates?
7. Define the following: trials testing steadfastness wisdom doubt

2 Samuel 3 - David's house strengthened

1. Mark the key words in this chapter, including *covenant*, *evil* and *sin*.
2. What's the significance of Abner taking Saul's concubine? Look up 2 Samuel 16:20-22; 1 Kings 1:1-3; 1 Kings 2:13-25.
3. What's the political significance of David's request for the return of Michal?
4. Abner quoted Scripture and ignored Scripture when it suited him. What lessons can you learn from him about handling Scripture well?
5. What are the lessons of Joab's character for us today?
6. How should we react to the defeat of an enemy?

2 Samuel 4:1-5:5 David made king over all Israel

1. Mark the key words in this chapter, including *death* and *killing*.
2. Who is killed in chapter 4 and why? What do the murderers assume?
3. Compare 2 Samuel 4 with Gen 9:4-6; Exodus 20:13; Leviticus 24:17,21; Numbers 35:29-34 and Deuteronomy 21:1-9.
4. List what you learn about Mephibosheth from 4:4. We will encounter him later in our study.
5. How do we as Christians respond to injustice in our community?
6. Compare our present system of dealing with murders to what we've seen in 2 Samuel so far. Which system do you think is better?
7. Baanah & Rechab decided to seize an opportunity. How do you discern whether an opportunity is godly or ungodly?

2 Samuel 5:6-25 War with the Philistines

1. Mark the key words in this chapter, including *establish*.
2. Compare 1 Chronicles 11:1-9 to 2 Samuel 5:1-10.
3. Jerusalem was also called Jebus and its inhabitants Jebusites. What do Exodus 23:19-25; Joshua 15:63 & Judges 1:21 tell you about the Jebusites and their city?
4. Compare 1 Chronicles 14 to 2 Samuel 5:11-25.
5. Reflect on all you learned about David from 1 and 2 Samuel. How do you think his character has changed since Samuel first anointed him?
6. Do you think all David went through after being anointed by Samuel and before his ascension was worth it?
7. Do you think the trials you undergo — big and small, long and short — are worth it?

2 Samuel 6 The Ark is brought to Jerusalem

1. Mark the key words in this chapter, including the *ark of the covenant*.
2. Compare 1 Chronicles 13 with 2 Samuel 6.
3. Now read 1 Chronicles 15:1-16:4 and Numbers 4:1-15.
4. What clues do these passages give you about why God killed Uzzah?
5. What tangible actions can you take to put God first in your life?
6. Do you think anger is ever justified? What do you do when you are angry with God?
7. Michal's complained that David did not act unbecomingly. How do you handle criticism?

2 Samuel 7 God's Covenant with David

1. Mark the key words in this chapter, including *house*.
2. Read 1 Chronicles 17 and compare with 2 Samuel 7.
3. List the specific promises to David
4. Compare with 2 Chronicles 13:5; 21:4-7; Psalm 89:3-4, 19-37; Isaiah 55:3; Jeremiah 33:14-26
5. How does this chapter influence your thinking about the nation of Israel?
6. When you get a “good idea”, how do you decide if the idea is from God or yourself?
7. How have you seen the faithfulness of God in your own life or in Scriptures?

2 Samuel 8 David's Triumphs

1. Mark the references to time, place and key words in this chapter.
2. Compare with 1 Chronicles 18.
3. Look at the map in the appendix and note how far David's reign was extended.
4. Read Psalm 60. What does it add to your understanding of this chapter?
5. What did you learn from David about fighting battles?
6. What did you learn from David about leadership and character?
7. How do you know when to fight and when to back down?

2 Samuel 9 David's kindness to Mephibosheth

1. List the main characters in this chapter and what the text tells you about each one.
2. Review what you learned about Mephibosheth from 4:4
3. Review 1 Samuel 18 and 1 Samuel 20:1-17
4. Define the word *covenant*.
5. What do you think would have happened to David if he forgot his covenant with Jonathan?
6. What does it mean to you that as a Christian you are in a covenant relationship with God?
7. What do David's actions toward Mephibosheth teach you about Christ's love for you?

2 Samuel 10 Ammon & Aram Defeated

1. Mark the references to time, place and key words in this chapter.
2. Compare with 1 Chronicles 19.
3. What do the Ammonites do to David's men who have been sent on a mission of sympathy?
4. Make note of Joab's strategy and the clues about his faith.
5. Have you had an incident in your life when you misread the actions or intent of another? What were the consequences and what did you learn?
6. After realizing their mistake, what could the Ammonites have done to make amends to David?
7. How do you respond to your mistakes? How do you make amends?

2 Samuel 11 David & Bathsheba

Since this may be a familiar story, read 2 Samuel 11 carefully. Pay close attention to the characters and progression of events.

1. Compare this chapter with Genesis 3 and Joshua 7.
2. List each step and decision in how David deals with Uriah. Note each of David's attempts to cover his sin and why the attempt fails, if it does.
3. Why do you think God did not overlook this sin for his chosen king?
4. Observe David's steps towards adultery. Do you think each step closer is a sin? Why or why not?
5. Do you think David's failures to cover his sin were gracious warnings from God not to continue his plan? Has God ever warned you in such a way?
6. Have you ever thought you could get away with sin for one reason or another?

2 Samuel 12 Nathan rebukes David

1. Observe 2 Samuel 12 carefully. List the events of this chapter.
2. Mark every reference to *sin* and *fasting*.
3. Using the speeches of Nathan the prophet, list what God says He did and what God says David did.
4. Compare 2 Samuel 12:26-31 with 1 Chronicles 20:1-3.
5. Do you think confession of a sin automatically cancels bad consequences? Why?
6. Do you think it is biblical for us confront fellow believers as Nathan confronted David? Why?
7. How do you react when God forces you to confront your sin? Are you grateful? Or angry? Or something else?

2 Samuel 13 Amnon & Tamar

1. Make sure you know each of the characters in this story, their relationships to one another and what they do.
2. Mark the key words: *love*, *hate*, and *death*. Note the references to time.
3. Divide the chapter into scenes and list the main event of each scene.
4. Observe the emotions and reactions of each character.
5. Did David's action reflect his feelings regarding his children? Do you see any similarities between the events in this chapter and present-day situations?
6. What did you learn about relationships that you can apply to your life or use to counsel others today?
7. How much or how little responsibility do parents bear for the actions of their children?

2 Samuel 14 The Woman of Tekoa

1. Divide the chapter into scenes and record the main event of each scene.
2. List how did Joan tried to help David's family situation.
3. Compare Joab's actions here with Nathan's actions in 2 Samuel 12.
4. To understand "*avenger of blood*" (vs 11) read Numbers 35:19-34.
5. How do you discern the difference between God's wisdom and human wisdom?
6. What do you think of David's fathering skills? What can you learn about parenting from this?
7. Can manipulation ever really serve the purposes of God? How have you seen this in the local church — for better or worse?

2 Samuel 15 Absalom's Conspiracy

1. Divide the chapter into scenes and record the main event of each scene.
2. Contrast Absalom's behavior in 15 with his behavior in 14.
3. List each of David's friends and how they respond to David's calamity.
4. Read Psalm 3 and note what it adds to your understanding.
5. How have you responded when a loved one walked away from you, betrayed you or tried to undermine your authority?
6. What does this chapter teach you about friendship and being a friend?
7. What truths about God sustain you when you are faced with calamity?

2 Samuel 16 David flees Jerusalem

1. Divide the chapter into scenes and record the main event of each scene.
2. Mark key words in this chapter, including *curse* and *advice*.
3. Mark the geographical locations and find them on the map in the appendix.
4. Note each character and what he says and does in this chapter and who is on who's side.
5. What do you do when you have a really awful day?
6. How do you respond when people curse or accuse you? How should you respond?
7. What does this chapter teach you about loyalty?

2 Samuel 17 Hushai's warning saves David

1. Divide the chapter into scenes and record the main event of each scene.
2. Mark key words in this chapter, including counsel, advice and the Lord.
3. Mark the geographical locations and find them on the map in the appendix.
4. Note each character and what he says and does in this chapter and who is on who's side.
5. How do you know who's advice to listen to and who's advice to ignore?
6. As you look back on your life, do you see the sovereignty of God?
7. How has your loyalty to Christ been tested? How can you prepare for such tests?

2 Samuel 18 The Death of Absalom

1. Divide the chapter into scenes and record the main event of each scene.
2. Look at Absalom's death from the perspective of the Torah (Exodus 20:12; Deut. 21:18-23; Deut. 27:16,20,26)
3. Note each character and what he says and does in this chapter.
4. Compare with Psalm 3.
5. How do you go forward after a major loss or tragedy?
6. Do you think punishment of the wicked is inevitable? Why?
7. Do you think Christians today are realistic about sin and punishment? Why or why not?

2 Samuel 19 David restored as king

1. Divide the chapter into scenes and record the main event of each scene.
2. Mark the geographical locations and find them on the map in the appendix.
3. Note each character and what he says and does in this chapter.
4. Note how David treats each of the main characters in this chapter.
5. Considering the events of David's life from chapter 11 to now, what have you learned about leadership?
6. How do you respond to godly rebuke?
7. What lessons can the church learn from the inter-tribal bickering in David's day?

2 Samuel 20 Sheba's revolt

1. Divide the chapter into scenes and record the main event of each scene.
2. Observe the actions of the king, the rebellion and the hunt for the rebel leader.
3. List what Amasa does in response to the king's command.
4. List what Joab does.
5. In light of our study so far, how do you distinguish between human wisdom and godly wisdom?
6. What have you learned so far about sin and its consequences?
7. How do you respond to God when you are “reaping what you have sown”? How would you counsel someone in such a situation?

2 Samuel 21-22 David's Psalm of deliverance

1. Divide the chapter into scenes and record the main event of each scene.
2. Mark key words in this chapter, including *death*, *kills* and *prayer*.
3. If you are not familiar with the covenant made with the Gibeonites, read Joshua 9:1-10:21.
4. Compare with 1 Chronicles 20:4-8.
5. Is a promise always important no matter how long ago it was made and/or how costly it is to keep?
6. From our study so far, what have you learned about the meaning of covenant?
7. Are there ways in which we take the Lord's name in vain without actually swearing an oath?
8. Note what this psalm says about God's character, power and ways.

9. Note what this psalm teaches about how David encounters God and what God does for him.

10. What promises of God have meant the most to you so far in your life or in this study?

11. Does the way God is described in this psalm sound like the God you know or want to know?

12. What evidence do you have that God will deliver you from the hand of your enemies, trials and tribulations?

2 Samuel 23-24 David's last song & census

1. Divide the chapter into scenes and record the main event of each scene.
2. Note the main characters in this chapter and the role each plays.
3. Mark key words in this chapter, including *house* and *everlasting covenant*.
4. Compare with 2 Samuel 7.
5. Compare with 1 Chronicles 11:10-47.
6. What would your last words be at the close of your life?
7. Have you or someone you know ever been given courage to face an “impossible” situation? What happened and what did you learn from it?
8. How would you answer someone who said that Sunday morning worship of God is a waste of time?
9. Compare with 1 Chronicles 21.

10. List David's actions and whether they were right or wrong.

11. Why do you think David is called "a man after God's heart" — given the sins we've seen?

12. What are the main lessons you've learned from 2 Samuel?

13. If you could, would you trade places with David? Why?