



# DAVID

## Introduction

Take a moment as a group and write down as many of the events in David's life as possible:

Which of the incidents in David's life is most meaningful or impactful on your "faith-life"... and why?

## Who Is He?

See if you can fill out the chart below - you may use your electronic device for assistance from the www!

Where in Scripture it tells of his life?	
Name and meaning of his name?	
When did he live?	
Where did he live?	
What is his major impact?	

## So Different

Saul and David were kings #1 and #2 in Israel. In many ways they were similar, necessitated by their position as king (for example, God had warned Israel that the king "will take your sons and make them serve with his chariots and horses, and they will run in front of his chariots." [1 Samuel 8:11]). But in many significant ways David would be the antithesis of Saul. Look up the passages in the chart below and determine following EIGHT ways in Saul and David were different (even opposite) from each other (confer the additional page for suggestions of characteristics):

Life of Saul	Life of David
1 Samuel 10:23,24	2 Samuel 7:8-16
1 Samuel 18:6-8	Acts 13:22
1 Samuel 15:23	2 Samuel 7:29
1 Samuel 20:30-34; 22:11-19	2 Samuel 9; 1 Chronicles 19:2
1 Samuel 14:44; 18:9	1 Samuel 26
1 Samuel 15:10-31	2 Samuel 12:13; 24:10
1 Samuel 17:11; 18:12	1 Samuel 17; 1 Chronicles 18
1 Samuel 16:14	Psalms 4:8; 37:11

What accounts for the differences between these two and what significance does that have for your life?

## A More Modern Approach

Popular author Malcolm Gladwell has a book entitled "David and Goliath". In it he offers a different perspective on the account as we know it from the Scriptures. The following page contains a summary of Gladwell's interpretation of the story. Read through it and give your critical analysis of Gladwell's take on David and Goliath:

## A Poet

David wrote many of the Psalms – some of them clearly prophetic of the coming Messiah. Below is a list of the Messianic Psalms from the pen of David (actual or traditional). Choose which of them is most meaningful to you and explain why:

Psalm 2

Psalm 69

Psalm 118

Psalm 22

Psalm 110

Psalm 132

## Saul vs. David:

- ✓ A cruel king
- ✓ A king after people's praise
- ✓ A kingdom eternal through Jesus
- ✓ A kingdom rejected
- ✓ A "human's" kind of king
- ✓ A fearful king
- ✓ A forgiving king
- ✓ A king confronted, then lied
- ✓ A king at peace with God
- ✓ A king separated from God
- ✓ God's kind of king
- ✓ A kind and benevolent king
- ✓ An unforgiving king
- ✓ A king after God's own heart
- ✓ A king confronted, then repented
- ✓ A courageous king

## Gladwell's David and Goliath:

The classic story of David and Goliath is the tale where a shepherd David miraculously beat the giant Goliath. This story is often used as a metaphor for unlikely victory. In this book, Gladwell talks about how David's victory over Goliath wasn't a surprise at all. We are often misled to think about advantages in a certain way. What might seem like an advantage in the conventional sense might not be an advantage at all.

**Lesson 1:** Our weaknesses could become our strengths.

**Lesson 2:** Break the rules. As Gladwell explains in his book, many of the world's oppressed cultures have a lesson about the "trickster hero", who is a clever, mischievous person or creature, who achieves their motive via trickery.

**Lesson 3:** Difficulties could be desirable.

**Lesson 4:** Know your weapons. As Gladwell writes, in the battle between David and Goliath, David, a slinger, fired at Goliath's exposed forehead and stunned the giant Goliath, after which he cut Goliath's head off with Goliath's own sword. Goliath was expecting a hand-to-hand combat, which was his forte, given that he was a skilled heavy-infantryman of formidable size and wearing heavy armor. However, David's speed and tact surprised Goliath and it is because David played to his strengths that he won the battle.