

# DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

David's Reign  
"Pressure Points" Series  
March 18/19, 2017

Main Idea

*God places us where we are to serve the people around us.*

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## Discovery Questions

1. What was the first decision you made or situation you experienced that made you realize you were an adult?

Last week, we took a look at King Saul, the "failed" king over Israel. The book of 1 Samuel ends with his death. Though Saul's life and death are tragic events, they pave the way for one of the greatest seasons in all of Israel's history: the reign of David as King over Israel. Though David is by no means perfect, he is a man who does desire to do what God wants him to do, which causes God to bless His people immensely during David's reign.

For today's Discovery Questions, we'll look at David's first "official" acts as the sole King over all of Israel. As we see the ways in which David honors God in his position as King, we'll talk about ways we too can see God's hand and honor Him wherever we are in life.

2. Read 2 Samuel 5. How do we see David honor God in his first actions as King over Israel?
3.
  - a. Ray Croc, the man credited with making McDonalds the empire it is today, once wrote, "If you are running a hundred-yard dash, you aren't thinking about God while you're running. Not if you hope to win. Your mind is on the race. My race is McDonald's." React to that quote. What are your thoughts towards it? (What do you think David's thoughts towards it would be?)
  - b. How have you seen this "sacred"/"secular" divide evident in Ray's quote reflected among Christians you've encountered in life?
  - c. Is there someone you know who's good at integrating their faith and their normal, everyday life? What stands out to you about what they do?
4.
  - a. Think back to the last time you got a new job, a promotion, or were given new responsibility. How readily did you recognize God's hand in it at the time? Did that influence how you went about that new responsibility?
  - b. When was a time when you neglected or simply forgot to include God in your everyday activities? Was there a difference in how your day went? Why is it so easy to forget or exclude God and go off on our own?
  - c. What would it look like for you to intentionally bring God into the everyday circumstances of your life? What would you do differently in your work, your parenting, or your relationships if you saw everything through the lens of God placing you in these situations for a reason? What gets in the way of you seeing your situation that way?

# DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

5. David realized that part of the reason why God anointed him as King over Israel was *“for the sake of His people, Israel”* (2 Samuel 5:12). In other words, David was where he was in order to bless the people around him. Who is someone within your sphere of influence that you could be a blessing to this week? How might you bless them through whatever means you have?

*Leader Guide Starts on Next Page*

# DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

## Leader Guide

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### 1. What was the first decision you made or situation you experienced that made you realize you were an adult?

*We're asking this question because today we're looking at David's first acts as the official King over Israel. For David, it's a rite of passage—somewhat like becoming an adult. Spend about 5-7 minutes on this question.*

Last week, we took a look at King Saul, the “failed” king over Israel. The book of 1 Samuel ends with his death. Though Saul's life and death are tragic events, they pave the way for one of the greatest seasons in all of Israel's history: the reign of David as King over Israel. Though David is by no means perfect, he is a man who does desire to do what God wants him to do, which causes God to bless His people immensely during David's reign.

For today's Discovery Questions, we'll look at David's first “official” acts as the sole King over all of Israel. As we see the ways in which David honors God in his position as King, we'll talk about ways we too can see God's hand and honor Him wherever we are in life.

### 2. Read 2 Samuel 5. How do we see David honor God in his first actions as King over Israel?

*There are a few things that David does in this passage that show he honors God:*

- *He attacked the Jebusites, one of the nations that the Israelites were supposed to drive out when they first conquered the land in the book of Joshua.*
- *He made Jerusalem the capitol city, and built a palace. Jerusalem was centrally located in Israel, thus uniting the Northern Tribes of Israel with the Southern.*
- *David recognized that he was not king by his own hands, but because of God, for the sake of God's people (2 Samuel 5:12 – a key verse in this passage).*
- *David twice went to war against the Philistines. (The whole reason Israel wanted a King in the first place was to defeat the Philistines, something Saul could never do.) Each time, David “inquired of the Lord” (vv. 19, 23), and each time God told him to do something different. David obeyed both times and was successful both times.*

*In all of this, we see David's dependence on God. David recognized that he was in the role of King to do God's work and not his own, and so David allowed God to dictate his agenda. David trusted and depended on God—and God gave him success.*

*We should note that the mention of David's concubines and wives is a dark spot on David's record. Multiple wives were specifically forbidden by God (Deuteronomy 17:17), and David disobeys God in this area. It seems to be a weak spot for David, which will be displayed fully in his incident with Bathsheba.*

*Spend 10-12 minutes on this question in its entirety.*

# DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

3.
  - a. Ray Croc, the man credited with making McDonalds the empire it is today, once wrote, “If you are running a hundred-yard dash, you aren’t thinking about God while you’re running. Not if you hope to win. Your mind is on the race. My race is McDonald’s.” React to that quote. What are your thoughts towards it? (What do you think David’s thoughts towards it would be?)
  - b. How have you seen this “sacred”/“secular” divide evident in Ray’s quote reflected among Christians you’ve encountered in life?
  - c. Is there someone you know who’s good at integrating their faith and their normal, everyday life? What stands out to you about what they do?

*The Bible never suggests that we have a “sacred” life (where we do God’s work and focus on God and what He wants us to do) and a separate “secular” life (where we manage our work, our friends, our children, having fun, etc.). Everything is to be considered “sacred.” This means that God wants us to invite Him into every area of our life—our work, our family, our hobbies, etc.—and live consistently the way He wants us to. While Ray Croc is right—we might not “win” in the way the world defines winning if we do things God’s way, but we will enjoy God’s success, and that’s what counts. And sometimes, the success that God gives looks a lot like the success that the world gives. David was the most successful King Israel ever had—all because he did things God’s way.*

*As a contrast to Ray’s quote, you may want to share this quote by famous Olympian Eric Liddell (whom the film Chariots of Fire is based on): “God made me fast. And when I run, I feel His pleasure.”*

*Spend 7-10 minutes on this question in its entirety.*

4.
  - a. Think back to the last time you got a new job, a promotion, or were given new responsibility. How readily did you recognize God’s hand in it at the time? Did that influence how you went about that new responsibility?
  - b. When was a time when you neglected or simply forgot to include God in your everyday activities? Was there a difference in how your day went? Why is it so easy to forget or exclude God and go off on our own?
  - c. What would it look like for you to intentionally bring God into the everyday circumstances of your life? What would you do differently in your work, your parenting, or your relationships if you saw everything through the lens of God placing you in these situations for a reason? What gets in the way of you seeing your situation that way?

*For part “c,” you may want to suggest that your group write out the first part of 2 Samuel 5:12 and put their own name and role in life in it.*

*“Then Matthew knew that the Lord had established him as Lead Pastor of Friends Church...” How does understanding this change how you approach what you do? When you realize that you’re where you are not because of a haphazard series of circumstances, but actually because of God’s plan, it changes how you approach what you do and the way you do it. If ever we don’t recognize God’s hand in our lives, it’s often due to either just plain forgetfulness, or can be a sign of something bigger—such as rebellion against God and a desire to do things our own way for fear that doing things God’s way won’t get us what we think we want.*

*Spend about 10-12 minutes on this question in its entirety.*

# DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

**5. David realized that part of the reason why God anointed him as King over Israel was “for the sake of His people, Israel” (2 Samuel 5:12). In other words, David was where he was in order to bless the people around him. Who is someone within your sphere of influence that you could be a blessing to this week? How might you bless them through whatever means you have?**

*Think of at least one person that you encounter on a regular basis that could use something positive from you this week—a positive word of encouragement, a gift card, taking them out to lunch, etc. Something simple like that can go a long way.*

*Spend 7-10 minutes on this question in its entirety.*