

A HEART FOR GOD

LEARNING FROM THE LIFE AND POETRY OF DAVID, part 2

1. If possible, read through chapters 15 through 18 in one sitting. Before you begin, review Nathan's prophetic words to David in 2 Samuel 12:10–12. As you read, take note of ways that this prophecy is fulfilled.
2. Describe Absalom's plan for becoming king (2 Samuel 15:1–12). What does this say about Absalom?
3. How is Absalom's path to kingship different than David's? (2 Samuel 2:1–7; 5:1–5)
4. How does David respond to the news that "The hearts of the men of Israel are with Absalom" (2 Samuel 15:13)? What is he concerned about as he flees? (15:14)
5. David has been betrayed by a beloved son and a trusted counselor (15:12). Think of a time when you were betrayed by someone close to you. How did you respond? What were your thoughts and feelings? What is a godly response at a time like this? (Consider David's own response in Psalm 55.)
6. Why does David leave the Ark of the Covenant? What is his attitude towards his circumstances? (2 Samuel 15:25–26)
7. Where else do you see David submitting to God's will? (2 Samuel 16:5–12)
8. What is your attitude toward God when people turn against you and lie about you? Think about this in the context of Romans 8:28 and Hebrews 13:5b–6.

9. What signs of mercy and comfort are given to David? (2 Samuel 15:19–21; 16:1–4; 17:27–29)

10. How does God answer David's prayer in 2 Samuel 15:31? (2 Samuel 16:15—17:23)

11. What ironic note is there in the circumstances of Absalom's death as recorded in 2 Samuel 18? (See 2 Samuel 14:25–26 and 18:9.) How does our pride lead us to "death"? (Proverbs 16:18)

12. Describe David's heart for Absalom. How does he respond to the news of Absalom's death? (2 Samuel 18:19–33)

13. How does God respond to us when we turn against him? (Romans 5:8)

14. What was Jesus' response to betrayal and false accusation? (Isaiah 53:7; Matthew 26:50; Luke 23:34)

15. Is it possible to love and forgive those who betray you? What does this look like in your life?