

The Crown: Week 6

Enter The Uncommon King

Big Idea: David was and uncommon king because he lived for an uncommon God.

Read the Bible:

2 Samuel 22

Psalm 18

STUDY

*** Before interacting with this guide, all leaders should study the referenced texts using the HEAR Method. It's also important to encourage your group members to read the text using the HEAR Method. ***

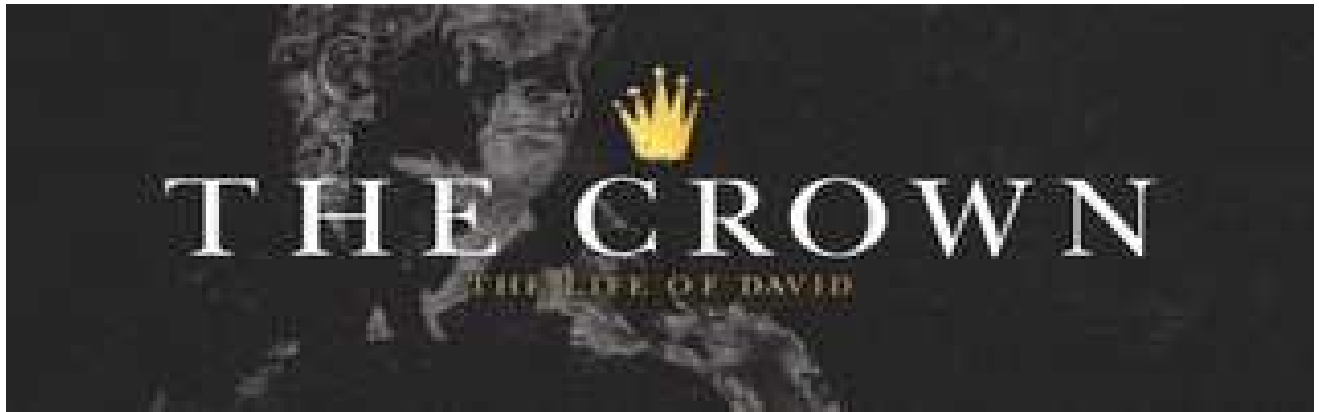
H: Highlight, or take note of, things in the passage that stick out to you as you read.

E: Explain what the passage means by asking simple questions of the text:

- **Why was this written?**
- **To whom was it originally written?**
- **How does it fit with the verses before and after it?**
- **Why did the Holy Spirit include this passage in the book?**
- **What is He intending to communicate through this text?**

A: Apply the text to your life. What does God want you to learn from this text?

R: Respond to God in prayer.



Summary

After Absalom's rebellion, David spent the rest of his life repairing his broken kingdom and broken family. Ultimately, he finished like a strong king trying to lead well and living in submission to God. As we come to the end of David's story, we begin to realize that David is not the real king in charge in 1 and 2 Samuel. David is a king who lives under the real king, God himself.

When David's life was successful and God honoring it was because he was living with God as the king. When David's life fell apart, it was because he was trying to be his own king.

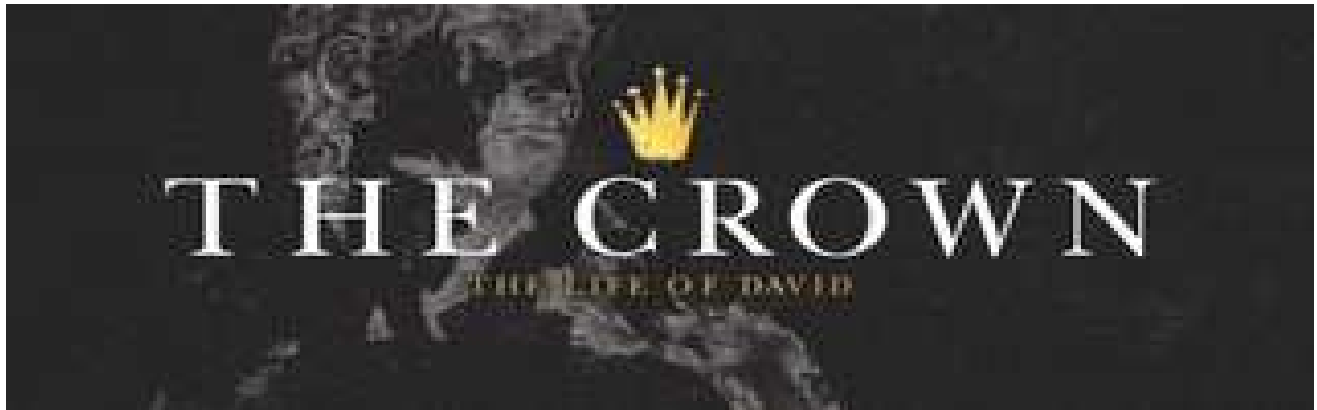
As we read Psalm 18, we see the traits in David's life that show us what it looks like to live life where God is king.

David was dependent on God. He understood that God was the King of the Universe who is in control of everything at all times. Because of this David understood that the circumstances in his life, from basic provision to miraculous deliverance, were determined by God. Living with God as king means we understand that we are utterly dependent on him at all times.

David was submissive to God. David lived with God in charge. He understood that he was not in charge, but God was. He submitted himself to God's will and God's word. Even when he erred and sinned (Bathsheba and Uriah) when confronted with his sin, he submitted his life to God and returned in repentance.

David was forgiven by God. Most importantly, to live with God as king means to live forgiven by the King. In this Psalm David claims to stand as righteous before God. How is that possible? We remember all of David's obvious sins that have wrecked his kingdom. How can someone who failed so miserably claim that righteousness? David was righteous because he understood that God had put away his sin. David is confident that God had made him righteous not because of anything he had done, but because of God's gracious forgiveness of him.

As we leave David's story, we need to ask ourselves, "Does my life look like David?"



Major Lessons

1. Being a Christian means living with God as King.

Every single one of us has a throne in our hearts. The question each of us must answer is whether or not we are going to sit on that throne or we are going to let the rightful king, God, sit on it.

2. Despite our worst sins, if God is our king, we can stand before God righteous because he has taken our sin away and put it on Jesus (2 Samuel 12:13 & Romans 3:23-25)

It's amazing to see David's remarkable confidence that God has made him righteous. We can be just as confident that God has put our sin away and put it on Jesus.

Leading Your Group

Community Time – Start group by asking for Prayer requests and checking in on everyone.

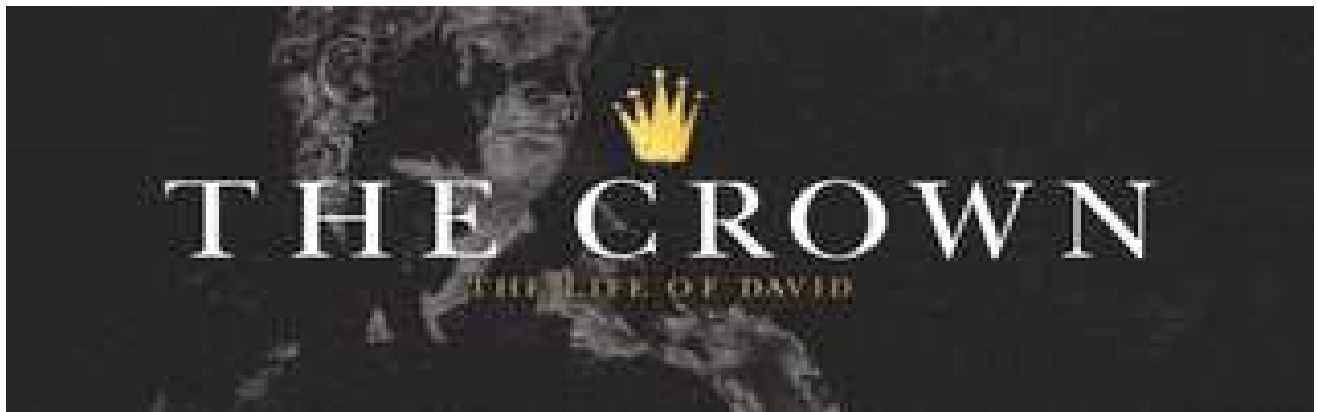
Bible Study

***Have everyone in your group read assigned scripture before meeting. ***

Start Group by Reading Psalm 18 (Split the Reading among the Group)

Discuss (The following questions are meant as suggested questions to guide conversation.)

1. What does it mean for you to live with God as King? Are there places in your life where it's harder to make God king and get off the throne?
2. How can sinful people like David, and like us, claim to be righteous before God?
3. What does this passage teach me about the gospel?
4. How do we live dependent on God in everyday life? How do we learn to be dependent on God.



Teaching

1. Spend some time focusing on the reality that one of the main foundations of the Christian faith is living under the rule of God. Living with God as king is what separates true Christians from people who just go to church.
2. Focus in on the gospel present in this Psalm. Though David is not righteous God makes him righteous through grace. This is the gift of the gospel. Focus on how the same is true of us.

Resources & Commentaries

The Teacher's Bible Commentary

Thanksgiving for Victory (Psalm 18)

The passage.—David's prayer in Psalm 17 has now been answered. He has been delivered from the hand of his enemy Saul (see the superscription). And now David pauses to thank the Lord for his help. His dramatic experience of deliverance has given David an enlarged concept of God which he wants to share. He has come to know God as a rock, a fortress, a buckler, a horn, a tower (v. 2).

He has also come to know God as one who answers prayer (vv. 3–16). David called for God's help at the most dangerous time of the battle, and in answer to his prayer there came a powerful and miraculous intervention by God to save him. An earthquake, volcanic rock, fire and smoke, foreboding darkness, hailstones, thunder and lightning all accompanied this impressive demonstration of God's power. David was rescued from overwhelming enemy forces which outnumbered him (vv. 17–19).

As David thought back over the experience he had come to believe that God's deliverance was dependent upon David's faithfulness and obedience to the Lord's commandments (vv. 20–27). He concludes, "With the merciful thou wilt shew thyself merciful" (v. 25).

It is with confidence then that David faces the future. He knows now what God can and will do for his own when they call upon him from a faithful and obedient heart. The list is quite impressive:



- (1) He will give him insight and wisdom (v. 28).
- (2) He will lead him through opposition and over obstacles (v. 29).
- (3) He will reinforce his strength (v. 32).
- (4) He will give him enthusiasm and energy (v. 33).
- (5) He will give skill and strength to his hands (v. 34).
- (6) He will keep him from falling (v. 36).
- (7) He will give him victory over his enemies (vv. 37–42).
- (8) He will trust him with authority and responsibility (vv. 43–45).

The psalm concludes as it began with a hymn of praise to the God who delivers (vv. 49–50).

Special points.—Psalm 18 is the longest of the psalms in the first book. It was quoted by the writer of 2 Samuel and can be found almost word for word there in chapter 22.

“The horn” in verse 1 refers to the horn of a wild animal like the wild ox in Deuteronomy 33:17. The horn symbolized authority. David is saying, “God is the champion of my salvation.”

The “temple” referred to in verse 6 is the “heavenly temple,” the place in heaven where God dwells.

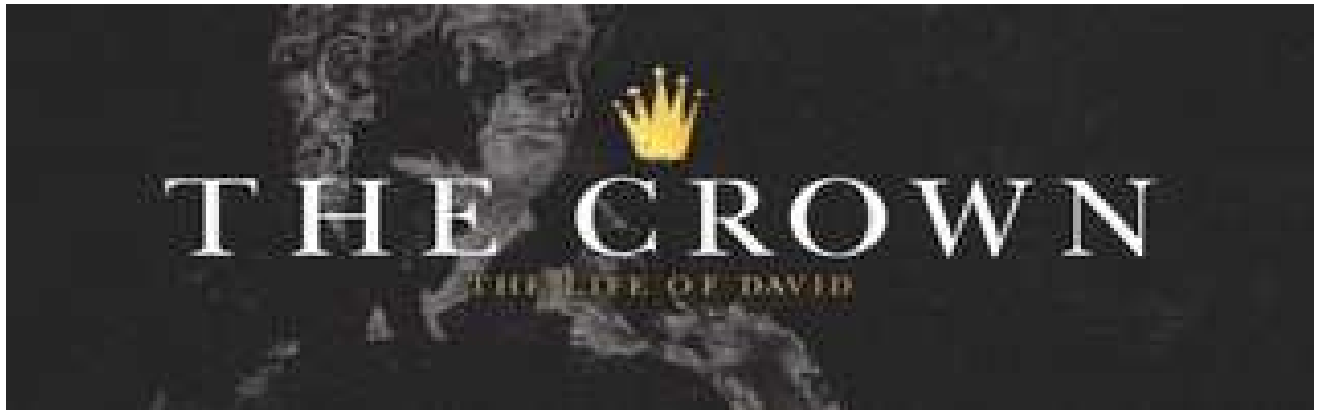
“My candle” in verse 28 probably refers to the light of wisdom and insight that God instills into man’s mind. It may also mean that God ignites that specific individual ability which each person has but without God may remain darkened and hidden.

“Thy gentleness hath made me great.” This phrase in verse 35 should be translated, “Thy help hath made me great.” However, the mistranslation found in the King James Version does carry a wonderful truth. The gracious gentleness of God does indeed make man great.

The mention of David’s own name in verse 50 does not, as some believe, rule out his being the author of the psalm.

Truth for today.—This psalm obviously is based on an experience of David’s that was deeply meaningful to him. As he communicates what he has learned about God in that experience it reminds us that we too have the same responsibility to communicate. The most convincing evidence an unbelieving world can hear today is the evidence of personal experience. When the Christian declares what he has learned about God from the experiences of answered prayer, deliverance from trouble, supernatural strength in a crisis, or the simple consciousness of the presence of God, he has declared the most powerful witness he could share.¹

¹ Dilday, R. H., Jr., & Kennedy, J. H. (1972). [Psalms](#). In H. F. Paschall & H. H. Hobbs (Eds.), *The teacher’s Bible commentary* (pp. 300–301). Nashville: Broadman and Holman Publishers.



The Bible Panorama: A Chapter by Chapter Guide

PSALM EIGHTEEN

V 1–6: MY GOD ‘I’, ‘me’, and ‘my’ show the personal nature of David’s relationship with God. **V 7–12: MAJESTIC GOD** Nature shows the majesty and power of God. **V 13–24: MIGHTY GOD** God, who is powerful in the thunderstorm, is the same God who has looked after David and kept him up till now. He has not only delivered him from an overwhelmingly strong enemy, but also enabled him to live righteously. **V 25–50: MERCIFUL GOD** The many blessings David has received include enlightenment, strength, stability, fighting ability, salvation, victory, deliverance, promotion, and the desire to thank and praise. All these blessings can be traced back to God’s mercy to David. He summarises it as follows: ‘Great deliverance He gives to His king, And shows mercy to His anointed, To David and his descendants forevermore.’ God’s mercy is the key to His rich treasure chest of grace.²

² Chrispin, G. (2005). [*The Bible Panorama: Enjoying the Whole Bible with a Chapter-by-Chapter Guide*](#) (pp. 232–233). Leominster, UK: Day One Publications.