



Old Testament Survey

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Group Exercises: Leader Guide

Welcome to Our Daily Bread University's (ODBU) Old Testament survey course. In this course, ODBU provides the content of the Old Testament survey through online lectures and related study materials. On the days when you meet with the students who are participating in the course, you, as the students' leader, will encourage them to interact meaningfully with the content they have already taken in. The purpose of this guide is to provide you with some ideas for activities and exercises that will challenge the students to engage and interact with the teaching.

These exercises and activities have been provided to us by Dr. Sid Buzzell, former Chairman of the Theology Department at Colorado Christian University. He used the ODBU courses in his teaching of both Old and New Testament survey to hundreds of college students each year. The suggestions he makes in this guide have already been tried in classrooms and proven to be successful teaching/learning tools. You now can benefit from his creative thinking and from his experience.

In addition to using Dr. Buzzell's materials, we want to encourage you to think of some exercises that will be unique to your personality and teaching style. Here are some general ideas of types of activities you might develop:

- 1. Provide additional information on the Bible book or topic you are discussing with your students. As you view the ODBU lessons the students are completing, you may think of additional information that you want to cover in your meetings using a short discussion. Feel free to add material as you desire, but keep in mind that you should allow time for students to interact with each other and, with your oversight and involvement, to engage with and apply the information they are learning.**
- 2. Exegetical Exercises. The importance of teaching students to exegete the biblical text cannot be overstated. While there is an enormous amount of material to be covered in a survey course, we cannot neglect Bible study skills. Periodically modeling the exegesis of a Bible passage in your meetings will contribute to their ability to read the Bible well.**
- 3. Discussion. Some topics lend themselves to open discussion on a particular topic led by the teacher. Often these discussions can be initiated by questions the students may have as they study the biblical text.**
- 4. Small-group discussion. You might break the group of students into smaller learning teams to discuss and/or debate on one of the topics or to share with one another their own exegesis and application of a passage or question.**
- 5. Case studies/problem-solving groups. You might give students a problem to solve or an example (fictional or actual) that will encourage discussion and application of the concepts taught in the lesson.**

Be creative and innovative. This kind of teaching is an opportunity to try new ideas, which will encourage students to be actively involved in learning. By the time they meet with the group, you know they have taken in the course material and have tested their level of understanding by taking a quiz. In the group meetings, the real assimilation of the material begins, and there is almost no limit on ways in which that engagement with the text can occur. So enjoy this course as you use the activities in this guide and as you develop your own style of interacting with students that will encourage their lifelong study of the Bible.

OT219 2 Samuel - 2 Kings: The Difference Leaders Make

219.1 Second Samuel

Read 2 Samuel 6 and then watch Philip Yancey's video, "**King of Passion (2 Samuel 6).**"

1. What were David's two opposing characteristics that Yancey mentioned?
2. How do you deal with these two opposing forces in your life?
3. How would you answer the question about how David could be both a sinner and a man after God's own heart?
4. David showed unbounded enthusiasm for God. In fact, it seems that David was passionate about whatever he was doing and explains both his great success and his great failure. What stirs deep passion in you? How does it help you? How can it hinder – or even hurt you?

219.2 First Kings

Read 1 Kings 3 and watch Philip Yancey's video, "**The Man Who Had Everything (1 Kings 3).**"

1. Yancey pointed out the fact that Solomon, like David, had two forces at work in him. A good and gifted man, he also had a tendency toward failure. List two or three of Solomon's positive traits and a couple of his negative tendencies that you saw in 1 Kings 3 and/or that Yancey pointed out. Get a clearer picture in your mind of this complex man.
2. Paul, in 1 Corinthians 12 and Romans 12 teaches that God enables every Christian to contribute by giving us a spiritual gift. How has God gifted you?
 - a. Name at least one thing that you are good at.
 - b. Describe one way you could cultivate that gift – taking a course, reading, practice, etc.
 - c. Explain how you could use that gift to help others.
 - d. In a couple of sentences state how the "other" force in you could keep you from using that gift to its greatest potential – or as in Solomon's case – could encourage you to use that gift in a destructive way.

The Davidic Covenant

The covenant given – 2 Samuel 7	List the “I Will” statements that indicate what God promised to David.
<p>2 Samuel 7 8 <i>“Now therefore, thus you shall say to My servant David, ‘Thus says the LORD of hosts, “I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be ruler over My people Israel.</i></p> <p>9 <i>“I have been with you wherever you have gone and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make you a great name, like the names of the great men who are on the earth.</i></p> <p>10 <i>“I will also appoint a place for My people Israel and will plant them, that they may live in their own place and not be disturbed again, nor will the wicked afflict them any more as formerly,</i></p> <p>11 <i>even from the day that I commanded judges to be over My people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. The LORD also declares to you that the LORD will make a house for you.</i></p> <p>12 <i>“When your days are complete and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your descendant after you, who will come forth from you, and I will establish his kingdom.</i></p> <p>13 <i>“He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.</i></p> <p>14 <i>“I will be a father to him and he will be a son to Me; when he commits iniquity, I will correct him with the rod of men and the strokes of the sons of men,</i></p> <p>15 <i>but My lovingkindness shall not depart from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you.</i></p>	
<p>16 <i>“Your house and your kingdom shall endure before Me forever; your throne shall be established forever.””</i></p> <p>17 <i>In accordance with all these words and all this vision, so Nathan spoke to David.</i></p>	

Summarize: What are the components of God’s Covenant with David? What does it “Promise” him?”

Why Was David A Man After God's Own Heart?

Overview. The difference between great people and ordinary people is NOT that great people never fail and ordinary people do. If the difference isn't that some fail and some don't, then what IS the difference?

God called a man who followed God completely. How can it be that a man who sinned so grievously – breaking two commandments that – by God's Mosaic Law – carried the death penalty – be hailed by God Himself as a man who followed God?

Let's compare Saul and David to see a person who knew how to respond to sin and one who didn't.

Saul's Sin and Response 1 Samuel 15:

1-3: *Then Samuel said to Saul, "thus says the LORD of hosts, 'I will punish Amalek for what he did to Israel while he was coming up from Egypt. 'Now go and strike Amalek and utterly destroy all that he has, and do not spare him; but put to death both man and woman, child and infant, ox and sheep, camel and donkey.'"*

7-9: *So Saul defeated the Amalekites.... He captured Agag the king of the Amalekites alive, and utterly destroyed all the people. But Saul and the people spared Agag and the best of the sheep, the oxen, the fatlings, the lambs, and all that was good, and were not willing to destroy them completely.*

13-15: *Samuel came to Saul, and Saul said to him, "Blessed are you of the LORD! I have carried out the command of the LORD." But Samuel said, "What then is this bleating of the sheep in my ears...?" Saul said, "They have brought them from the Amalekites, for the people spared the best of the sheep and oxen, to sacrifice to the LORD your God; but the rest we have utterly destroyed."*

19-21: *"Why then did you not obey the voice of the LORD, but [took] the spoil and did what was evil in the sight of the LORD?" Then Saul said to Samuel, "I did obey the voice of the LORD, and went on the mission on which the LORD sent me, and have brought back Agag the king of Amalek, and have utterly destroyed the Amalekites. "But the people took some of the spoil, sheep and oxen, the choicest of the things devoted to destruction, to sacrifice to the LORD your God at Gilgal."*

How did Saul respond to his failure? Name at least two improper ways of dealing with failure that Saul demonstrated here.

David's Sin and Response – 2 Samuel 11-12 and Psalms 32 and 51

2 Samuel 11: *2-4 Now when evening came David arose from his bed and walked around on the roof of the king's house, and from the roof he saw a woman bathing; and the woman was very beautiful in appearance.... David sent messengers and took her, and when she came to him, he lay with her....*

14-15: *David wrote a letter to Joab and sent it with Uriah. In the letter David said, "Place Uriah in the front line of the fiercest battle and withdraw from him, so that he may be struck down and die." So...Joab...put Uriah at the place where he knew there were valiant men...and Uriah the Hittite ...died.*

David's Responses to sin:

1. **2 Sam. 12:13** Nathan confronted David: - Then David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD."
2. **Psalm 51** – This psalm's heading "A psalm of David after he committed adultery with Bathsheba."

1-4: *1 Be gracious to me, O God, according to Your lovingkindness;
According to the greatness of Your compassion blot out my transgressions.*

*2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity
And cleanse me from my sin.*

*3 For I know my transgressions,
And my sin is ever before me.*

*4 Against You, You only, I have sinned
And done what is evil in Your sight,
So that You are justified when You speak
And blameless when You judge.*

*16 For You do not delight in sacrifice, otherwise I would give it;
You are not pleased with burnt offering.*

*17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;
A broken and a contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.*

3. Psalm 32:3-5 – Another of David’s Psalms where he responded to his sin.

*3 When I kept silent about my sin, my body wasted away
Through my groaning all day long.*

*4 For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me;
My vitality was drained away as with the fever heat of summer.*

*5 I acknowledged my sin to You,
And my iniquity I did not hide;
I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD”;
And You forgave the guilt of my sin.*

List specific facts about how David responded to his sin that are stated in:

2 Samuel 12

Psalm 51

Psalm 32

In a summarizing statement explain how we should respond when we sin.

A Tale of Three Kings

Overview. David, Solomon and Rehoboam had wisdom, power and talent in abundance. They were also chosen by God to fill the role as king over his people. But we learn from their experience that even wise, talented, God-appointed people can blow it.

This exercise is designed to help you examine what derailed these wise, talented, God-appointed people so we can understand the dangers that lead to failure. If they could become derailed, so can we.

What can these three kings teach us about the moral landmines that blow people up?

While each king had the whole array of potential seeds of destruction that all of us have to pray for the strength to keep in check, we see a particular weakness illustrated more prominently in each of them.

1. Discuss each of the three kings and how the particular attribute associated with each of them showed itself.
 - David's downfall began with his Sexual Lust. Discuss how it led him to a number of other sins and what the outcome was.
 - Solomon's downfall was his Accumulation Of "Symbols" Of His Success. Discuss how his greed led to his various sins and what the outcome was.
 - Rehoboam's downfall was his seeming "Need" For Power And Control. Discuss how his apparent fear of losing his popularity and power led to his sins and what the outcome was.
2. Discuss how these three dangers lurk in your world. How do they present themselves to men and women in your stage of life?
 - a. What potential dangers do you see them leading to in your stage of life?
 - b. What can men and women do to guard against these dangers?
 - c. List at least one specific act you would recommend to men and women in your stage of life to protect against EACH of these three dangerous traps?

219.4 Second Kings

Read 2 Kings 22:1-23:3 and view Philip Yancey's video, "**Judah's Boy Wonder (2 Kings 22).**"

Josiah became king in Judah after two of Judah's most wicked kings had reigned for over half a century. But Josiah's legacy was his great revival of godliness in the nation.

1. What discovery stirred Josiah's interest in following God?
2. Describe your response to God's Word. Do you feel moved or stirred by it? Or, like many, have you become complacent toward it? Write an honest response to this important question.
3. Do you have a favorite passage that you enjoy reading?
4. How often do you read the Bible?
5. To rephrase Yancey's question: "Have you ever experienced an 'awakening' similar to King Josiah's?" If so, when, why, what was it like?