

Welcome back to week 2 of our *40 Days of Focus*. We continue to fix our eyes on Jesus as we engage with 1 & 2 Samuel this week!

Grab your notebook and Bible, and let's get started.

Parents: God knows everything, including your family dynamics. He wants to help you grow as a parent, because He is a good father. Try this with your kids this week! [Parent Prompt](#)

Week 9 Memory Verse | 2 Samuel 22:31-32

Monday, March 2

Read: 1 Samuel 3:1-10

Reflect: Samuel's calling begins in the quiet of night, in a moment he does not understand. He hears God's voice, but at first, he mistakes it for something else. Have you had difficulty discerning God's voice? We want God to speak clearly, but we are still learning how to recognize His voice as His sheep (John 10:27-28).

Notice that God has patience with Samuel in his confusion. God doesn't "move on" because of Samuel's inability in the moment. God persistently calls Samuel. He knows Samuel's heart is primed and ready to respond in obedience.

"Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening." Samuel does not respond to God by demanding answers. He responds with availability. That is the heart of this season: to focus on Jesus with an available spirit. Not simply asking for direction, but offering Him our attention and our obedience.

As we move toward Easter, this can become a powerful daily prayer. Jesus is alive and still speaks through His Word and by His Spirit. Your life may feel noisy, rushed, and uncertain—but God is not absent. He is still calling. Today, your first step is not to figure everything out. It may simply be to listen.

Act: Set a timer for 5 minutes. Sit in silence with the knowledge that God is calling you to His mission. Pray Samuel's words slowly: "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening." Pay attention to what God stirs in your heart and mind.

Pray: Lord Jesus, quiet my heart and help me listen. Teach me to recognize Your voice and respond with obedience. I want to be available to You today. Speak, Lord. Amen.

Tuesday, March 3

Read: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

Reflect: When Samuel looks at Jesse's sons, he of course naturally notices the outward qualities first. God redirects him with a defining truth: "People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart." (7b) This is both incredibly humbling and it's also freeing.

It is humbling because we are preoccupied with appearances—how we look, how we perform, how others perceive us. It is freeing because Jesus is not impressed by image management. He is after something deeper and better: a heart that trusts Him with the whole thing.

David was an unlikely choice to Samuel, but not to God. God sees what is hidden. He sees the unseen faithfulness, the private surrender, the quiet obedience. Remember that spiritual focus is not about looking spiritual. It is about allowing Jesus to form you from the inside out.

Ask yourself today: What has my focus been on—my image, or my heart? Don't be afraid of those parts that are messy and broken. Jesus invites you to bring your whole heart to Him, not just what looks good to others. You don't have to hide your heart from God. Besides, you can't do it. He knows it already, and He loves you still.

Act: Do a simple heart check by journaling two columns: “What others see” and “What God sees.” Write honestly under both. End by surrendering one area you’ve been trying to hide to Jesus.

Pray: Father, Thank You that You see me fully and love me deeply. Search my heart and shape it to honor You. Help me care more about faithfulness than appearance. Amen.

Wednesday, March 4

Read: 1 Samuel 17:32-47

Reflect: David’s confidence against Goliath is not self-confidence—it is God-confidence. He does not ignore the size of the enemy; he simply knows the biggest reality on the battle field: “The battle is the LORD’s.” (47b)

That truth matters for us because many of our battles feel overwhelming. Some are external—conflict, pressure, betrayal, uncertainty. Some are internal—fear, shame, temptation, discouragement, failure. When we focus on the problem, fear grows.

When we focus on Jesus, faith grows.

David’s words remind us that victory is not ultimately secured by human strength, cleverness, or control. God is the One who saves. As we get closer to Easter, we remember the greatest battle was won not by force, but by Christ’s death and resurrection. Jesus defeated sin and death through surrender and obedience.

Today, it’s ok to name the enemy facing you. You don’t have to pretend it’s small. You do need to remember that Jesus is greater.

“The one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.”
1 John 4:4

Act: Name your biggest current battle in one sentence. Then write beneath it: “This battle belongs to the Lord.” Read that aloud two or three times as a reminder to hold onto.

Pray: Jesus, I bring You the battles that feel too big for me. Help me see You more clearly than I see my fears. Strengthen my faith and teach me to trust that You are able. Amen.

Thursday, March 5

Read: 2 Samuel 12:1-14, Psalm 51:1-12

Reflect: David’s sin is serious (read chapter 11 if you don’t know the backstory), and Nathan’s confrontation is direct. When David finally says, “I have sinned against the LORD,” he is no longer hiding, excusing, or managing appearances. This is the turning point. Real repentance begins when honesty replaces self-protection and defensiveness.

Psalm 51 gives us the language of that repentance. David does not ask for a better image; he asks for a clean heart. He does not bargain with God; he throws himself on the mercy of God. That is what makes repentance hopeful. It is not groveling in shame—it is returning to God.

David’s plea is that his sins would be covered, and that he will abide with God. Both of those were made possible Easter weekend. Jesus’ sacrifice covers our sin, and it restores our relationship with God. But only if we have responded to God in repentance.

That initial response of repentance leads to our redemption. Our continued repentance leads to our restoration.

If the Spirit is convicting you today, do not run from it. Conviction is a gift. It is the loving invitation of God to come back into the light and the freedom that is available to you.

Act: Pray through Psalm 51:10–12 slowly. Replace generic words with specifics from your life (attitudes, words, decisions, motives). Be honest before God.

Pray: Merciful God, I confess my sin to You. Create in me a clean heart and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Restore the joy of Your salvation and help me walk in the light today. Amen.

Friday, March 6

Read: 2 Samuel 7:5-16

Reflect: God’s covenant with David is filled with amazing grace. David wants to build a house for God, but God turns the conversation around and promises to build a “house” for David—a lasting line, a future kingdom, a throne that points beyond David himself.

This matters because it reminds us that God’s plans are bigger than human effort and stronger than human failure. David failed plenty. His family line did too. Israel’s story went way off track. And yet God’s promise kept moving forward.

That promise found its fulfillment in Jesus, the true Son of David, whose kingdom will never end. Remember this today: *God is not improvising*. He is faithful. His purposes do not collapse when we stumble.

Maybe you feel today like your story has too many setbacks, too many unfinished parts, too many regrets. This passage reminds you that God is a promise-keeper. Jesus is the proof. Your future is not held together by your ability; it is held up by His faithfulness.

Act: Write down one area where you feel discouraged by your own limits or failures. Then write: “God’s faithfulness is bigger than my _____.” Keep that somewhere you’ll see it today.

Pray: Lord, Thank You that Your promises are stronger than my weakness. Help me trust Your faithfulness when I feel uncertain or discouraged. Fix my eyes on Jesus, my true King. Amen.

Saturday, March 7 – Sunday, March 8

Read: 2 Samuel 23:1-5

Reflect: As David utters his last words, there is both confidence and longing in his words. He knows God has made a covenant with him, and he clings to that promise. Yet the fullness of what was promised still lies ahead. David's life points beyond itself.

That is part of what makes this weekend's focus so meaningful. We are not just reading ancient history—we are tracing the line of hope that leads to Jesus. David was a king, but he was not the final King. He was a signpost. The Son of David, Jesus Christ, is the righteous ruler we truly need.

David longed for the coming of Jesus, the fulfillment of God's covenant to Him. Is your life characterized by a longing for Jesus through the covenant He has made to you? Not just information about Him, but for deeper devotion and connection to Him, your King?

Act: Spend a few minutes worshipping Jesus as King, whatever that might look like for you. If helpful, write a short prayer beginning with: "King Jesus, rule over my..." (thoughts, home, work, relationships, fears).

Pray: King Jesus, Thank You for fulfilling God's promises. Reign over my heart and lead my life. Grow my love for You as we move toward Easter. Amen.