

APRIL 2026 | DAY 26

# ONE STORY THAT LEADS TO JESUS

With Fellowship of the Rockies

## SCRIPTURE

1 Samuel 25  
1 Samuel 26  
1 Samuel 27  
Psalms 85

Have you ever thought you were doing the right thing but later learned you had it wrong? Today's reading features several characters stuck in that kind of problem, obviously doing the wrong thing. As you'll see in the video, "sin" describes a failure to love God and others. Sometimes, we don't even realize we're doing it.

Take the wealthy rancher Nabal, whose name means "fool." When David asks if his men might join Nabal for the traditional feast celebrated after shearing livestock, Nabal sneers. From Nabal's perspective, his wealth belongs to him, and he has a right to keep it all.

Nabal can't see that it also comes from the hard labor of men who daily protect and shepherd his livestock. He brushes them off, oblivious to the long-term harm his greed causes and underestimating the immediate consequence of infuriating David's hungry band of warriors.

Thankfully, Nabal's wife, Abigail, shows up with some wisdom. While Nabal gets blind drunk, she gathers a caravan of provisions to give to David and his men. This wards off the warrior's anger and saves the whole household from David. Notice, she's also saving David from himself.

In today's reading, David and Saul look uncomfortably similar. Both delusional with pride, they believe murder is the right thing to do. Then, they each experience things through other people that startle them back to reality. Each story comes to a peaceful resolution, for now. What will happen the next time we see each king's dark side?

APRIL 2026 | DAY 27

# ONE STORY THAT LEADS TO JESUS

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## SCRIPTURE

**1 Samuel 28**  
**1 Samuel 29**  
**1 Samuel 30**  
**1 Samuel 31**  
**Psalms 86**

**In 1 Samuel 15, Yahweh ordered Saul to destroy all the Amalekites, but Saul disobeyed Yahweh and let some escape. In today's reading, this seemingly minor oversight creates major problems for both Saul and David.**

**Some of the remaining Amalekites raid David's home base in Ziklag. They burn down the city and carry off the families of David's men.**

**Overwhelmed by rage and panic, the soldiers start talking about mutiny and consider stoning David to death. David, now terrified, takes his fear to Yahweh and cries out for help. God answers, and David chases down the Amalekites to recover the captive family members.**

**Meanwhile, Saul faces yet another Philistine invasion and scrambles for a miraculous escape. However, Saul has repeatedly shown unwillingness to listen to Yahweh during a crisis. So when Saul cries out for help, God remains silent.**

**Desperate, Saul asks a spiritual medium or "diviner" to conjure the now-deceased prophet Samuel. Saul's willingness to ignore Yahweh's explicit prohibition against turning to spiritual mediums or participating in necromancy rituals (Lev. 19:31, 20:6; Deut. 18:10-11) shows he's not paying attention to Yahweh at all. He only wants to win the fight and save himself.**

**Samuel says Saul's time is up. Both Saul and his sons die in battle, leaving a throne open for David. What's next for this shepherd turned soldier turned sovereign?**

APRIL 2026 | DAY 28

# ONE STORY THAT LEADS TO JESUS

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## SCRIPTURE

2 Samuel 1  
2 Samuel 2  
2 Samuel 3  
Psalms 87

**Samuel's second volume opens in tragedy: Israel's king slain in battle, the crown prince fallen by his side, and a heartbroken David preparing to assume the royal throne. The messenger who tells David about Saul's death probably expected some gloating. The crazy, murderous king is dead. Instead, David grieves. He still sees Saul as Yahweh's anointed leader and, therefore, not a rival.**

**Saul's death creates a power vacuum in Israel. David proves himself a savvy politician as he launches his bid for the throne. Abner, the power broker for Saul's household, abandons Saul's family and approaches David to form an alliance. David agrees on one condition: Abner must bring Michal with him. It's a strategic move on David's part. By reclaiming Saul's daughter as his wife, David strengthens his claim to Saul's crown.**

**David's careful work to win over Saul's supporters threatens to unravel when Joab, David's nephew and general, murders Abner. David gives Abner a public funeral, making sure all the Israelites see both himself and Joab mourning Saul's slain general. David's display of grief defuses a public relations crisis and wins over the people, opening a path to the throne.**

**Saul's kingship has ended. How will David's begin? How will it go? Watch the video to preview the story of David's reign in the second half of Samuel.**

APRIL 2026 | DAY 29

# ONE STORY THAT LEADS TO JESUS

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## SCRIPTURE

2 Samuel 4  
2 Samuel 5  
2 Samuel 6  
2 Samuel 7  
2 Samuel 8  
Psalms 88

During the dark days of Judges, the rise of King David gives a glimmer of hope. In today's reading, David's actions demonstrate that a good king really can bring life, blessing, and peace to his people.

First on David's agenda is conquering Jerusalem, establishing it as Israel's capital city, and renaming it Zion. From there, David wins many battles, bringing down enemy armies and chariots the same way he brought down lions and Goliath: through radical trust in Yahweh.

David also makes Jerusalem the religious capital of Israel by having the ark of the covenant moved into the city. David asks Yahweh if he can move the ark from the tabernacle to a permanent "house"—a temple where God's presence can dwell. God gently declines. Instead, God will be the one to build David a lasting "house," that is, a royal dynasty.

This moment has ripple effects through the remainder of the biblical story. Yahweh promises David that a future king will come from his royal bloodline, one who will build God's temple on Earth and set up an eternal kingdom.

God's promise to David is further developed in the Psalms and Prophets. There, the biblical authors connect this future king to God's promise to bless all nations through Abraham's family. After countless discouraging detours, God's rescue plan for humanity finally seems to be back on track!

APRIL 2026 | DAY 30

# ONE STORY THAT LEADS TO JESUS

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## SCRIPTURE

2 Samuel 9  
2 Samuel 10  
2 Samuel 11  
2 Samuel 12  
Psalms 89

**Today's reading showcases David at the height of his wisdom and integrity, but also his lowest moment of failure.**

**First, the good. David goes out of his way to treat Jonathan's son, Mephibosheth, with *khesed*, a Hebrew word that, as you'll see in the video, describes acts of loyal love. David promises to show *khesed* to Jonathan's family, so he gives Mephibosheth plenty of land, food, and servants. Never mind that Mephibosheth's grandfather tried to murder David several times, or that Mephibosheth and his son, Mica, could be rivals to David's throne. David still treats him with *khesed*.**

**While David shows loyal love to his enemies, he fails to do the same for his allies. In another replay of Genesis 3, David sees a woman named Bathsheba from his rooftop and desires her. David knows Bathsheba is off-limits. She's married to Uriah, one of David's elite soldiers. He uses his power as king to take her anyway. When Bathsheba becomes pregnant by David, he tries to cover it all up by having Uriah killed and marrying Bathsheba immediately.**

**God sends the prophet Nathan to confront David about his sin. David immediately owns what he's done—no excuses, no equivocating, just repentance. And God forgives him, but he doesn't erase the consequences of David's decisions. The tragic side of David's story is only just beginning.**

MAY 2026 | DAY 1

# ONE STORY THAT LEADS TO JESUS

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## SCRIPTURE

2 Samuel 13  
2 Samuel 14  
2 Samuel 15  
Psalms 90

**Sin usually leads to more sin. Violent solutions for one problem lead to new problems and more violence. The sword begets the sword. In today's reading, the fallout of David's disastrous decision tears through his own family, multiplying pain and suffering in its wake.**

**David's firstborn, Amnon, repeats his father's failure. Amnon desires a woman who is off-limits to him and uses his power to take her by force. The sexual assault devastates Tamar. David worsens the situation by refusing to rebuke Amnon, so Tamar's brother, Absalom, gets violent. Absalom, also following his father's ruinous example, compounds the initial injustice of sexual assault with treachery and murder. After nursing his hatred for two years, Absalom throws an extravagant dinner party for all the king's sons. Think wine flowing, tables laden with food. When Amnon lets his guard down, Absalom's servants sweep in and murder Amnon.**

**Absalom then hatches a long-term plot to oust his father from power. He spends four years winning over the Israelites with his beauty and charm. Once popular support turns in his favor, Absalom launches a full-scale rebellion.**

**For a second time, David flees his home and hides in the wilderness. The king who once danced into Jerusalem with a parade of trumpets now staggers out of the city, barefoot and weeping. Is this the end of David's reign?**

MAY 2026 | DAY 2

# ONE STORY THAT LEADS TO JESUS

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## SCRIPTURE

2 Samuel 16  
2 Samuel 17  
2 Samuel 18  
Psalms 91

**“The sword shall never depart from your house,” the prophet Nathan previously told David (2 Sam. 12:10), suggesting more brutality to come. In today’s reading, those first sparks of violence in David’s family explode into a wildfire that consumes the nation.**

**David trudges through the wilderness, no longer a young captain brimming with trust and courage, but a broken father burdened by shame and regret. Meanwhile, back in Jerusalem, Absalom stakes another claim to the throne by sleeping with David’s concubines, a common power play in the ancient Near East.**

**As Nathan warned, Absalom pitches his tent on the same rooftop where this whole heartbreaking saga began. David’s sin started under the furtive shadows of evening. Daylight now exposes the grievous fallout of his failures for all the world to see.**

**Absalom’s vindictive streak ultimately becomes his downfall. Instead of sending a targeted strike team after his father, Absalom musters the whole nation for battle. What began with a look and turned into a murder now unfolds into an all-out civil war. Tens of thousands of people lie dead, including Absalom.**

**David takes no joy in his victory. He stumbles through the streets, his body wracked with sobs. Is there hope for this heartbroken king to escape this insanity born from violence?**