

David Wasn't Perfect

Lesson 02 of the series, "Imperfect ≠ Unusable"

1. God chooses to use imperfect people to carry out his work.

"Remember, dear brothers and sisters, that few of you were wise in the world's eyes or powerful or wealthy when God called you. Instead, God chose things the world considers foolish in order to shame those who think they are wise. And he chose things that are powerless to shame those who are powerful."

1 Corinthians 1:26-27 (NLT)

Note: God doesn't evaluate people by outward appearances.

But the LORD said to Samuel, "...The LORD doesn't see things the way you see them. People judge by outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart." 1 Samuel 16:7 (NLT)

2. David was only a shepherd boy when God used him to kill a giant.

"Don't worry about this Philistine,' David told Saul. 'I'll go fight him!' 'Don't be ridiculous!' Saul replied. 'There's no way you can fight this Philistine and possibly win! You're only a boy, and he's been a man of war since his youth.' But David persisted. 'I have been taking care of my father's sheep and goats,' he said. 'When a lion or a bear comes to steal a lamb from the flock, I go after it with a club and rescue the lamb from its mouth. If the animal turns on me, I catch it by the jaw and club it to death. I have done this to both lions and bears, and I'll do it to this pagan Philistine, too, for he has defied the armies of the living God! ...'Come over here, and I'll give your flesh to the birds and wild animals!' Goliath yelled. David replied to the Philistine, 'You come to me with sword, spear, and javelin, but I come to you in the name of the LORD of Heaven's Armies—the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. Today the LORD will conquer you, and I will kill you and cut off your head... and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel! And everyone assembled here will know that the LORD rescues his people, but not with sword and spear. This is the LORD's battle, and he will give you to us!'" 1 Samuel 17:43-47 (NLT)

Life Application: We are never too young for God to use us.

"Don't let anyone think less of you because you are young. Be an example to all believers in what you say, in the way you live, in your love, your faith, and your purity." 1 Timothy 4:12 (NLT)

3. God elevated David to king over His people because David trusted and obeyed God.

"...the people begged for a king, and God gave them Saul... who reigned for forty years. God removed Saul and replaced him with David, a man about whom God said, 'I have found David son of Jesse, a man after my own heart. He will do everything I want him to do.'" Acts 13:21-22 (NLT)

Life Application: God wants us to trust and obey him.

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take." Proverbs 3:5-6 (NLT)

4. After David became king he committed adultery and attempted to cover it up with murder.

"In the spring, at the time when kings go off to war, David sent Joab out with the king's men and the whole Israelite army...But David remained in Jerusalem. One evening David got up from his bed and walked around on the roof of the palace. From the roof he saw a woman bathing. The woman was very beautiful, and David sent someone to find out about her. The man said, 'Isn't this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam and the wife of Uriah the Hittite?' Then David sent messengers to get her. She came to him, and he slept with her. The woman conceived and sent word to David, saying, 'I am pregnant.' ...David wrote a letter to Joab and sent it with Uriah. In it he wrote, 'Put Uriah in the front line where the fighting is fiercest. Then withdraw from him so he will be struck down and die.'" 2 Samuel 11:1-5, 14-15 (NIV)

Note: David's sin and cover-up set in motion terrible consequences.

"...The LORD, the God of Israel, says: I anointed you king of Israel and saved you from the power of Saul. I gave you your master's house and his wives and the kingdoms of Israel and Judah. And if that had not been enough, I would have given you much, much more. Why, then, have you despised the word of the LORD and done this horrible deed? For you have murdered Uriah the Hittite with the sword of the Ammonites and stolen his wife. From this time on, your family will live by the sword because you have despised me by taking Uriah's wife to be your own. 'This is what the LORD says: Because of what you have done, I will cause your own household to rebel against you. I will give your wives to another man before your very eyes, and he will go to

bed with them in public view. You did it secretly, but I will make this happen to you openly in the sight of all Israel.” 2 Samuel 12:7-12 (NLT)

Life Application: Sin always has consequences.

“Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.” Galatians 6:7-8 (NIV)

5. David confessed his sin and was forgiven by God.

“Then David confessed to Nathan, ‘I have sinned against the LORD.’ Nathan replied, ‘Yes, but the LORD has forgiven you, and you won’t die for this sin.’” 2 Samuel 12:13 (NLT)

Life Application: We must confess our sins and stop trying to hide them.

“Oh, what joy for those whose disobedience is forgiven, whose sin is put out of sight! Yes, what joy for those whose record the LORD has cleared of guilt, whose lives are lived in complete honesty! When I refused to confess my sin, my body wasted away, and I groaned all day long. Day and night your hand of discipline was heavy on me. My strength evaporated like water in the summer heat... Finally, I confessed all my sins to you and stopped trying to hide my guilt. I said to myself, ‘I will confess my rebellion to the LORD.’ And you forgave me! All my guilt is gone... Therefore, let all the godly pray to you while there is still time, that they may not drown in the floodwaters of judgment. For you are my hiding place; you protect me from trouble. You surround me with songs of victory.” Psalm 32:1-7 (NLT)

6. In spite of David’s sin Jesus, the Messiah, was born into David’s family line.

“Now go and say to my servant David, ‘This is what the LORD of Heaven’s Armies has declared: I took you from tending sheep in the pasture and selected you to be the leader of my people Israel... Furthermore, the LORD declares that he will make a house for you—a dynasty of kings! Your house and your kingdom will continue before me for all time, and your throne will be secure forever.’” 2 Samuel 7:8-9,16 (NLT)

“Don’t be afraid, Mary,’ the angel told her, ‘for you have found favor with God! You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David. And he will reign over Israel forever; his Kingdom will never end!’” Luke 1:30-33 (NLT)

Life Application: God is gracious and kind. He will use us in spite of our sins if we return to him.

“Have mercy on me, O God, because of your unfailing love. Because of your great compassion, blot out the stain of my sins. Wash me clean from my guilt. Purify me from my sin. For I recognize my rebellion; it haunts me day and night. Against you, and you alone, have I sinned; I have done what is evil in your sight. You will be proved right in what you say, and your judgment against me is just... Purify me from my sins, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow... Create in me a clean heart, O God. Renew a loyal spirit within me... Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and make me willing to obey you. Then I will teach your ways to rebels, and they will return to you... You do not desire a sacrifice, or I would offer one. You do not want a burnt offering. The sacrifice you desire is a broken spirit. You will not reject a broken and repentant heart, O God.”

Psalm 51:1-4,7,10 (NLT)

Connect Group Questions

1. Why do people feel that they cannot be used by God? Have you ever felt similar?
2. David was young and inexperienced when God first used him. How have you allowed your lack of experience or knowledge to keep you from being used by God?
3. Read Proverbs 3:5-6. What is it about God's character that causes Him to be trustworthy?
4. Read 2 Samuel 12:13. What is the most difficult part of repentance for you and why?
 - a. Acknowledging that you are wrong
 - b. Changing your behavior
 - c. Believing that God has forgiven you
 - d. Living with the consequences that your sin caused for others.
5. Read Psalm 51:1-10. How have you been used by God in spite of your sins?