

**Title: David – A Study in Leadership**

**Introduction:**

I chose to investigate David for several reasons. First, he probably has the longest and most detailed narrative of anyone in the Bible. Second, he demonstrated so many characteristics of leadership that we studied in this course that are worth exploring. Third, he was absolutely human. His story isn't whitewashed. We see his failings as well as his successes. We see the strengths of his character, as well as his weaknesses.

**Thesis:**

In 1 Samuel 13:14, and again in Acts 13:22, God Himself refers to David as "a man after His own heart." These affirmations should speak confidence and hope to each of us who are desirous of fulfilling our responsibilities and destinies as Christian leaders. Despite his personal failings and shortcomings, he was Israel's greatest King, and through it all he experienced the love, mercy and forgiveness of God, and had God's affirmation. By studying David's biography, we can have confidence in our own pursuit of our relationship with Christ and learn from both David's leadership strengths and weaknesses.

**Outline:**

This study will examine David's life by dividing it into the following periods, and see what leadership principles we learn from him in the events he experienced in each. (The ages shown are approximate, and the topics in each period are subject to editing.)

- 1. David's Youth (up to age 20):**
  - Caring for his father's sheep
  - Anointing as King by the prophet Samuel
  - Harpist to King Saul
  - Slaying Goliath
- 2. Serving under King Saul (age 20 to 25):**
  - Warrior
  - Relationship to Jonathan
- 3. Fugitive from King Saul (age 25 to 30):**
  - Captain of 400 men
  - Warring against the Philistines
  - Sparing King Saul's life
  - Nabal and Abigail
  - Infiltrating the Philistines
  - Revenge against Amalekites for Ziklag
- 4. King over Judah**
- 5. King over all Israel**
  - Conquest of Jerusalem
  - Return of the Ark of the Covenant
  - Administration of Israel
  - Mephibosheth
  - Bathsheba and Uriah
  - Tamar and Absalom
  - Absalom's treason
  - Return to the throne
  - Avenging the Gibeonites

**1. David's final days**

- Proclaims Solomon King
- Plans for the Temple

**David the Worshipper throughout Life**

**Summary and Conclusions**