

DAVID

LEADERSHIP FROM A BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE



A Man After God's Heart

This study was developed in conjunction with Leadership Dynamics

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INTRODUCTION

In this study we're going to look at a self-made man, a man who would ultimately be used by God to lead the nation of Israel. Despite his limited or complete lack of formal education, in contrast to Moses, we see how David became a great king. The secret of David's life is God, who moulded and formed David each day into the image of Himself. Through studying David's life, we may also learn to be men and women after God's heart.

1

DAVID'S CALLING



David's calling begins with the heart of God. After King Saul lost his kingdom by not fully trusting in God, the prophet Samuel confronts Saul with this truth on God's behalf.

But now your kingdom will not endure; the LORD has sought out a man after his own heart, and appointed him ruler of his people, because you have not kept the LORD's command.

1 Samuel 13:14

At this moment no one knows who God has in mind. Even Samuel is kept in the dark. However, when he is sent by God to the house of Jesse with the order to anoint one of Jesse's sons as king, he meets Eliab and immediately thinks, This is the man. But God corrects him, saying:

Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things people look at; people look at the outward appearance but the LORD looks at the heart.

1 Samuel 16:7

Eventually there appears to be another son, David, who apparently was not considered important enough to be there at Samuel's arrival. Yet it is David who God has chosen to be the future king of Israel. Evidently God sees things differently than Samuel. What does God see when he looks at David?

After removing Saul, they made David their king. God testified concerning him: 'I have found David son of Jesse, a man after my own heart; he will do everything I want him to do.'

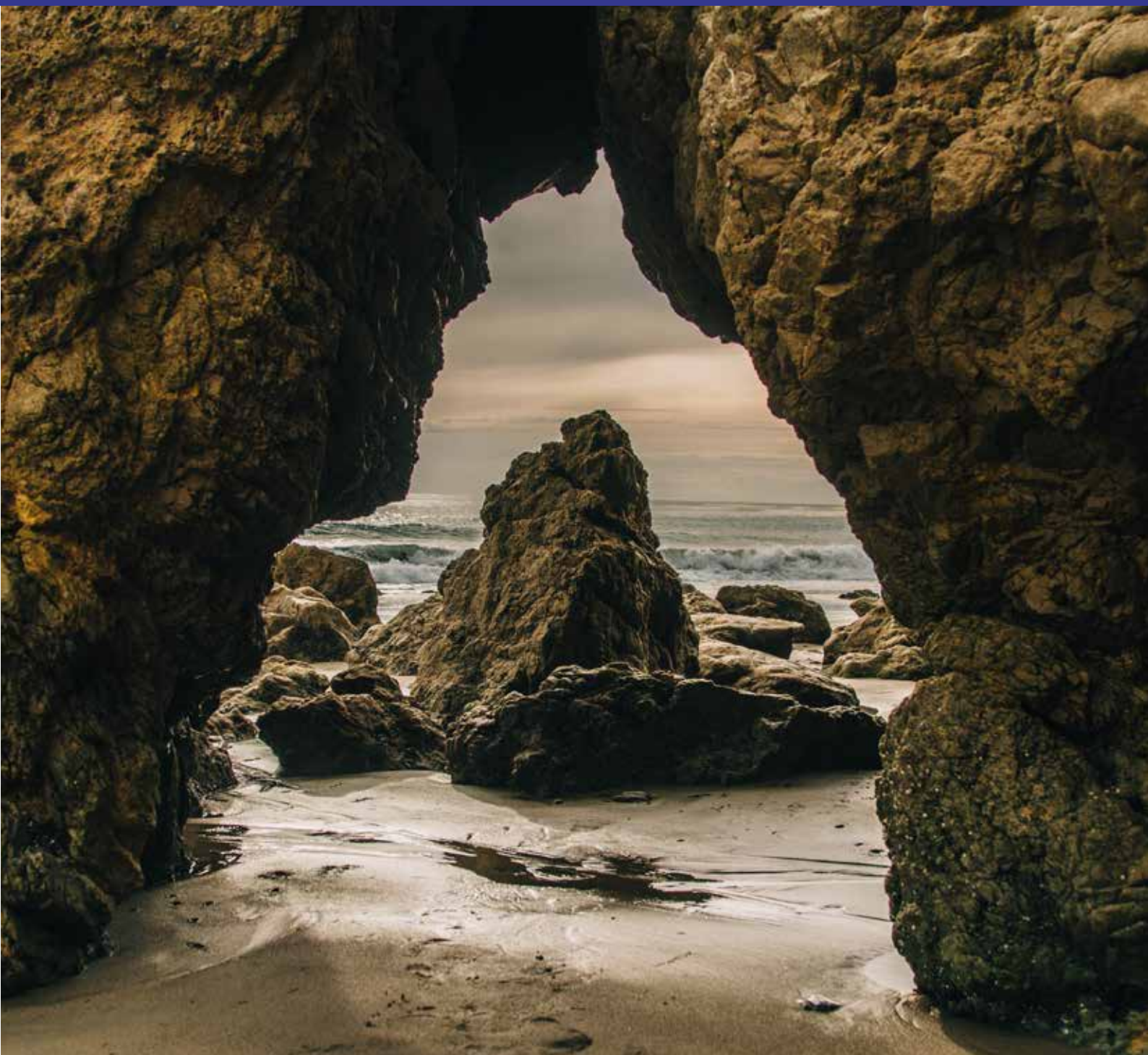
Acts 13:22

And David shepherded them with integrity of heart; with skillful hands he led them.

Psalms 78:72

2

THE INNER SELF AND OUTWARD APPEARANCE



Like Samuel, we have a tendency to be influenced by someone's outward appearance. But as we've just seen, the inner self is far more important. Immediately after he is anointed as king, God's Holy Spirit begins to do the work of preparing David for his task as king. What follows is a glimpse of this in the way David is now seen.

INNER TOOLS

So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed David in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the LORD came powerfully upon David.

1 Samuel 16:13

EXTERNAL IMPACT

"I have seen the son of Jesse of Bethlehem who knows how to play the lyre. He is a brave man and a warrior. He speaks well and is a fine-looking man. And the LORD is with him."

1 Samuel 16:18

PERSONAL APPLICATION

1. To what extent are your inner self and outward appearance in balance?
2. How do you experience the work of the Holy Spirit in your personal life?
3. How does this affect your work, family, and environment?
4. Which natural talents and spiritual gifts are currently being developed in your life?
5. How do you see the Lord is with you in your environment?

3

FROM SHEPHERD
TO GIANT-KILLER

The time between his calling and anointing and the actual moment David becomes king is seven years. In this between-time, there are both high and low points. God uses both highs and lows to shape David, preparing him for the tasks ahead.

In most of these experiences, David is encouraged to leave his familiar surroundings in order to learn to trust God and to move outside of his comfort zone.

David said to the Philistine, "You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come to you in the name of the LORD Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel...this day the LORD will deliver you into my hands...All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the LORD saves, for the battle is the LORD's..."

1 Samuel 17: 45-47

The battle with Goliath turns David from a shepherd into a Giant-Killer. His story teaches us how he, and also we, can become Giant-Killers.

WHAT MAKES DAVID INTO A GIANT-KILLER?

1 SAMUEL 17

1. To defeat giants you have to first defeat your daily problems (34-35).
2. To defeat giants you have to focus on God, not on the giant (26, 45).
3. To defeat giants you must not listen to the wrong people (28, 33, 42, 43).
4. To defeat giants you have to learn how to deal with fear (32).
5. To defeat giants you have to remember past experiences, especially victories (34, 35).
6. To defeat giants you have to have faith in God's work in and through you (37).
7. To defeat giants you have to fight with your own weapons, not someone else's (38-40).
8. To defeat giants you have to believe in a higher goal (45-47).
9. To defeat giants you have to meet the enemy face to face. (48, 49).
10. Giant-Killers inspire those around them to also defeat giants (52, 53).

4 FROM GIANT-KILLER TO SPEAR-DODGER



After his victory over Goliath, David quickly rises in prestige and position. He befriended Jonathan, led the army in victories, and eventually became an army commander. Everyone loved him. The path to becoming king was opened before him.

Whatever mission Saul sent him on, David was so successful that Saul gave him a high rank in the army. This pleased all the troops, and Saul's officers as well.

1 Samuel 18:5

Until the moment that a song was sung giving David more honour than Saul. Saul became jealous, probably beginning to realize that David had a chance at being his successor.

Saul was very angry; this song displeased him greatly. "They have credited David with tens of thousands," he thought. "But me with only thousands. What more can he get but the kingdom?" And from that time on Saul kept a close eye on David.

1 Samuel 18: 8-9

Saul had a spear in his hand and he hurled it, saying to himself, "I'll pin David to the wall." But David eluded him twice. Saul was afraid of David, because the LORD was with David but had departed from Saul.

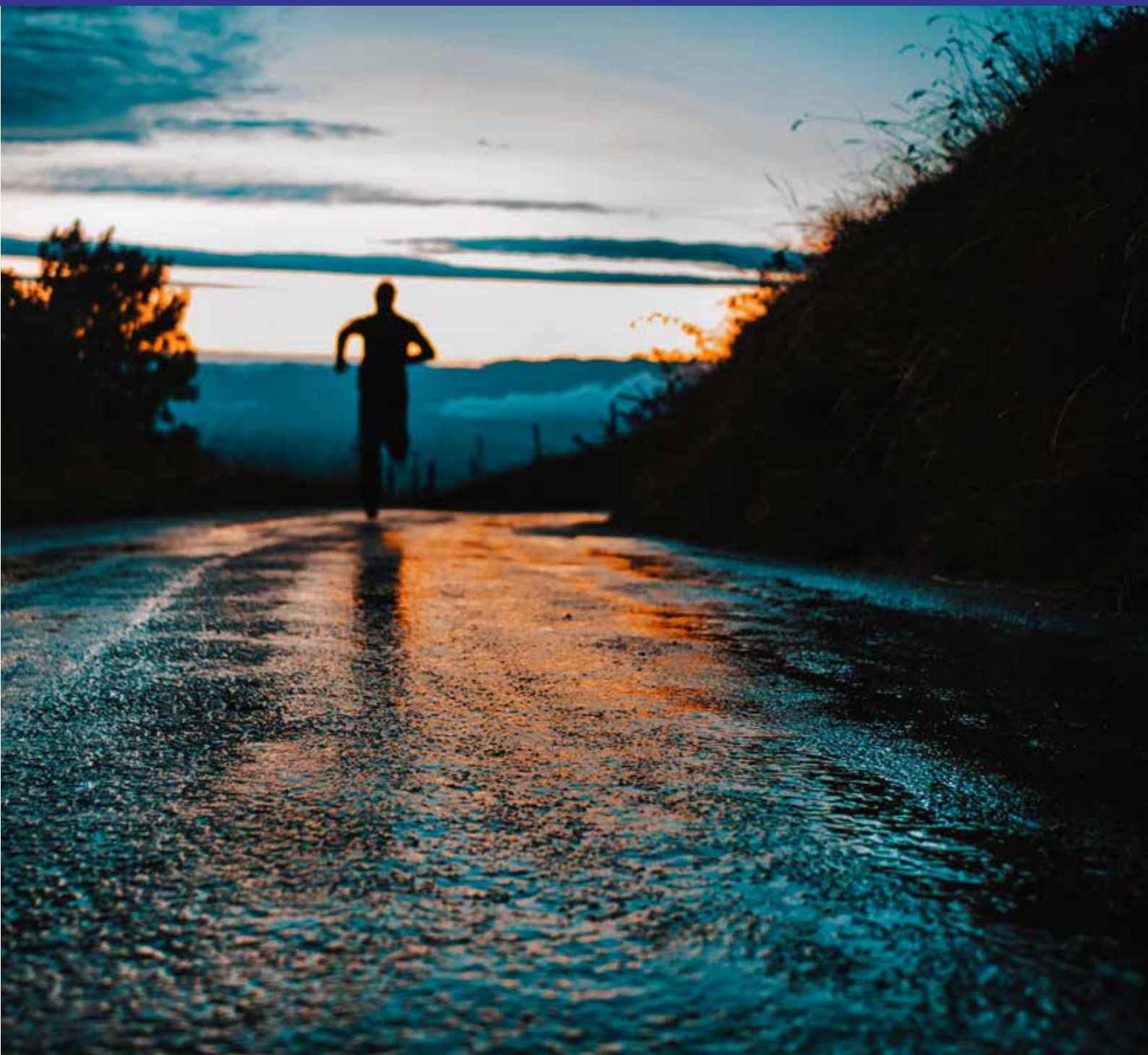
1 Samuel 18:10b-12

PERSONAL APPLICATION

1. With regard to Saul's jealousy: how important is a promotion to you?
2. Are you ambitious?
3. What if your colleagues or competition are more successful? What does this mean to you?
4. In regards to David's reaction: what do you do when someone throws a spear (slander, criticism) at you?
5. What have you learned in dealing with spear-throwers?
6. To what extent are you a spear-thrower?

5

CONFIRMATION AND DISCOURAGEMENT



On his way to becoming king, David is confronted with the affirmation that he is on the right track, but also with disappointment. Both are a part of life, and just like David we need to learn how to deal with both in a good way. Here it is also important to realize that everybody does this differently.

When Saul saw how successful David was, he was afraid of him. But all Israel and Judah loved David, because he led them in their campaigns.

1 Samuel 18:15-16

Then David fled from Naioth at Ramah and went to Jonathan and asked, "What have I done? What is my crime? How have I wronged your father, that he is trying to kill me?"

1 Samuel 20:1

David took these words to heart and was very much afraid of Achish, king of Gath. So he pretended to be insane in their presence; and while he was in their hands he acted like a madman, making marks on the doors of the gate and letting saliva run down his beard.

1 Samuel 21:12-13

PERSONAL APPLICATION

1. What has encouraged you lately, confirming that you are on the right track or in the right place?
2. Who or what has discouraged you lately, or questioned you?
3. How do you deal with difficulties, such as rejection, fear, and losing control over your life? Men find the latter especially difficult.
4. To what extent are you a spiritual sounding board, able to help those you have encountered who have faced difficulties or who have become embittered in one way or another?

6

THE IMPORTANCE OF GOOD FRIENDSHIPS



David had at least two good friends in his life. One was Jonathan, Saul's son, and the other was Husai, called David's confidant and friend during his reign (2 Chronicles 27:33). In addition, we discover that David had a close relationship with the thirty-seven heroes mentioned.

In the history of David and Jonathan, we find five traits that characterize true friendship, including the following:

- | | |
|---|--------------------|
| 1. A willingness to share yourself with one another | - 1 Samuel 18:3-4. |
| 2. To protect and stand up for one another | - 1 Samuel 19:1-7. |
| 3. To be there for one another | - 1 Samuel 20:1-4. |
| 4. To encourage one another in the Lord | - 1 Samuel 23:17. |
| 5. To rejoice in the success of one another | - 1 Samuel 23:17. |

PERSONAL APPLICATION

1. Describe your friendships.
2. What do they mean to you?
3. To what extent do the above traits characterize your friendships?
4. What might threaten a friendship?

7

WAITING ON GOD'S TIMING

David is on the run from Saul. Every day the question arises: *will I survive the day?* Then fate favours him and twice he has an opportunity to kill Saul. What timing. Yet both times David decides not to kill Saul because he believes that God has the right timing in his hands. *He will appoint me as king in his timing and in his wisdom, therefore I need to wait until it's the right moment.*

The men said, "This is the day the LORD spoke of when he said to you, 'I will give your enemy into your hands to deal with as you wish.'" Then David crept up unnoticed and cut off a corner of Saul's robe. Afterward, David was conscience-stricken for having cut off a corner of his robe. He said to his men, "The LORD forbid that I do such a thing to my master, the LORD's anointed, or lay my hand on him; for he is the anointed of the LORD.

1 Samuel 24:4-6

...and there was Saul lying asleep in the camp with his spear stuck in the ground near his head. Abner and the soldiers were lying around him. Abishai said to David, "Today God has delivered your enemy into your hands. Now let me pin him to the ground with one thrust of the spear; I won't strike him twice." But David said to Abishai, "Don't destroy him! Who can lay a hand on the LORD's anointed and not be guiltless? As surely as the LORD lives," he said, "the LORD himself will strike him..."

1 Samuel 26:7-10

Saul could not wait for God's timing, which resulted in him losing God's favour (1 Samuel 13).

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Someone once said, We must do God's work in God's wisdom with God's people in God's timing. Apparently you can do the right thing at the wrong moment, which results in missing the target.

1. How do you know if something is in God's timing?
2. Can you develop the ability to know God's timing? If so, how?
3. Do you have experiences involving doing something too soon or too late?
4. Have you experienced God's intervention in your own life, i.e. the place or situation in which you now find yourself?



8

STAYING IN THE BATTLE



After David has been king for some time, he decides to no longer join his men on the battlefield, although this is part of his job description...

It seems that David is choosing for a quieter life. Precisely at that moment David becomes more vulnerable to temptation and falls for Bathsheba, his neighbour's wife. This would never have happened if David had been in the place he was supposed to be.

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...

2 Samuel 11:1-2

Many leading men in the Bible become complacent in the second part of their lives, once they think they have 'arrived.' Therefore, this biblical story of David and Bathsheba serves as a warning to us.

PERSONAL APPLICATION

1. Do you experience temptations or spiritual struggles? In which areas?
2. Do you recognize the trap into which David stepped in your own life?
3. How do you deal with temptations and spiritual struggles in your life?

Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God, and he will come near to you.

James 4: 7-8

9

DREAMING GOD'S DREAMS



Look! I live in a palace made of cedar, while the ark of God is in a tent. "Do what your heart tells you," Nathan responds. "Indeed, the LORD is on your side." But on that very night the LORD said to Nathan, "Tell my servant David...you will not build a house for me, your son Solomon will build my house."

2 Samuel 7:2 and 13

Then David gave his son Solomon the plans for the portico of the temple, its buildings, its storerooms, its upper parts, its inner rooms, and the place of atonement. He gave him the plans of all that the Spirit had put in his mind...

1 Chronicles 28:11

David had his own personal desires, but there were not God's desires for him. Someone else would fulfil David's deepest desire. It is remarkable that David doesn't become angry, but instead does the following:

1. Is satisfied by God's purposes for him: finishing as a good king, a 'man after God's heart'.
2. Supports the person(s) who will fulfill his deepest desire.

When we look at God's deepest desires and purposes, it is to bring everything in heaven and earth together in unity under the fullness of Jesus Christ at the right time (Ephesians 1:9-11).

Our destiny lies in Jesus Christ (Ephesians 1:11), to be the image of God's Son (Romans 8:29) and to be his Bride, so that we may share in his glory (Revelation 19, 21:2,9).

PERSONAL APPLICATION

1. What are your dreams?
2. Connect this to the idea that God's desire for your life is predominately to shape you into the image of Jesus Christ (Romans 8: 28-30).
3. To what extent has your dream changed, grown, or partially disappeared?
4. How did this happen?



LEADERSHIP FROM A BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE

Leadership Dynamics (LD) is a Christian advice and training center that deals with leadership development and coaches potential spiritual leaders within churches, communities, and Christian organizations. LD uses the Bible as a starting point because of its many healthy leadership principles, such as the book of Proverbs.

LD began in 2004 in response to a vision and calling that Eugene Poppe received years before. Currently the LD team consists of three advisors/trainers and a part time office worker. The office is located in Renswoude, the Netherlands.

LD's goal is to provide and assist potential spiritual leaders in discovering, developing, and applying leadership skills for the glory of God and the furthering of His kingdom.

www.leadershipdynamics.nl

+ EUROPARTNERS

EUROPARTNERS IS A MOVEMENT OF BUSINESS LEADERS AND (YOUNG) PROFESSIONALS WHO DESIRE TO HELP THEIR FRIENDS AND PEERS TO CONNECT TO JESUS CHRIST

OUR DREAM

It is our dream that all business leaders, -owners and (young) professionals accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour. Moreover, that they will reflect Jesus Christ and the kingdom of God in the way they behave, speak and do business, so that all people will honour and glorify God for who He is.

OUR STRATEGY

We mobilize and train Christian business leaders, -owners and (young) professionals to be an ambassador of Christ in their everyday life. We do this according to 2 Corinthians 5:20: "As Christian businesspeople we are marketplace ambassadors of Christ. God is making His appeal through us; to beg the world on behalf of Christ, to be reconciled to God."

OUR ACTIVITIES

- **Resources and training programs** to help businesspeople and (young) professionals grow spiritually and reflect the Kingdom in the way they do business.
- **An Annual Conference** where businesspeople, (young) professionals and ministry leaders can meet for friendship and encouragement. It is a place of inspiration, reflection and training.
- **The Young Professionals Academy** to equip and inspire young professionals to become a marketplace ambassador and a ministry leader in their nation. With mid-weeks or weekend meetings, trainings and a mentoring program.
- **Personal support and coaching** of business leaders and their teams on spiritual growth and achieving their goals in the best possible way.
- **CBMC training and support** to start a national CBMC ministry based on teams, prayer, leadership, evangelism and discipleship.
- **Event support** with a network of volunteers, professionals, speakers and businesspeople that can serve the various national ministries in outreach and in reaching businesspeople and (young) professionals in their nation.

TARGET GROUPS OF EUROPARTNERS

We focus on business leaders, business owners, (young) professionals and ministry leaders in business.

More information: www.europartners.org

Europartners is part of the CBMC movement





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