

ISSUE  
**00**

**CHRONICLES OF FAITH**

# DAVID<sup>®</sup>

LifeStone



**— 5 STONES —**

BIBLE STUDY

**ALL  
AGES**

# DAVID'S

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## FIVE STONES

### INTRODUCTION

#### **FIVE STEPS & FIVE STONES!**

**W**ELCOME TO DAVID'S FIVE STONES,  
A COMICS-BASED BIBLE STUDY.

THIS STRAIGHTFORWARD REVIEW HELPS  
PARENTS, GUARDIANS, SUNDAY SCHOOL  
TEACHERS, AND YOUTH LEADERS LEVERAGE  
THE EXCITEMENT INSPIRED BY THE  
AWARD-WINNING COMIC SERIES AND HELPS  
YOUNG READERS GROW IN THEIR DESIRE TO  
KNOW MORE ABOUT THE WORD OF GOD WHILE  
ALSO REINFORCING TRUST AND DEPENDENCE  
ON GOD AND THE BIBLE.





Using the David's Five Stones Bible study is simple:



- 1 - READ THE COMIC**
- 2 - STUDY THE SCRIPTURES**
- 3 - USE THE STONES**
- 4 - CHALLENGE THE CHILD**
- 5 - PRAY FOR CHANGE**

**B**ELIEVE IT OR NOT, THIS STUDY HAS ONLY FIVE SIMPLE STEPS AS A PART OF THIS STUDY, WITH THE BULK OF THE INTERACTION HAPPENING IN STEP 3: USE THE STONES.

EACH QUESTION IN THIS STUDY IS CALLED A STONE. THEY SYMBOLIZE THE SPIRITUAL TOOLS AND WEAPONS WE CAN CARRY WITH US EVERY DAY TO HELP US REMEMBER THESE STORIES FROM GOD'S WORD AND TO FOCUS ON USING THEM AS WE GROW AS DISCIPLES OF CHRIST.

TO MAKE ALL OF THIS EVEN EASIER FOR THE PARENTS, GUARDIANS, OR LEADERS OUT THERE, WE HAVE DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS TO GET STARTED.

# 1 - READ THE COMIC

***Be sure you've read Issue 00 of Chronicles of Faith: David***

because you can bet that the students will have done so. You'll need to be able to discuss specifics about the story, images, and moments in the narrative of the comic. You'll want the students to know that you've read the comic to build authenticity with them.

Besides, **READING COMICS IS FAST AND FUN!**

Bring your excitement and enthusiasm for the comic to your teaching time and let the kids see and feel it!

## Comic Focus

David's Five Stones is a high-level Bible study designed to pair with the Chronicles of Faith: David comic series. Again, this Bible study should be used in conjunction with ***Issue 00 of Chronicles of Faith: David***, so be sure you've read this comic before continuing.

# 2 - STUDY THE SCRIPTURES

## Scripture Focus

***Issue 00 of Chronicles of Faith: David*** is an imaginative retelling of the parable of the lost sheep as told by Jesus in ***Luke 15:3-7*** and ***Matthew 18:12-14***. Elements of ***Psalms 23*** are also evident in this comic story, as are concepts of the Good Shepherd as described in ***John 10:11***. As you read over these Scriptures, dwell and pray on the message that Jesus communicated: that each of us is valuable and loved by our Shepherd, much like the one sheep who wandered away from the ninety-nine. Also, meditate on the characteristics of the Good Shepherd as you study ***Psalms 23*** and how these characteristics are seen in the life of Christ. *NOTE: Let your excitement for the comic be overshadowed by the true focus—Jesus, our Good Shepherd—and be willing to share your greater enthusiasm for the Scriptures with your students.*

### 3 - USE THE STONES

David's five stones are simply five themed questions that apply to each comic and guide the Bible study. Once you've gathered the students (whether in a classroom setting, your home, a library, or even a park), ask the following questions:

#### DAVID'S FIRST STONE (PRACTICAL)



***Q: If you disobey your parents, teachers, or other authority figures, what do you think should happen?***

***A:*** Answers may vary, but generally, the discussion should center around the concept of **suffering the consequences of our actions**. *This example is clearly seen in the comic with Sheepe and her disobedience to her shepherd, David.*

However, be sure to point out that this is not always the case: sometimes there is leniency and in some cases, even forgiveness. God, of course, is the supreme example of this forgiveness:

***“For you, O Lord, are good and forgiving, abounding in steadfast love to all who call upon you.”***

- Psalm 86:5

#### DAVID'S SECOND STONE (WISDOM)



***Q: David the shepherd gives Sheepe instructions in the comic just like King David gives young Solomon instructions, but Sheepe and Solomon react very differently. How do Sheepe and Solomon each react, and why do you think those reactions are different?***

***A:*** Sheepe disobeys her shepherd (*young David*) while Solomon obeys his father (*King David*) when it is time to go to bed. The difference is that Solomon has just learned from Sheepe's lesson after hearing her story—that it is good to heed the words of those who are in authority over us (like a father, a shepherd, or the words of Scripture).

***“Hear, O sons, a father's instruction, and be attentive, that you may gain insight, for I give you good precepts; do not forsake my teaching.***

- Proverbs 4:1-2

**DAVID'S THIRD STONE (REFLECTION)**

**Q:** *Why do you think that we, like Sheepe, disobey instructions?*

**A:** Answers may vary, but parents and teachers should spend some time talking about temptation and how we often focus on doing things our own way and not God's way. Point out the Biblical truth that this desire is part of our sinful nature but that God provides a way out of temptation.

***"...no one understands; no one seeks for God."***

*- Romans 3:11*

***"No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it."***

*- 1 Corinthians 10:13*

**DAVID'S FOURTH STONE (NARRATIVE)**

**Q:** *A visitor will be coming to Jesse's house soon. Who do you think it will be?*

**A:** If the children cannot guess, instruct them to read **1 Samuel 16** and see whether they can discover the answer. If they cannot, let them know that it is Samuel, the prophet of Israel, and he is coming to anoint the next king of Israel.

*(In fact, we tell this story in Chronicles of Faith: David, Issue 01.)*



**DAVID'S FIFTH STONE (GOSPEL)**

**Q: Why do you think David tried multiple times to get the bear's attention?**

**A:** Because in this story and in Scripture, David often displays characteristics of God, and in particular, Jesus. Just as Jesus offered Himself as a sacrifice for the sins of all mankind, David was ready to lay down his life for Sheepe.

***“For thus says the Lord God: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out. As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that have been scattered, so will I seek out my sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness...”***

- Ezekiel 34:11.

## **4 - CHALLENGE THE CHILD**

Generally children will rise to the expectations of the adults in their lives. In fact, setting examples for the younger generation and encouraging them are some of the commands that God gives to us in **Titus 2**. Children look for examples in their lives to follow and this is one of the reasons why comics are so successful and so enduring: as children see their heroes come to life on the printed page, they desire to emulate them. And so, we look to leverage both of these truths in this study. Once the **USE THE STONES** section of the study is over, read the following or paraphrase into your own words: David, who scripture calls ***A MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART*** (**1 Samuel 13:14; Acts 31:13**), was a great man but he was also just a man. For all of the amazing things that the Bible tells us that he did, he also had many failures too. One of the things that makes David remarkable, and why we're still talking about him three thousand years later, was the way he reacted to these failures: with humility and repentance.

He admitted the wrong he had done, why it was wrong, and asked God for forgiveness. I would like to challenge all of us to do the same: when we do things that are wrong, first of all, admit it, and then ask for forgiveness with a humble spirit. Ask for that forgiveness from God and from the people that we've wronged. Once we've done that, trust that God will help us not do those things again.

## 5 - PRAY FOR CHANGE

Regardless of how well someone might be doing in their relationship with Christ, we are all sinners who fall short of the mark of God's holiness and perfection. The gradual and constant progression toward these goals is the ever-present work of the Holy Spirit, and this progression is known as *sanctification*. As such, praying for change in a child's life is not an admission of failure or that the child is not good enough, but merely recognition that the child, like all of us, is a work in progress that will continue until we are glorified with Christ in heaven. So praying for change in each of our lives is good, desirable, and necessary. As you conclude this lesson, pray the following prayer, or however the Holy Spirit leads you to pray:

- FATHER, WE THANK YOU FOR THIS TIME TOGETHER. WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR HOLY WORD AND THE TRUTH IT CONTAINS. WE THANK YOU FOR THIS TIME TO TALK ABOUT IT TOGETHER AND FOR A NIFTY COMIC THAT SHOWS US AN IDEA OF WHAT THESE THINGS MIGHT HAVE BEEN LIKE. I PRAY FOR EACH OF US, THAT WE WOULD READ THE BIBLE MORE AND DELIGHT IN IT, STARTING WITH THE STORY OF DAVID.
- WE ASK THAT YOUR HOLY SPIRIT INSPIRE US AS WE READ IT AND PROMPT US TO BE MORE LIKE YOUR SON, JESUS. WE PRAY THAT WE WILL BECOME MORE OBEDIENT TO THE RIGHTFUL AND TRUE AUTHORITIES IN OUR LIVES, AND WHEN WE ARE DISOBEDIENT, THAT WE WILL ADMIT OUR FAILURES AND SEEK FORGIVENESS. THANK YOU, JESUS FOR BEING OUR GOOD SHEPHERD AND FOR YOUR SACRIFICE, WHICH PROVIDES THE ULTIMATE FORGIVENESS FOR SINS, AND THE SINS OF ALL THOSE IN THE WORLD WHO BELIEVE IN YOU AND REPENT. IN CHRIST'S NAME WE PRAY,

AMEN



  
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