

ISSUE

01

CHRONICLES OF FAITH

DAVID

LifeStone



— 5 STONES —

BIBLE STUDY

ALL
AGES

DAVID'S

FIVE STONES

INTRODUCTION

FIVE STEPS & FIVE STONES!

WELCOME 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**

BELIEVE 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 01 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 01 of Chronicles of Faith: David***, so be sure you've read this comic before continuing.

2 - STUDY THE SCRIPTURES

Scripture Focus

Issue 01 of Chronicles of Faith: David is an imaginative retelling of account of King Saul, the prophet Samuel, and David, as revealed in **1 Samuel 15:13 – 1 Samuel 16:13**. A careful reading and study of these Scriptures is highly recommended. The narrative of the comic drops you deep into the account at the time when Saul's sanity begins to unravel and God's prophet, Samuel, searches for the one to anoint as the new king of Israel. You will want to be able to discuss these events, having read and understood the account from the Bible. Approach this lesson as anything other than a dry, boring history lesson; rather, approach it as a cinematic experience, filled with real characters, emotions, motivations, and thrilling plot twists!

NOTE: *Never forget that the ultimate purpose of this account is to point to King Jesus—the eternal and true King of Israel, of whom Saul and David were merely precursors. Always be ready and willing to share your enthusiasm for Christ with your students.*

"But in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect,"

- 1 Peter 3:15

3 - USE THE STONES

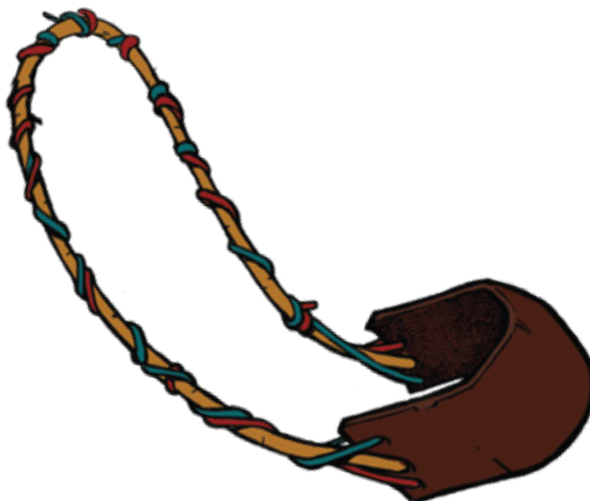
David's five stones are simply five themed questions that apply to each comic and guide the Bible study. Once you've gathered the students (whether in a classroom setting, your home, a library, or even a park), ask the following questions:

DAVID'S FIRST STONE (PRACTICAL)

Q: *Do you know anyone who is humble? Describe him or her.
What are your opinions about this humble person?
Are humble people usually popular?*

A: Answers may vary, but generally, the discussion should center around the fact that humble people are generally pleasant to be around, easy to work with and trustworthy, but often the last to be acknowledged or recognized in any significant way. Open the Scriptures and see the many things that God tells us about being humble: **Numbers 12:3; Psalm 25:9; Proverbs 3:34; Micah 6:8; Matthew 18:1-35 (esp. verses 3-4); Matthew 23:12; Romans 12:10, 16; Philippians 2:3; James 4:6-7, 10; and 1 Peter 5:5.**

Look to our ultimate example of how we should act, Jesus Himself, and His mind-blowing example of humility: *"Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking on the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And, being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross."* - **Philippians 2:5-8**



DAVID'S SECOND STONE (WISDOM)

Q: *David is anointed as king partly because he is humble. Does that mean everyone who is humble gets to become a king or a queen?*

A: *Have fun with this question and let your children or students dream for a few moments about what it might be like to be a king or queen. We all, deep down, have thought about it at some point in our lives. Then have them read **Proverbs 21:1** - "The king's heart is a stream of water in the hand of the Lord; he turns it wherever he will." This verse makes it very clear that even kings are subject to God, so if you get to become a king or queen, or a boss, the leader of a team, or the person who is picked first for kickball, you should still strive to be humble. In fact, if you're a leader and are still humble before the Lord, then it's better, because you can glorify God to more people!*

DAVID'S THIRD STONE (REFLECTION)

Q: *Why is it hard to be consistently humble?*

A: Answers may vary, but parents and teachers should spend some time discussing the fact that deep down, all people desire to be the "center of the universe." We, as sinful people, want to be the most important, the most loved, and the one who gets all the attention. Amazingly, God's intentional focus on us and love for us (He died for us, after all) satisfies this desire—**IF** we believe in Him, repent of our sins, and are restored back into relationship with Him. We must all make a choice: either we humble ourselves before Him and yield our lives to Him, **OR** we ignore or reject God, finding ourselves on an endless and empty mission to acquire adoration from some false source.

So when we try to be humble without submitting to God, it rings hollow and unsatisfying.

WE WILL ALWAYS FAIL IN BEING HUMBLE IF WE'RE ONLY TRYING TO EXALT OURSELVES.

This is why Jesus taught so often about being a servant; one such lesson is found in His response to the scribes and Pharisees in **Matthew 23**. Being truly humble is a core theme of David's story as well and shows up time and time again, beginning with his attitude during the anointing by Samuel as Israel's new king.

DAVID'S FOURTH STONE (NARRATIVE)



Q: How do you think David felt when he was the last brother to be presented to Samuel?

A: Encourage the children to discuss this point. Many will relate to the fear of being picked last, or at least ***NOT*** being picked first. But, as we know, in hindsight, God's course for David's life was already set and in motion (just like His plans for each of us). Help your students understand that, even when something like getting picked last happens, ***GOD IS ALWAYS TRUSTWORTHY AND WILL ALWAYS HOLD THEM SECURELY.***

Also, God is the source of our humility. When things don't go our way, it is an opportunity to express both humility and faith in our great God.

Let your students know that in these moments, they are ***JUST LIKE DAVID***. God sees their heart. In fact, it is the reaction of their heart that God thinks is most important, so encourage them to accept these moments in their lives with a humble spirit! *"But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart."*

- 1 Samuel 16:7

DAVID'S FIFTH STONE (GOSPEL)

Q: Why is this account of David's anointing as king even important?

A: In the Bible, David foreshadowed **Jesus Christ, the Messiah**. David's life, reign, and anointing, which happened hundreds and hundreds of years before Jesus, were hints of Jesus' life and ministry.

Specifically, David's anointing, his role as a humble shepherd, and his unjust persecution all point to Jesus as the Ultimate King, Good Shepherd, and Lord, as we see in **2 Samuel 22:51, 1 Chronicles 28:4, Psalm 89:3-4**, and many other Scriptures. *"Behold my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in him my soul delights; I have put my Spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations."*

- Isaiah 42:1



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:

In this comic, we see a stark difference between Saul and David, and we also see a stark difference between how God reacts to these two men. Saul, who decided to do things his own way and ignore the words of the Lord, soon finds himself wrapped up in his own dark desires; while David, who loves the Lord, thinks only of what God would have him do from day to day. Whether it is faithfully tending the sheep, patiently waiting until he is picked last, or being anointed as the new king of Israel, David consistently puts God's desires before and above his own.

Scripture consistently calls David ***a man after God's own heart*** (**1 Samuel 13:14, Acts 13:22**) and there is no doubt that David's spirit of humility was a large part of why God called him and used him. *You too can be called and used by God in a mighty way—and a great place to begin is by becoming humble.* Like David, you must lay down your desires and want only what God wants; align and submit yourself to God so you can then be used by Him.

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:

- GOD, WE THANK YOU FOR TODAY AND FOR THIS TIME WHEN WE CAN ALL BE TOGETHER TO TALK ABOUT THESE AWESOME ACCOUNTS OF SAUL AND DAVID'S LIVES IN THE OLD TESTAMENT. THANK YOU FOR SHOWING US BOTH BAD AND GOOD EXAMPLES OF HOW WE OFTEN ACT AND HOW WE SHOULD ACT.
- THANK YOU AS WELL FOR ALL OF THE AMAZING VERSES IN YOUR HOLY WORD THAT HELP US UNDERSTAND HOW TO BE HUMBLE AND HOW TO LIVE IN A WAY THAT PLEASES YOU AND ECHOES THE LIFE OF YOUR SON AND OUR SAVIOR, JESUS CHRIST. HELP US TO LIVE LIKE HIM, STARTING WITH BEING HUMBLE EVERY DAY AND FOLLOWING HIS TRUTH, SO THAT WE MIGHT GLORIFY YOU. IN CHRIST'S MIGHTY NAME WE PRAY.

AMEN


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