

JACKSONVILLE CHAPEL

THE LIFE OF DAVID

Week 6- INFLUENCE (1 CHRONICLES 28–29)



MAIN POINT

Our days on earth are numbered. Use yours to leave a legacy of passion, generosity, and living for something bigger than yourself.

INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to help get the conversation going.

In your opinion, who is the greatest athlete of all time? Defend your choice.

What contributed to his or her legacy? What is he or she known for? How did your choice use the influence he or she had?

What type of legacy do you want to leave? What does a legacy tell you about a person's priorities?

UNDERSTANDING

Unpack the biblical text to discover what Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

As David's life neared its end, David sought to use his influence to create a lasting legacy. David wanted to honor God and bless the people of Israel.

> HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ 1 CHRONICLES 28:1-8.

What kept David from building the temple?

How do you think David felt about not being able to build the temple? When was a time when your past kept you from being able to accomplish something? How did you react?

What choices did David have when it came to the temple? How did David use his influence for good? How could he have used it for bad?

How do you respond when God says “no”? How can you still honor God like David did when the occasion arises?

David's history as a warrior king made him unable to build the temple. God wanted a peaceful king to build His house. David could have pouted or been irreverent. Instead, David sought to make the best out of his situation and influence. David prepared the way for the temple, buying the land and collecting resources. David used his influence to glorify God as he could even though it was not the way that he had hoped it would go. Like David, we need to honor God no matter the circumstance. If we are unable to serve God the way we want we should seek to honor God in the best way that we can, whether it be through blessing, generosity, or prayer.

> HAVE ANOTHER VOLUNTEER READ 1 CHRONICLES 28:9-21.

How was Solomon continuing David's legacy? What was David calling Solomon to do?

How are you continuing living out the kingdom (rule and reign of Christ)? What does the extending the kingdom call you to do?

Solomon was continuing David's legacy by committing to build the Temple. David gave Solomon the ability to build through his generosity. We are called to continue the legacy of Christ's church by sharing Him with the nations and by using our influence and resources to honor Him.

What was Solomon's motive and support to live out the influence that David was giving to him?

What has God provided for you to have an abundant Christian walk?

Solomon had God as his motive and support for kingship. We, too, have God as a constant source of support for us. Just as Solomon followed his father's advice and trusted in God, we should continue the legacy of the church by hoping and trusting in God.

> HAVE ANOTHER VOLUNTEER READ 1 CHRONICLES 29:1-11.

What did David do with his wealth and influence? How did he view his possessions and money?

How can you use your wealth and influence to make an impact?

What things do you consider yours? What would you find the most difficult to freely hand over to God?

If you were to give your very best to God, what would that include?

Acknowledging that everything we have belongs to God is the first step in considering what we're willing to sacrifice for His kingdom. But the trick is that it's not really a sacrifice if it's already His. If we are going to answer God's calling as a church, as a small group, and as individuals, we have to understand that giving back to the work of God what already belongs to Him isn't a sacrifice.

> HAVE A FINAL VOLUNTEER READ 1 CHRONICLES 29:12-20.

What does David mean by the question posed in verse 14, "But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this?"

Since our very lives are gifts from God, how can we effectively give ourselves back to God in an act of worship? (Romans 12:1-2)

If you, like David, could leave a legacy with your life and possessions, what would you want that legacy to be?

Great things can be accomplished when we give generously for the common good and God's glory, both as individuals and as a church. As the people of Israel followed David's example of sacrifice, we follow God's: "For God loved the world in this way: He gave His One and Only Son," John 3:16 says.

What are some practical ways you can use the things God has given you for His purposes?

Notice how the word "heart" is employed in this section. David knew God tests (or examines) the heart and is pleased with a heart filled with integrity and sincerity. David knew that giving was not about money. It was (and is) never about money. It was (and is) always about the heart, faith, and relationship with God.

What things most frequently keep our hearts from giving joyfully and faithfully?

What are some reasons why you think David prayed as he did for Solomon?

David led the way by willingly offering his fortune to the construction of the temple. The people also gave willingly. Their hearts were right and their giving reflected it. They not only had the ability to give; they had the willingness to give.

CHURCH APPLICATION

Help your group identify ways this passage impacts your small group and the Chapel family.

How can Jacksonville Chapel better extend the kingdom of Christ in North Jersey?

What could be some of the results if everyone in our church joyfully and generously gave to God?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives. Consider splitting up into smaller groups of 2-3 to encourage vulnerability and accountability.

What does it look like to trust in God for motivation and support as you seek to use your influence and legacy?

Who is watching you and following your example of generosity? How does this affect your giving?

PRAY

Close by reminding your group that all we have is from God, we are to give back to Him. Ask God to show your group areas of their lives where they may be clinging to things too tightly. Also pray that they would use all they have been given for Him and His glory and to bless others.

FOLLOW UP

Midway through this week, send a follow-up email to your group with some or all of the following information:

- Questions to consider as they continue to reflect on what they learned this week:
 - What is God telling you to change in order to align your life and possessions with His purpose?
 - How have you given of yourself and your possessions to the work of God this week?
- A note of encouragement, following up on any specific prayer requests mentioned during your group gathering.
- The challenge to memorize 1 Chronicles 28:20.

COMMENTARY

1 CHRONICLES 28–29

28:1. For the Chronicler, the questions of who would be the next king and who would build the temple are synonymous. David called another meeting of all the leaders of Israel (the first meeting occurred in chap. 22) in which he reiterated his answer to both questions.

28:2. This last speech by David calls to mind the time many decades earlier when representatives of the tribes came to David and declared, **Here we are, your own flesh and blood** (11:1). Now David addressed the people as my brothers. He reminded the people that he had wanted to build the temple for God's ark (17:1) and as a footstool for our God.

28:3. David disclosed to the people what he had already told Solomon—the reason he could not build the **temple** (22:8; see note at 22:6-10).

28:4-6. David knew he was king only because God had willed it, and that by the same sovereign will God had now chosen Solomon as his successor.

28:7. David repeated the covenant that God had made with him—that through Solomon the house of David would continue on the throne (17:12). This was a blessing that Solomon should never take for granted. Having been called to be king by the Lord, Solomon must demonstrate his divine calling by keeping God's commands and ordinances.

28:8. For the first time since God had given the promise to Abraham (see Gen. 15:8), the people were living in the entire territory that God had set aside for them. With a faithful king on the throne and the people following him, this state of affairs could last forever. However, the people as well as the king must keep all of God's commands.

28:9. David turned to Solomon and exhorted him to single-minded devotion to the Lord. He reminded Solomon that nothing else would do because God knows our motivations and intentions (see Ps. 139:1-6). David directed Solomon's commitment not just to the law, but to the Lord. The covenant that God had made with David about the continuation of his house on the throne did not overrule Solomon's obligation to walk with the Lord.

28:10. David exhorted Solomon to be strong. Building the temple would bring about a revision of Israel's system of worship. For hundreds of years, sacrifices had been permitted anywhere in the country under the direction of many different priests. With the coming of the temple, sacrifices would be restricted to Jerusalem only and priests who had been specifically designated for this purpose (see Deut. 12:5-7). Only a strong, powerful leader would be able to sell that idea to all 12 tribes. In fact, as soon as the leadership in Jerusalem became weak and the kingdom split, the sacrificial system fell apart as well (see 2 Chron. 13:9).

28:11-18. David made a public display of handing **Solomon** the information that is recorded in the previous six chapters.

28:20. The king pointed out that the Lord would be with Solomon for the entire building project and beyond. The Lord does not always guarantee success, even for those ministries to which He has called us, but He will always be present with us.

29:1. Turning again to the assembled people, David drew attention to Solomon's youth and lack of experience in the face of the immensity of the task. The temple must honor God, so it must reflect the greatness of God in its operation.

29:2. Since in verse 3 David refers to giving his own wealth, the donations mentioned in this verse must be a part of the spoils of war that David had collected.

29:3-4. After serving as king for 40 years, David had accumulated quite a personal treasure, out of which he made a large contribution, including 100 tons of **gold**.

29:5b. David equated making an offering with consecrating oneself to the Lord. God is never as interested in the

material substance we contribute as He is in our devotion to Him, of which our offering is an expression.

29:9. Obviously, not everyone had abundance to share, but everyone shared in the joy.

29:10. David's lengthy prayer began by focusing on God. He did not minimize the gifts of the people, but he knew that their generosity was a product of God's mercy.

29:11-13. David praised the Lord by declaring who He is and what He had done.

29:14-17. As David continued to focus on God, he acknowledged some important truths. It is not possible to give anything to God because God owns everything. David also declared that it is not possible to deceive God. He knows exactly who is giving willingly out of true devotion to Him and who is giving just to be seen by others. The key is a heart that wants to please God.

29:22. After **sacrifices** and a feast, David made Solomon king for a second time. Commentators are divided on the reference to a first coronation and how to interpret 23:1, which states that David installed Solomon as king. Some interpreters see this verse as a general summary of the events that are amplified in this chapter, but this mention of a second coronation could be an understated reference to the turmoil we read about in 1 Kings 1. This turmoil resulted in David declaring Solomon to be king as an emergency measure in opposition to Adonijah's bid for the throne. In either case, the transfer of power from David to Solomon proceeded smoothly, and he was acclaimed by all Israel.

29:25. The statement that God bestowed on Solomon such royal majesty as had not been bestowed on any king over Israel before him may sound odd since Solomon was preceded on Israel's throne by only two men: Saul and David (see also 2 Chron. 1:12). But the point is that God established Solomon as the standard for grandeur which had never been attained before and which never would be reached again.

29:26-30. These verses summarize David's reign and give an assessment of his success. This formula was applied to every king after David in 2 Chronicles. In each case the Chronicler gives a bottom-line evaluation of each king. For David he has nothing but praise. David lived a long life, indicative of a blessing from God, and he enjoyed riches and honor. The Chronicler also mentions several additional sources of information about David. These ancient books are likely lost, but they could be reflected in our books of 1 and 2 Samuel, which record the ministry of Samuel, Nathan, and Gad during the reign of David (1 Sam. 16:13; 2 Sam. 12:1; 24:11).