

2 Samuel

2 Samuel tells the story of King David – how he consolidated his power after the death of Saul, and made his capital first at Hebron and then at the ancient Jebusite, city of Salem, which he renamed Jerusalem. It tells the story of his spectacular success as a King, as well as his more mixed personal life. Throughout the story runs the theme of his deep relationship with God which shaped who he was, even when he needed to repent.



Look out for...

2 Samuel tells the story of David both as a king and as a human being – look out for the way in which it weaves together these two strands.

This story tells the story of David's great success as a King but keep an eye open for the way in which it also points to the seeds of Israel and Judah's ultimate downfall (hint - the rebellions tell you something about the deep down stability of Israel).

As in 1 Samuel, there are a number of stories that are told twice in slightly different ways, look out for them in the book and ask yourself why they might have been included twice.



What could this mean for me?

The story of David is the story of someone who was deeply flawed and yet had a close relationship with God. Reflect on this and its importance as you read.



Discussion group questions

Were there any parts of the book that you particularly liked or which inspired you?

Were there any parts of the book that you disliked or which troubled you?

What did *you* think the book was about?

Talk about David – what was it, do you think, that has made him such an iconic leader in the minds of so many?

What do you make of David's relationships (with Bathsheba, with his children and with God)? Can we learn anything about who David really was from the way he relates to others (including God)?

2 Samuel tells two versions of David – the great leader and the flawed husband and father. This is surprising for someone who was regarded by them as their greatest King. Why do you think they were so content to do this? Would we be prepared to tell similar stories of our leaders today? Do tales of personal flaws undermine our view of our leaders?