

# BIBLE RUNAWAYS

***There were at least 11 Bible characters who "ran away" when things got tough. They are: Adam, Jonah, Elijah, Mark, Onesimus, Moses, Gideon, Prodigal Son, David, Judas Iscariot, and Peter.***

## Runaway #9 - David

### A Few Thoughts:

- David ran away a number of times in the literal sense.
- He physically ran from King Saul to escape danger and death.
- He physically ran away from his son Absalom who was trying to take the throne.
- **THIS LESSON WILL DISCUSS DAVID RUNNING AWAY FROM HONORING GOD.**
- The name "David" means "Beloved of God".
- Several verses describe David:     "A man after God's own heart."  
  "The Lord was with David."  
  "The Spirit of God came upon David."

1. What kind of a man was David in his early years? Match the columns (Exercise #1)
  - a. 1 Samuel 16:13     \_\_\_ He fought Goliath to honor the Living God.
  - b. 1 Samuel 16:21     \_\_\_ The LORD was with David.
  - c. 1 Samuel 17:15     \_\_\_ He had a reputation among enemies of being faithful.
  - d. 1 Samuel 17:26     \_\_\_ He had a reputation in Israel of being faithful.
  - e. 1 Samuel 18:7       \_\_\_ The Spirit of God came upon David.
  - f. 1 Samuel 18:12     \_\_\_ Even King Saul loved David.
  - g. 1 Samuel 22:2       \_\_\_ David was a very gifted leader.
  - h. 1 Samuel 22:14     \_\_\_ David was faithful & true to his father.
2. What kind of a man was David in his early years? Match the columns (Exercise #2)
  - a. 1 Samuel 23:4       \_\_\_ He was a righteous man & everyone knew it.
  - b. 1 Samuel 23:16     \_\_\_ He showed kindness to his enemies.
  - c. 1 Samuel 24:11     \_\_\_ He honored the things that were important to God.
  - d. 1 Samuel 24:17     \_\_\_ He was fair & unselfish in dealing with people.
  - e. 1 Samuel 25:33     \_\_\_ He prayed to God before making decisions.
  - f. 1 Samuel 25:42     \_\_\_ He married Abigail using the correct rules & attitude.
  - g. 1 Samuel 30:24     \_\_\_ He had a very good friend, Jonathan.
  - h. 2 Samuel 2:6        \_\_\_ He listened to wise counsel & advice.
3. In your early years (16-25), did you live a fairly moral & obedient life?     Yes \_No
4. Were you succeeding in the things you were doing?                             Yes \_No
5. Was your behavior & reputation bringing honor to God & your family?       Yes \_No
6. Was your life consumed with alcohol, drugs, and sexual misconduct?       Yes \_No
7. Did you care back then what God thought about your lifestyle?             Yes \_No
8. Did you care back then about later consequences for your choices?         Yes \_No
9. Can you look back to a turning point in your life (things turned bad)?       Yes \_No

## WHAT HAPPENED TO KING DAVID?

You can study the life of David in more detail on your own. Here's a summary of his downfall.

1.  Yes  No Even though David started out depending on God for all his decisions, he began using his own ideas & strategies to win.
2.  Yes  No David had success in everything he touched; he may have thought all his plans & ideas would turn into successes.
3.  Yes  No The Bible mentions that he frequently was afraid when in tough situations. His fears pushed him to make bad decisions.
4.  Yes  No As his authority & power increased and more and more people feared him, he became more selfish & self-centered.
5.  Yes  No As the responsibilities increased, he became rather unpredictable.
6.  Yes  No He started acting very opposite of his normal behavior.
7.  Yes  No He started becoming less sensitive to God's holiness.

***When we begin slipping as is described above, we are running away from God, from family values, from holy living, from social integrity.***

***May I say in all shame, I have experienced all of these behaviors in my life. The devil does not want men of godliness & integrity; he does not want men to guide others to a relationship with God. HE WILL USE OUR SIN NATURE TO DESTROY US.***

8. Let's focus on two items above: (#5 and #7)

2 Samuel 11:1 *It happened in the spring of the year, at the time when kings go out to battle, that David sent Joab and his servants with him, and all Israel; and they destroyed the people of Ammon and conquered Rabbah. BUT DAVID REMAINED IN JERUSALEM.*

9. King David failed in his duties here. What did he NOT DO? \_\_\_\_\_

***We could say here that instead of going to work, David stayed in bed.***

10. What do all the kings do in the spring? \_\_\_\_\_

11.  Yes  No Running away from God can begin by not taking care of the duties that you are supposed to do.
12.  Yes  No Have you ever experienced selling drugs rather than getting a job that would care for the family & build a good reputation?
13.  Yes  No Have you abused your wife rather than care & cherish her?
14.  Yes  No Have you chosen stealing from others over earning things yourself?

Deuteronomy 7:3 *The Lord has delivered you from your enemies ...you shall not make marriages with them.*

15. What was Israel commanded not to do? \_\_\_\_\_

### ***A Few Final Thoughts about Running away from God***

- ***King David had at least 3 wives plus many concubines (political sex partners)***
- ***King David had 6 sons by 6 different women.***
- ***King David had 4 sons by Bathsheba (the woman he cheated with).***
- ***King David had 9 other children (women not mentioned).***
- ***WHEN WE LAUGH AT THE HOLINESS OF GOD'S STANDARDS, WE HAVE RUN AWAY.***