



Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

Lookin' for a Leader Series, Lesson 16

Lesson Title: King David: God's Successful Leader

Take Home Point: Tell God, "Whatever you want, Lord!"

Warm-Up:

I enjoy watching my children grow in knowledge and experience. And like most parents, I want to help them make good decisions and discover what they can do. As they grow older and seek to exercise their independence, there are times when it would be good for them to request my guidance, but they insist on doing it themselves. It is challenging not to intervene when I can see the way they should go, but I let them decide on their own unless I believe their safety or well-being are at risk. Frequently from such occurrences, the lesson learned is that it's okay to ask for help. It's even a good idea! In all my years of parenting, I have never grown weary or irritated with their requests for guidance; on the contrary, I appreciate the trust they show in my own knowledge and experience.

Read: 2 Samuel 1:1–5:5

Observation (What happened?):

In the Bible reading, how many times did David ask God what he should do?

How long did David rule as king over Judah? How long over Israel and Judah combined?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

What difference do you see in how David handled the conflict during the split kingship, and how people around him handled it?

How did God respond when David asked for his guidance?

Insight:

Jesus had much to say about the willingness of the Heavenly Father to respond to his children when they asked for help. Early in his teaching, in Matthew 7:7,11, Jesus said, *"Ask, and you will receive. Search, and you will find. Knock, and the door will be opened for you...Even though you're evil, you know how to give good gifts to your children. So how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask him?"* In John 14:16-17 he told his disciples (that includes us!), *"I will ask the Father, and he will give you another helper who will be with you forever. That helper is the Spirit of Truth."* Even as Jesus was facing the cross, he turned to his father for help, as recorded in Matthew 26. Jesus understood that the best thing to say was "Whatever you want, Lord!" God wants to guide us, and unlike human guides, he really does know what is best for us.

Application (What does it mean to me?):

In what area of your life are you asking God for guidance? Do you believe God will guide you if you ask?

Pray for the children in your small group to grasp that God is a faithful guide for life.

Lookin' for a Leader, Lesson 16