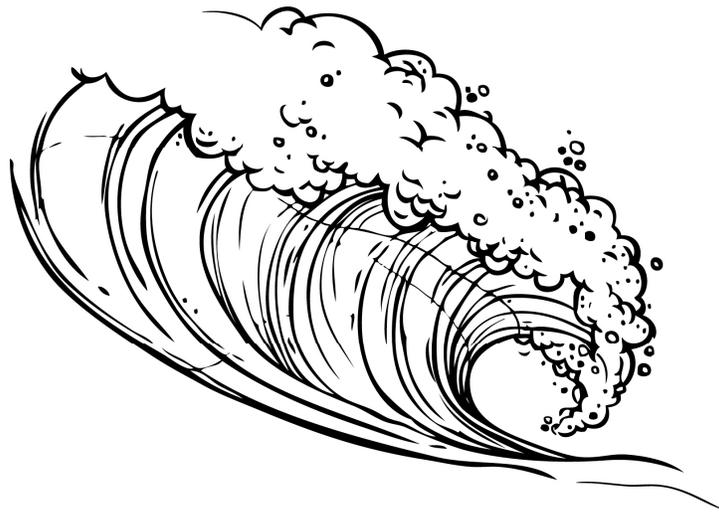


# 2015 Christian Endeavor Summer Devotion

Titled:

**OVERWHELMED NOT OVERCOME**



By:

**Emmanuel Adomako**

*From Ghana, West Africa*

**LANCASTER BIBLE COLLEGE INTERN**

Supervisor:

**Dr. Dave Corpell**

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR**

## Scripture

“Hear my cry, O God;  
Attend to my prayer.

From the end of the earth I will cry to You,  
When my heart is overwhelmed;  
Lead me to the rock that is higher than I.

For You have been a shelter for me,  
A strong tower from the enemy.  
I will abide in Your tabernacle forever;  
I will trust in the shelter of Your wings. Selah

For You, O God, have heard my vows;  
You have given *me* the heritage of those who fear Your name.  
You will prolong the king’s life,  
His years as many generations.  
He shall abide before God forever.  
Oh, prepare mercy and truth, *which* may preserve him!

So I will sing praise to Your name forever,  
That I may daily perform my vows.”

(Psalm 61:1-8 NKJV)



## Contents

Scripture.....	Page 2
David’s Highlight from Scripture.....	Page 4
Introduction.....	Page 5
Heads Up to Devotion Leaders.....	Page 8
Delivery Flow & Structure.....	Page 9
Monday Devotion.....	Page 10
Tuesday Devotion.....	Page 12
Wednesday Devotion.....	Page 14
Thursday Devotion.....	Page 17
Friday Devotion.....	Page 19

<b>EVENTS</b>	<b>SCRIPTURE PASSAGES</b>
The Lord chooses David to be king	1 Sam 16.1-13
David plays the harp for King Saul	1 Sam 16.14-23
David kills Goliath	1 Sam 17.1-54
Saul becomes jealous of David	1 Sam 18.6-30
David's marriage to Michal	1 Sam 18.20-28; 19.9-17; 2 Sam 6.20-23
David's friendship with Jonathan	1 Sam 18.1-4; 20.1-42; 23.14-18; 2 Sam 1.1-27
David meets and marries Abigail	1 Sam 25.1-44
David becomes king of Judah	2 Sam 2.1-7
David becomes king of Israel	2 Sam 5.1-5; 1 Chr 11.1-3
David captures Jerusalem	2 Sam 5.6-12; 1 Chr 11.4-9; 14.1-2
David brings the sacred chest to Jerusalem	2 Sam 6.1-19; 1 Chr 13.1-14; 15.1-16.3,43
David and Bathsheba	2 Sam 11.1-12.25
Solomon is born	2 Sam 12.24,25
Absalom rebels against his father David	2 Sam 15.1-12
Absalom dies and David mourns	2 Sam 18.7-19.8
David counts the people	2 Sam 24.1-25
David gives instructions to his son Solomon	1 Kings 2.1-9
David dies	1 Kings 2.10-12

**DAVID'S**  
**HIGHLIGHT**  
**FROM**  
**SCRIPTURE**

## **INTRODUCTION**

Sometimes life can be absolutely overwhelming. The enemy is an expert at coming in like a flood with crushing circumstances and disturbing thoughts that try to drown us in feeling helpless and discouraged. Merriam Webster dictionary defines "overwhelm" as: to affect (someone) very strongly; to cause (someone) to have too many things to deal with; to defeat (someone or something) completely. Overwhelm also means: upset, overthrow; to cover over completely, submerge; to overcome by superior force or numbers; to overpower in thought or feeling.

We can easily be overwhelmed with too much work, too many facts or too much trouble in relationships. We even become overwhelmed when our phones die! But the enemy is very crafty; he knows and likes to work in our naturally overwhelming circumstances to apply unnecessary spiritual pressure on us. When that spiritual pressure mounts, too often we look for a way of escape rather than trusting in the Lord for His sufficient grace to meet the situation at hand.

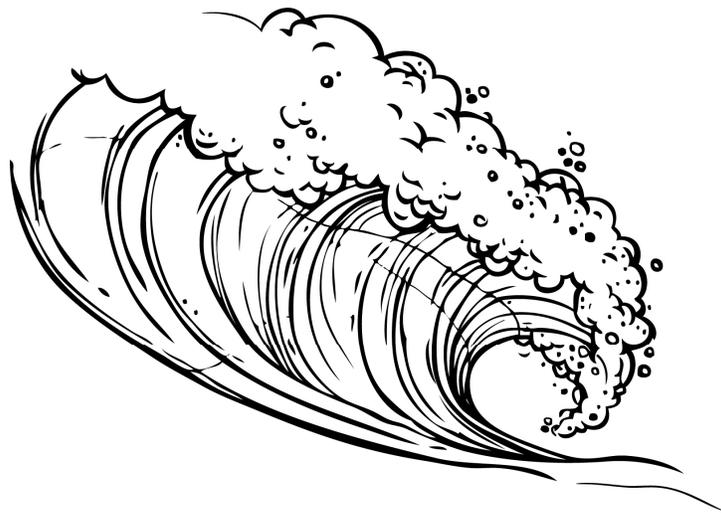
However, it was a different line of experience for a man called David in the Bible. He understood the feelings of being overwhelmed yet not overcome. David understood these feelings all too well. He once wrote, "My heart is severely pained within me, and the terrors of death have fallen upon me. Fearfulness and trembling have come upon me, and horror has overwhelmed me. So I said, 'Oh, that I had wings like a dove! I would fly away and be at rest. Indeed, I would wander far off, and remain in the wilderness. (Selah) I would hasten my escape from the windy storm and tempest'" (Psalm 55:4-8 NKJV).

My dear reader, I can't tell you how many times I've wished I could fly away and escape from the storms of life. Yes, this is the same David who ran to the battle line to defeat Goliath without a second or fearful thought. And this wasn't the only time David felt overwhelmed. Another time he wrote, "From the end of the earth I will cry to You, when my heart is overwhelmed; lead me to the rock that is higher than I" (Psalm 61:2). And again, "When my spirit was overwhelmed within me, then You knew my path" (Psalm 142:3 NKJV).

You see, it is so easy for us to feel overwhelmed when our circumstances are tough. But God is greater than what we are going through and He is able to see us through no matter what. Just like sticky notes can help us remember and keep us on track, God also gives us reminders in life to help us remember He loves us. God reminds you of the purpose He has for your life through His creation, the people in your life and the circumstances you are going through.

Sometimes, I believe that overwhelming situations bring us closer to God if we realize His unfailing love through his creations; wonders of God's creation through man, plants, and animals. Have you ever considered how animals fend for themselves? How they are able to bring forth new ones? Well, I was overwhelmed at the sight of a goat that was pregnant and about to deliver. I asked myself "Doesn't she need a midwife?" To my surprise she delivered safely by herself. What an awesome God we serve! If God could see animals through hard times such as this, how much more you and me? Remember, we are created in the image and likeness of God. God will not let us down in the midst of the storm.

May I ask you “Is your story marked by chaos and cracked with heartbreaking circumstances?” Well, you don't have to live like that anymore! Your story can change when you find peace in something that is much bigger than your circumstances—God. If God saw David through in the midst of being “ **wl movtO vcler dh wl nr O v**” then you can experience God’s amazing love too. Get ready!



## Heads up to devotion leaders

First, I know leading a devotional at the beginning of a Christian Youth/Teen camp can sometimes feel like a daunting task. With determination, diligence and the help of the Holy Spirit, you can easily do it. Spiritual moments like this can bring life changing and soul refreshing times among team leaders and campers. Through the reading and study of the Scriptures, our goal to impact lives will be achieved.

As we turn to this short devotional guide, I believe it will help you prepare adequately and thoroughly. Most importantly, it will boost your confidence in the Lord to care for the souls of these campers God has entrusted into our hands. May you be His servant-leader as you approach this opportunity. Now let's take a look at the following instructions/principles.

### General Principles

1. Keep it SHORT; no longer than 20 - 30 minutes.
2. Recognize the main point which is a concise sentence or phrase derived directly from the Biblical text. For example, 1 Samuel 17:50 talks about how David triumphed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone. Relate everything in your devotion back to this main point.
3. Be relevant to the morning's/evening's activities, the purpose of the meeting, and/or the spiritual condition of the audience. Use events that are happening as illustrations and teachable moments.
4. Practice beforehand. Please review the material in advance so you are adequately prepared.
5. Pray before, during, and after your devotional for yourself and your audience.

## Delivery Flow & Structure

1. State the main point.
2. Introduce, and then read the Biblical text from which you derived the main point. You may want to cite context of the text you have chosen so the hearers get the big picture.
3. Explain how you discovered the main point from the text you just read.
4. Illustrate the main point. Be sure you illustrate the main point, not some other point. Use a personal or other story that illustrates the main point. Use a situation or challenge facing your audience that has to do with the main point. Connect your illustration to the main point explicitly. Don't assume the campers can make that connection.
5. Restate the main point again for clarity, precision and assimilation.
6. Apply the main point. Explain why and how this main point is relevant to us, our life, family, and/or our church, etc. Explain how your audience can practically apply the main point. Be as specific as possible. Be sure to apply the main point, not some other point.
7. Finally just pray and avail yourself for the Holy Spirit to minister through you.

## MONDAY DEVOTION

### Overwhelming Calm in the midst of an Overwhelming enemy

(David kills the lion, bear and Goliath)

### Read in context and throw more light on this Scripture: 1 Samuel 17:36

“Your servant killed both the lion and the bear; and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be like one of them, for he has defied the armies of the living God” (1 Samuel 17:36 AMP).

### Prayer Time:

Pray for today’s gathering and devotional time.

### Main Points:

Understand 2 things about what God is doing in your life:

1. The little battles in our life are getting us ready for the big battles we are going to face.
2. Private victories are preparing us for public victories.

### Explain, Expound & illustrate the above points:

There is one thing that we are promised in life, and that is enemies come in different shapes, sizes and forms. In life, we shall surely have stiff opposition, strange people and rough waters; lean and dry season. We are going to face turbulent winds as we sail through the seas of life. Sometimes we are tempted to think that just because we have God in our lives or go to church, things will go smoother for us 24/7. But Jesus affirmed the bitter truth of life, "In this world you are going to have troubles, you are going to face enemies" (John 16:33 AMP).

I recently heard someone say that “life is a storm sometimes”. How true that is! Life can be tempestuous, tossing us with winds of misfortune, grief, shame, or stress. However, we can brave the storms/enemies of life with a great sense of calmness just as David did. David could challenge Goliath because he knew that since God took care of him in the past, God could and would take care of him in the present. David had nothing to fear in his present because of what God did for him in his past.

You see, sometimes our “storm” may not have been as tempestuous as the storms others face, but it is not the swiftness of the storm that makes our Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ willing to help us. Rather, It is our faith in Christ’s calming power and our hastening to call for His help that allows Him to calm our hearts during life’s storms. The Scripture says, “The Apostles began to fear the storm as they were tossed by the winds and water filled their boat. They awoke Jesus, crying, “Master, carest thou not that we perish?” Christ arose and calmed the winds and waves with His power, saying, “Peace, be still” (Mark 4:38-39 NKJV). Just as David, I believe we can experience overwhelming calm in the midst of overwhelming enemies if we endeavor to go back to our spiritual filing cabinet and pull up some files of what God did for us in the past. *Appreciating little past victories always leads to overwhelming calm in the midst of overwhelming enemies.*

**Questions to ponder and discuss now:**

1. Think of a time you or someone from your family felt overwhelmed. Form groups of four, if you are comfortable, please share your story.
2. Talk about the emotions you or your family member felt in this.
3. What steps will help you be calmer the next time you experience a potentially overwhelming situation?
4. Imagine a close friend is feeling overwhelmed. What steps could you take to support your friend?

**End with a chain Prayer:** Hold your hands together to form a chain. Take turns praying.

## TUESDAY DEVOTION

**Overwhelming Friendship** (Jonathan) in the midst of threats by an

Overwhelmingly powerful person (King Saul)

**Read in context and throw more light on this Scripture: 1 Samuel 20:1**

“Then David fled from Naioth at Ramah and went to Jonathan and asked, “What have I done? What is my crime? How have I wronged your father that he is trying to kill me?” (1 Samuel 20:1 NIV)

### **Prayer Time:**

Pray for today’s gathering and devotional time.

### **Main Points:**

Understand 2 things about what God is doing in your life:

1. True friendship in the Lord requires self sacrifice.
2. A true friend is a Christian friend that steers you closer to the Lord.

### **Explain, Expound & illustrate the above points:**

Walter Winchell was a famous TV and radio personality whose news reports brought him a huge audience and great influence in the American media industry from the 1930s to the 1950s. Winchell once asserted, “A real friend is one who walks in when the rest of the world walks out”. The Bible is full of stories about great friendships and relationships between God and his people. These relationships often come with their own challenges, sacrifices and blessings. Yes, sometimes they even bring threats and a test of one’s faith in God. You can learn a lot about yourself and your own relationships by looking at those in the Bible. David and Jonathan are one friendship example in the face of a threatening powerful person: Jonathan’s father (Saul) Israel’s king. Saul tried in many crafty ways to kill David. Saul was angry with David because God had chosen him to be Israel’s future king even though Jonathan was heir to the throne. After reading David and Jonathan’s story, it is possible to draw a conclusion that they should have been enemies instead of friends.

However, Jonathan took a strong liking to David. He made a profound promise to him. He loved him; and he gave him presents and provided for him. He warned David about plots against him by his father. He spoke out for him to his father and he used his influence to keep him safe. It's not surprising that Jonathan was the main mastermind in the relationship. As the king's son, he was in the power position. Yet, his humility allowed him to be transparent with David. Most of us today are not likely to become best friends with our greatest rivals. However, we may stand to lose our social status, money or power because of a friendship. Are we willing to put our friend's needs before our social status? True friendship in the Lord requires self-sacrifice.

Well, as you carefully and prayerfully ponder today's devotional, may you learn to stay faithful to your friends. Stay especially faithful to your Christian friends regardless of all the unforeseen challenges that might come your way. For the Bible declares, "So Jonathan made a covenant with the house of David, saying, 'May the LORD call David's enemies to account.' And Jonathan had David reaffirm his oath out of love for him, because he loved him as he loved himself" (1 Samuel 20:16-17 NIV). The Bible further emphasizes this point in Mark 12:30-31, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these." If we learn to love God first, we can love our friends just as we love ourselves. In our quest to befriend, we must love God and make him the backbone of our relationship with others. *Yes, in the midst of threats by overwhelming situations and people lies a true friendship from God. Keep looking up and keep pressing on!*

**Questions to ponder and discuss now:**

1. What do you do when the odds of friendship are against you?
2. Why do you keep sacrificing and remain faithful regardless of the challenges in your friendship?
3. How do you maintain your faithfulness to God and your friendships?
4. When and how do you quit your friendship when the need arises?

**End with a chain Prayer:** Hold your hands together to form a chain. Take turns praying.

## WEDNESDAY DEVOTION

**Overwhelming Worship** in the midst of an overwhelming life's journey (Psalms)

**Read in context and throw more light on this Scripture: Psalm 89:1-15**

“Blessed are those who have learned to acclaim you, who walk in the light of your presence, LORD”.

(Psalm 89:15 NIV)

### **Prayer Time:**

Pray for today's gathering and devotional time.

### **Main Points:**

Understand 2 things about what God is doing in your life:

1. God desires your total worship.
2. God wants you to be real with him in all you do.

### **Explain, Expound & illustrate the above points:**

Life is said to be full of challenges, however it is how you respond to them that makes a difference in your life. It is true that everyone has troubles. We all sometimes face problems, affliction, suffering, and hardship. Some of these ups and downs are seen and others are unforeseen. In order for us to brave the storms of life, we need strength, endurance, and patience from God through the vein of PURE WORSHIP regardless of whatever comes our way. David knew how to truly worship God with all his life failures and challenges. Before we delve into today's subject, many of us ask, “Why do Christians suffer?” Why does God allow trials, worries, anxieties, and difficulties? Can enduring troubles and suffering actually make us better people? What solutions does the Bible offer to help us overcome our problems, afflictions, and hardships?

Well, the answer is God's good character. Understand His heart's desire is not to cause us pain. But sin entered the world and messed up His creation. David recognized the way to remember God's goodness was to continuously offer Him pure worship. When we think of true biblical worship we are

often drawn to David. He had a passion for God. It was a real passion. It wasn't shallow and self-serving. He truly loved God and longed for Him every day. The Bible asserts, "As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, my God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God?" (Psalm. 42:1-2 NIV). As we read the Psalms we learn a little about the worship David practiced and why he was so passionate about God. We realize David lived his worship unto God in the midst of all the challenges life presented him. Worship wasn't just something David did once or twice a week with other people. Worship was giving his life completely to God and to God's purposes alone.

This type of authentic or pure worship begins outside the church's four walls. It occurs in the context of a daily walk with God. Again the Psalmist expresses, "Blessed are those who have learned to acclaim you, who walk in the light of your presence, LORD". (Psalm 89:15 NIV) All the beautiful psalms David penned and the music he made stemmed from his personal walk with God. Even the victories he won in his battles (such as facing and killing the lion, bear and the Philistine called Goliath) were an overflow of his personal relationship with God. David had power because he knew God and walked with Him.

To conclude today's devotional, Paul reaffirms this principle or art of true worship in the face of life challenges in Romans 12:1 "Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God — this is your true and proper worship". *If our worship is to be biblical, authentic and pure worship, it will be a way of life. It will be the willing and daily sacrifices we make to God of everything we are, everything we have, and everything we do in an overwhelming life's journey.*

**Questions to ponder and discuss now:**

1. How do we know that God is good?
2. Why are we directed to keep worshipping God in spite of all life's challenges?
3. Can you think of a challenge you or a friend/ family member faced that made "Pure Worship" difficult?

4. Respond to this statement: “God has endured all the emotions that challenging situations will bring our way. He did this when He allowed His son, Jesus Christ, to die on the cross. He continues to do this when people go through life’s challenges.” Does this statement bring encouragement, confusion, or additional questions?

**End with a chain Prayer:** Hold your hands together to form a chain. Take turns praying.

## THURSDAY DEVOTION

**Overwhelming Grace and Mercy** in the midst of overwhelming stupidity (Uriah, Bathsheba)

**Read in context and throw more light on this Scripture: 2 Samuel 12:1-14**

“Then David said to Nathan, ‘I have sinned against the LORD.’” (2 Samuel 12:13)

### **Prayer Time:**

Pray for today’s gathering and devotional time.

### **Main Points:**

Understand 2 things about what God is doing in your life:

1. God wants you to know that even though you have dark spots in your life, He still loves you.
2. God wants you to confess your sins and accept his forgiveness.

### **Explain, Expound & illustrate the above points:**

The story of David and Bathsheba is always a sad one to recollect but it ends with great joy. This event occurred at the peak of David’s reign as Israel’s King. The Bible records that while men were at war, David spied a beautiful woman, Bathsheba, from his rooftop. He discovered she was married to Uriah the Hittite, but this did not stop him from sending for her and getting her pregnant. He then recalled Uriah from battle and pretended Uriah was the father of Bathsheba’s baby. Uriah refused to go home to his wife, so David sent Uriah to the front lines of battle, where he was killed. David then married Bathsheba. When confronted by Nathan the prophet, David nearly lied but eventually admitted his sin. (2 Samuel 12:13).

Nevertheless, the consequences of his sin were not removed and had lasting effects on David’s family. These were the consequences of David’s sin: The sword would not depart from David’s family. God would raise up adversity against David from within his family. God would allow a neighbor (David’s son, Absalom) to have sex with David’s wives in public, since he had taken Uriah’s wife Bathsheba secretly (2 Samuel 12:11-12). The child that Bathsheba bore by David would die (2 Samuel 12:14).

This story illustrates how overwhelming the consequences of sexual sin can be for its participants and their families. Our focus, however, is not to stare at David's sin but to marvel at God's grace. This story shows us God's mercy and grace. God was merciful to David when he confessed and repented from his sin. David's sin warranted consequences, but God blessed David's repentant heart and restored his life. As you struggle with sin, you can also confess what you have done and repent. God will forgive if and when you place your faith in Christ Jesus. *Yes, God can cover our foolish mistakes with His grace and mercy. When this happens, we become a living testimony in an overwhelmingly sinful world.*

**Questions to ponder and discuss now:**

1. Think of the stupidest thing you have ever done. Compare your foolish decision with David's choice to have sex with the wife of a loyal person before having him killed. How can God forgive David?
2. What hope do you have in knowing that God forgave David and mightily used his life?
3. God wants to mightily use your life. Take time to talk about talents, abilities and opportunities God has given you to allow God to work in you and through you at home, school, at work, and in your activities.
4. What is one step you can take to make an impact for God?
  - Accept Christ in your life
  - Meet friends or family's needs
  - Begin a ministry to meet neighbor's needs

**End with a chain Prayer:** Hold your hands together to form a chain. Take turns praying.

## FRIDAY DEVOTION

**Overwhelming Impact** in the midst of overwhelmingly big mistakes

**Read in context and throw more light on this Scripture: 2 Samuel 12:1-24**

“Why did you despise the word of the LORD by doing what is evil in his eyes? You struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and took his wife to be your own. You killed him with the sword of the Ammonites” (2 Samuel 12:9 NIV).

**Prayer Time:** Pray for today’s gathering and devotional time.

**Main Points:** Understand 2 things about what God is doing in your life:

1. Sin has consequences.
2. God works through His broken people.

**Explain, Expound & illustrate the above points:**

Continuing from yesterday’s sweet and sour story of David, we look at 2 Samuel:1-24 which captures the impact and mistakes of David. Yesterday we noted one major mistake David made, today we will see two more. It clearly reveals the declining and most difficult years of David’s reign. King David of Israel was known for his diverse skills as both a warrior and a writer (he wrote many of the psalms). The first time David publicly displayed his courage was when, as an inexperienced boy armed with only a stick and a few stones, he confronted the nine-foot, Philistine giant known as Goliath of Gath. David then began fighting wars against Israel’s neighbors on the east bank of the Jordan. He defeated the Moabites, the Edomites, the Ammonites and the Arameans as recorded in the book of 2 Samuel.

Despite what seemed like a flawless reign as a national leader, David had many problems in his personal life. Yesterday we discussed the story of David and Bathsheba. One consequence of David’s sin was rebellion within his household. King David’s third son led a rebellion against David. The bulk of Absalom’s story is told in 2 Samuel 13-19. He had a strong influence on his father’s reign. The first recorded event defining Absalom’s life also involved his sister Tamar and half-brother Amnon. Tamar

was beautiful, and Amnon lusted after her. When Tamar rebuffed Amnon's advances, he arranged, through a strange maneuver, to have her come to his house, where he raped her. After the rape, Amnon put Tamar out of his house in disgrace. When Absalom heard what happened, he took his sister in to live with him. For the next two years, Absalom nursed a hatred of his half-brother. Then, using some maneuver of his own, Absalom invited Amnon to his house for a party. During the festivities, in the presence of David's other sons, Absalom had his servants kill Amnon in cold blood. What a household David had!

Another tragic story is revealed through David's interaction with Shimei. According to 2 Samuel 16: 5-8, we discover that Shimei defied God. As David was forced to leave Jerusalem because of the rebellion of his son Absalom, he was followed by Shimei. Shimei was a descendent of King Saul, and he held a strong dislike for King David. As he followed David, Shimei hurled stones and curses at King David. David did not harm Shimei when Absalom's rebellion was overthrown. However, his parting words to Solomon were for him to kill Shimei once David had died. What a terrible choice! David's mistakes were huge and costly but God used him to make a significant impact. *We are broken people who do senseless things, but God chooses to make an impact through our lives.*

**Questions to ponder and discuss now:**

1. David's household endured tragic circumstances due to the consequences of David's sin. How do you think David felt about this?
2. Think about consequences you have endured because of bad choices. How did you feel?
3. Even though you made mistakes, God can work in and through your life. What are some things you think He wants you to do?
4. What needs exist in your home, church, or community that you can meet?
5. What is the most impressive insight you learned about God by studying David's life?

**End with a chain Prayer:** Hold your hands together to form a chain. Take turns praying.