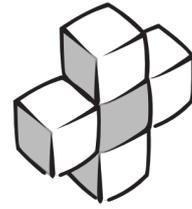


SMACC

Making Disciples of Jesus Christ



Bible Study Series:

1 Chronicles



Our Mission:

To glorify God together in response to his grace

by making disciples of Jesus Christ

About These Studies

These studies were written by various SMACC leaders for use among young working adults and university students. You are most welcome to use and adapt these studies for your own context. Where you do so please provide the following acknowledgment.

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These studies are written as a companion to the sermon series available at:
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Study 1: “The People of the Kingdom” (1 Chronicles 1:1-9:34)

Context

1. 1 Chronicles was written after the return of the Israelites from the exile. Discuss as a group and highlight the main events leading up to their return.

Digging in

Skim through 1 Chronicles 1:1-9:34

2. What do you notice about the genealogy? What catches your attention?

3. Suggest a “title” or a short summary for these passages

Passage	Title/Summary
1:1-54	E.g. The generation from Adam to Esau
2:1-2	
2:3-4:23	
4:24-43	
5:1-26	
6:1-81	
7:1-40	
8:1-40	
9:1-34	

4. What significance do you think can be gleaned from the fact that this section starts with Adam and ends with the genealogy of the returned exiles in Chapter 9?

5. Do you think the Chronicler has a theological motivation for providing this genealogy? Discuss.

6. Chapters 1-3 starts off with Adam then narrows down to the middle east and then to the line of Judah and eventually David. What could we surmise from that on what the author is trying to show about God's plans for the world?

7. Check Chapters 2-8 and identify the names of the tribes of Israel and compare it against 2:1, which ones are missing? What can it mean that some tribes are missing from the list? (Judges 18:30-31, Judges 18, 1 Kings 12:29-30, 2 Chronicles 11:14-15;13:8-12)

8. Look at the 144,000 gathered in Revelation 7 and what does it show about God's continuing work until today?

9. How do we see the hope that Israel has in God's promises at this point of the narrative ultimately fulfilled? How do they respond to it?

10. What do you think Question 7 and 8 tell us about God's promises and our responsibility?

Study 2: “The Fall of Saul and the Ascension of David” **(1 Chronicles 9:35-11:9)**

Getting started

1. Discuss with each other some examples of the rise and fall of famous kings/queens that we have known throughout history and what was the reason for their fall from power?

Context

Last week, we were introduced to the various genealogies of Israel – we saw that some tribes received more attention, and some were not mentioned at all. Today, we are going to focus more closely on two records of the kings of Israel’s, namely Saul and David.

Digging In

Read 1 Chronicles 9:35-9:44

2. There is a repetition of Saul’s genealogy (8:1-40) in Chapter 9:35-9:44. What is familiar and different about the two passages? Why do you think the Chronicler has repeated Saul’s genealogy?

Read 1 Chronicles 10:1-14

3. What happened to Saul and his sons in this passage?
4. What were the reasons that the Chronicler had highlighted for the death of Saul? (cf. 1 Samuel 13:8-14; 1 Samuel 28)
5. The Chronicler is quite detailed in describing how and why Saul died. Why do you think it was necessary for the Chronicler to dedicate a portion of the book of Chronicles on the last moments of Saul?

Study 3: “Wholehearted Allegiance to the One whom God Helps”

(1 Chronicles 11:10-12:40)

Getting Started

1. Is there a person or a cause you felt you could/would give yourself to wholeheartedly and completely?

Context

2. Who was Chronicles written for and what was the Chronicler trying to achieve with his audience? (c.f. 2 Chronicles 36:23, Ezra 1:2-4)

3. What were the reason for Saul’s tragic death and David’s accomplishment? (c.f. 1 Chronicles 10:13-14, 11:1-10)

	1 Chronicles 10:1-13	1 Chronicles 11:1-9
Main character		
Other characters		
What did they do / Happened to them?		
Reason for their fate		

Digging in

Read 1 Chronicles 11:10-12:40

4. As we read through today’s passage, we see a repeated theme at the start and end of the passage, and intersperse throughout the passage (look at 11:10, 12:1-7, 12:19, 12:23, 12:29, 12:31, 12:32, 12:38). What is this theme?
 - (a) At what point did the mighty men come to David?

(b) What was the main intent of coming to David?

(c) What were some of the struggles / conflict they would have faced by their actions?

(d) In spite of that, what do you think made them do what they did?

5. How are some of these mighty men described and what were the response it would have invoked in the original readers? (refer to 11:12-14, 11:20-22, 12:8-15)

6. In 1 Chronicles 11:15-19, what does this account of David say about his character and kingship?

7. What are the details that the Chronicler tell us about the list of mighty men in 1 Chronicles 11: 26-47? What do you think was the Chronicler's intention?

8. What is the recurring/repeated theme/phrase in the exchange between the "men of Benjamin and Judah" and David? (1 Chronicles 12:16-18)

Application

9. How does today's passage inform us about what we should be looking for in our Christian leaders?

10. How does the mighty men's example help us think about where we should place our allegiance today?

Study 4: “Don’t Get Lazy with the Lord” (1 Chronicles 13-15)

Getting Started

1. Could we be serving God and doing His work in a manner that is not pleasing to Him?

Digging in

Read 1 Chronicles 13

2. Describe what David planned to do (v1-4). How did David seek consultation and what can you comment about its manner?
3. How did David and all Israel carry the ark (v5-8)? What can you comment about the method of transporting the ark? (cf. Exodus 25:12-15, Numbers 4:15)
4. What happened to Uzza and why was he killed (v9-11)?
5. How did David react to what happened (v12-14)?

Read 1 Chronicles 14

6. Describe David’s situation in Jerusalem (v1-7).
7. What happened after David had been anointed king over all Israel? (v8-10)
8. How did David respond to what had happened? (v11-17)? Was his response different compared to 13:1-4?

Study 5: “Proclaim His Praise To All Nations” (1 Chronicles 16)

Context

1. Recap what we’ve seen in 1 Chronicles 13-15.

Digging In

Read 1 Chronicles 16:1-3

2. Describe what has taken place. Read 2 Samuel 6-17:19. Are there any significant changes?

Read 1 Chronicles 16:4-7

3. Describe what the passage is about. Is there a parallel verse in 1 and 2 Samuel? If so, are there any significant changes?

Read 1 Chronicles 16:8-22

4. Is there another part of the Bible where we can see this passage?
 - (a) To whom is this section / song addressed to?
 - (b) What are some striking elements about the passage? (look at mood, repetition, choice of words, etc.)

Read 1 Chronicles 16:23-33

5. Which other part of the Bible do we see this from?
 - (a) What are some imperatives (commands) for the listeners of this song? Any common patterns?
 - (b) To whom are the imperatives directed? What is the significance of this?

Read 1 Chronicles 16:34-36

6. Where else do we see this passage in the Bible?
 - (a) What is similar to the previous two sections?

 - (b) Are there themes more strongly emphasised in this section?

Read 1 Chronicles 16:37-43

7. Summarise what David has done and how the Chronicler concludes this section. Compare this to 2 Samuel 6:19.

Bringing Things Together

8. What emphasis does the Chronicler wish to bring out with the new material?

9. What response would it evoke in the Chronicler's audience?

Application

10. In light of the gospel, how does worship of God look like now? Do provide specific passages in other parts of Bible, if possible!

11. What are areas in our lives where we do not joyfully worship God? How can we as a church collectively help each other in this?

Study 6: “A House for God and a House for David” (1 Chronicles 17)

Getting Started

1. As a Christian, what have you done for God recently?

Digging In

Read 1 Chronicles 17:1-2

2. Chronologically, when did the events in verses 1-2 occur?

3. "See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of the covenant of the LORD is under tent curtains." Why did David say what he said to Nathan?

4. What was Nathan's reply? Did seem it unreasonable?

Read 1 Chronicles 17:3-6

5. What was God's response? Was it a reprimand?

Read 1 Chronicles 17:7-10

6. In His response to David, why did God first remind David of all He had done for him and Israel?

7. What was God's promise to David?

Read 1 Chronicles 17:11-15

8. List out the details of the promise God made to establish the House of David in the verses 11 to 15. How many are fulfilled by Solomon?

Read 1 Chronicles 17:16-22

9. What was David's initial response to God's promise to his House and why?

Read 1 Chronicles 17:23-27

10. Why did David boldly ask: "let it be established forever, and do as You have said"?

Application

11. How can we avoid making David's mistake of doing more than God commanded?

12. "Name it and claim it". What do you think of this prosperity Gospel statement and how does it differ from David's response in the passage we just read?

Study 7: “A Leader Who Delivers” (1 Chronicles 18-20)

Context

1. Based on what you have seen in 1 Chronicles 17, how do you think the nation of Israel will fare?

Digging In

Read 1 Chronicles 18:1-13

2. What seems to be the big themes that is prevalent throughout this passage? Why do you think so?
3. What do you make of David’s decision to hamstring the chariot horses and only leave 100 chariots?
4. What is the point of v6 and v13 and how does it help in understanding what the author is saying about these events?
5. Besides the spoils of war we also see David receiving gifts (v10), what do you think the narrator is trying to tell us? What do you think of David’s attitude to these things?

Read 1 Chronicles 18:14-17

6. What do you think is the point of the narrator recording these details?

Read 1 Chronicles 19:1-5

7. From this event what can you see about the character of David? Where do you see these?

Read 1 Chronicles 19:6-20:3

8. What does v13 teach us about Joab and his thoughts regarding this battle?

9. We see in v17 that David was involved in the fight initially. However in 20:1 we see that after the Syrians surrendered and became subjects, David remained in Jerusalem. What was David doing (2 Sam 11-12) and why do you think the Chronicler did not include this narrative?

10. What was the end result of the conquest? (v 2,3)

Read 1 Chronicles 20:4-8

11. We see two persons similar to Goliath, Lakhmi the brother of Goliath and another man of great stature. We see Elhanan and Jonathan striking them down. Why do you think David is not involved despite the clear allusions to Goliath? (2 Samuel 21:16-17)

Thinking It Through

12. We saw that David was not to be the one to build the temple. What does this text teach us as to why that is so? (1 Chronicles 28:3)

13. How does David contribute towards the building of the temple?

14. How does this passage help us to see how God works through Israel?

15. How does this passage help us to see the response that the Israelites had towards God?

Application

16. How does that challenge us to see our response towards God?

Study 8: “Judgment, Repentance and Mercy” (1 Chronicles 21-22)

Getting Started

1. In your experience, what is the function of performing a headcount?

Context

2. What did we see in last week’s passages, and how do we think the Israelites might have been feeling around that time?

Digging In

Read 1 Chronicles 21: 1-17

3. Why did the chronicler begin Chapter 21 by mentioning that David was incited by Satan to number Israel? Compare this with the corresponding account in 2 Samuel 24:1 where it was stated that “...the anger of the Lord was kindled against Israel, and he incited David against them...”
4. What was Joab’s reaction to David upon receiving his orders to take a census and what was the reason for his reaction? (cf. Numbers 1:49)
5. Why was God displeased with David’s actions and the census? (v7)
6. Why was Israel punished because of David’s actions?
7. How did David respond to God’s judgment?

8. What were the punishments that were proposed by God and what did David choose?

9. David makes an interesting (and quite noble) statement of offering himself and his household to be punished for his sins instead of having the people of Israel suffer because of his mistakes. Why do you think there was no reply from God to David's pleas?

Read 1 Chronicles 21:18-22:1

10. What was the Lord's command to David following David's repentance?

11. It might have seemed like David turned down a really good deal with Ornan. We can commend David for not abusing his power as king or his humility etc., but what do you think the Chronicler wishes to convey regarding David's response towards Ornan's generosity?

Read 1 Chronicles 22:2-19

12. How did David make preparations for the building of the temple?

13. Why does the Chronicler record the account of David's preparation for the building of the temple?

Study 9: “Building God’s Glorious House” (1 Chronicles 23-26)

Digging In

Read 1 Chronicles 23

1. In this chapter, how does David continue with making preparations for the house of the Lord?
2. Read Numbers 4:1-3, 30-31, 49. What took place in those verses, and what was the purpose?
3. What do you think is the significance of not having to carry the tabernacle for service anymore? (25-26)
4. With a new permanent location of the temple, David reorganizes the Levites with specific duties. What was their role? (27 - 32)

Read 1 Chronicles 24

5. What did David organize for the house of the Lord in this chapter?
6. How many divisions were set up here?

Read 1 Chronicles 25

7. What did David set up in this chapter, and what were their roles? (1-6)
8. How many divisions were set up here?

9. We see that they are appointed to prophesy. What does this mean?

Read 1 Chronicles 26

10. What did David organize for the house of the Lord in this chapter?

Verse	Role/Duty
1-19	
20-28	
29	
30-32	

Thinking It Through

11. Why do you think the divisions of priests, musicians, and gatekeepers were in this way? (24:5, 31, 25:8, 26:13)
How does this contrast with David taking the census?

12. How would reading these chapters have been significant for the original readers?

13. Consider the number of people David gives responsibility for the service of the house of God, and his preparations for the temple as a whole.

a. Why is this so important?

b. What does this tell us about David?

14. David, was the king who led God's people to worship God rightly. We know this is fulfilled in Christ. What are the similarities and differences in their role as king?

15. How exactly has God's King, Jesus appointed and enabled God's people to worship Him rightly?

Application

16. What do these passages tell us about who we are, and discuss what the implications are for us today:

a. Ephesians 2:18-22

b. 1 Peter 2:9

Study 10: “God Will Build His House” (1 Chronicles 27-28)

Context

1. Recap the book of 1 Chronicles.

Digging In

Read 1 Chronicles 27:1-22

2. From the passage, how's David's military division arranged? What does this tell us more about David's military division?

Read 1 Chronicles 27:25-34

3. What can we tell from the passage regarding the grandeur of David's kingdom? List out what you can observe from the text.

Read 1 Chronicles 28:1-8

4. Who did David assemble and what's David's instructions to them? Encourage to list them out. What is significant about these instructions?

Read 1 Chronicles 28:9-20

5. What's David's instruction for Solomon? Let's list them out and explore its significance.

Application

6. How did this passage apply to the readers back then?

7. What about us now?