

Last week you read how Satan tried to stop the new Christians by blaming them for disasters so they were hated, chased into hiding and put to death. This of course failed to stop them, so now he tried a new angle.

A time of peace came, or so it seemed. Christianity became popular and people wanted to be Christians although they didn't necessarily want all the restrictions; instead they argued that since they were making changes, the Christians should also make changes.

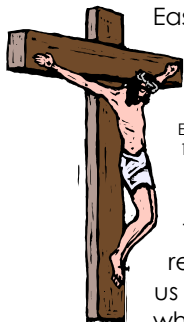
Most Christians eventually agreed and the church was filled with former pagan idol worshipers. But although they claimed to be changed the change was only in the outward object of worship; instead of worshipping an idol statue, they now worshiped statues of Jesus, Mary, or the apostles.

Do you remember what the 2<sup>nd</sup> Commandment says? Look it up in Exodus 20:4-6.

The people who would not accept this new form of worship were persecuted by the new Christians and those who had compromised; Satan had a hand in the church.

You might be interested to know that some of the public holidays still celebrated today originated with pagan festivals.

"The feast of Saturnalia in early Rome, was celebrated for 7 days from the 17<sup>th</sup> to the 24<sup>th</sup> of December and was marked by a spirit of merriment and gift giving to children." Do you see the similarities to Christmas? (Zondervan Pictorial Encyclopedia of the Bible, p804, 805)



Easter is another name for Ishtar, the idol goddess of love and fertility (fertility means being able to have babies) – that's why they have Easter eggs, since babies come from eggs, and rabbits since rabbits have lots of babies. (Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words, 1985, New Testament Section, p. 192, "Easter")

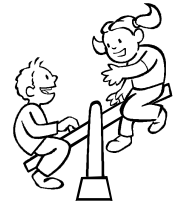
That doesn't mean it's wrong to remember Jesus death and resurrection at Easter, or His birth at Christmas; in fact they give us a good opportunity to remind other people about Jesus and what He has done for us. Some Christians choose to celebrate Christmas and Easter and others choose not too. What we must do is read our Bibles to make sure that the traditions we follow do not go against the Bible, like the early church breaking the 2<sup>nd</sup> Commandment.

# A Man after God's Heart

## Sabbath

How do you treat your friend's friends and your friend's family? Colour in your answer.

- ☒ ☒ The same way you treat your friend.
- ☒ ☒ You ignore them.
- ☒ ☒ You are nice and polite to them.
- ☒ ☒ You are mean to them.
- ☒ ☒ You invite them to join you and your friend.
- ☒ ☒ You are on your best behaviour with them.



- ☒ ☒ You are rude to them.
- ☒ ☒ You are kind and friendly to them.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M			

N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z			

✓

When you are kind to someone's family it is a way of being kind to them. What did Jesus say in His parable about God in Matthew 25:21-46<sup>NIV</sup>?

## Sunday

God was with David and gave him victory over everyone who tried to oppose him. The surrounding nations watched with interest, first the civil war and then as various neighbouring nations tried to attack David and were defeated. From each nation conquered, David took prizes like gold, silver and bronze; and many of them had to pay regular taxes, thus increasing the wealth of the Israelites.

When King Nahash of Ammon died, David sent messengers with his condolences to Nahash's son Hunan because, at some time in the past, King Nahash had showed kindness to David. But the advisors of the new King Hunan, suggested that David was trying to spy out the land; Hunan listened to them and had the messengers from David seized, and half of each mans' beard was shaved off and their robes cut off short.

This was a deadly insult to the Israelites which David could not ignore. Too late the Ammonites realised this and quickly hired 33000 foot soldiers including 20000 from Aramean to come and help them.

When David heard this he sent Joab with the entire Israelite army to respond. Realising he would be fighting on two fronts, Joab selected the best troops to remain with him and fight the 33000 while his brother Abishai led the remaining troops against the Ammonites.

The Arameans could not stand up to the Israelites and fled before them and when the Ammonites saw this they also fled back into their city and Joab and the Israelite army had returned to Jerusalem.

But the Arameans under Shobak, the Commander for king Hadadezer regrouped and calling in reinforcements from their people beyond the Euphrates River, crossed the Jordan River to attack Israel again.

David's army was again successful and the Arameans lost 700 chariots and 40000 foot soldiers that day!

## Friday

Do you want to become a man or woman after God's heart? We can learn from some of the things that David and his son Solomon wrote. The missing words will complete the crossword.

### **Ask God to lead you like David did:**

In Psalm 32:8<sup>NLT</sup> God says,

"I will guide you along the best pathway for you life.

I will advise you and watch over you."

Proverbs 3:5,6<sup>NIV</sup> "Trust in the

\_\_\_\_\_ (9a) with all your \_\_\_\_\_ (7d), do

not depend on your own

\_\_\_\_\_ (4a). Seek His will in all

you do, and He will show you which \_\_\_\_\_ (2a) to take."

Psalm 27:1<sup>NLT</sup>, "The Lord is my light and my

\_\_\_\_\_ (5d) - so why should I be afraid? The

\_\_\_\_\_ (9d) is my fortress, protecting me from danger, so why should I tremble?"

### **Ask God's forgiveness:**

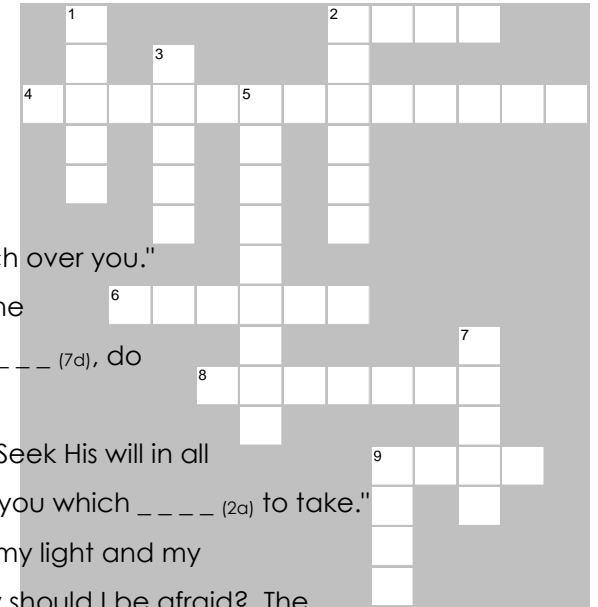
Psalm 25:11<sup>NLT</sup>, "For the honour of Your name, O Lord, \_\_\_\_\_ (8a) my many, many sins."

Psalm 51:10<sup>NLT</sup>, "Create in me a clean \_\_\_\_\_ (3d), O God. \_\_\_\_\_ (1d) a loyal spirit within me."

### **Praise and thank God:**

Psalm 18:3<sup>NLT</sup>, "I called on the Lord who is \_\_\_\_\_ (6a) of \_\_\_\_\_ (2d), and He saved me from my enemies.

**Do these things and you can also be a person after God's heart.**



## Thursday

As you read through the story of David's life, you will read many times about David asking God what to do and trusting God to help him. Sometimes he forgot to, like each time he went to the Philistines, but as soon as he realised his mistake he ask he turned back to God and asked God for guidance again. (The following verses are from the NLT Bible)

When David met Goliath in 1 Samuel 17 he said, "I come to you in the name of the Lord."

In 1 Samuel 23, David asked the Lord what to do three times, when he rescued the town of Keilah from the Philistines and then escaped Saul again.

When their town of Ziklag was burned and their families taken prisoner in 1 Samuel 30, David asked the Lord if he should chase the raiders and catch them.

After Saul's death David asked the Lord before he moved back to Israel in 2 Samuel 2.



When the Philistines attacked at two different times in 2 Samuel 5, King David asked the Lord if they should fight, and after they won, he said, "The Lord did it!"

When David realised how God had blessed him and would continue to bless him in 2 Samuel 7, he sat before the Lord and prayed.

Fit the underlined words into the grid.

## Monday

A time of peace came now, as David ruled all of Israel from Jerusalem, and a desire grew in David's heart to build a permanent temple for God - the Sanctuary tent that Moses had made was still being used. God sent him a message through the prophet David to say that he and his family would be blessed forever, but it would be one of his sons who would build the temple.

Then David's mind returned to his good friend Jonathan, Saul's son, who had been killed at the same time as Saul. Enquires were made and David found out that Jonathon had a son who had been five years old when his father died. When the report from the battle came to them, the child's nurse picked him up and ran away, fearing someone would come to harm him. But as she ran, she dropped him, and he became a cripple. His name was Mephibosheth.

When Mephibosheth was brought to David, he bowed low with deep respect.

David said, "Don't be afraid! I made a promise to your father who was my friend. I am going to give you all the property that once belonged to your grandfather, Saul, and you will eat here with me at the king's table!"

Then David called Saul's old servants and said, "I have given your Mephibosheth everything that belonged to Saul and his family. You will now work for him. But Mephibosheth will eat here at my table."

And from that time on, Mephibosheth often ate with King David, like one of the king's own sons.



## Tuesday

More is known about David's life than perhaps any other person in the Bible with 14 chapters in 1<sup>st</sup> Samuel, starting at chapter 16, all 24 chapters in 2<sup>nd</sup> Samuel and 2 ½ chapters in 1<sup>st</sup> Kings. 24 Chapters in 1<sup>st</sup> Chronicles are also devoted to the time of David, starting at chapter 11 and covering the same time period as the books of Samuel and Kings. Many of the Psalms were also written by David and give us more of an insight into his personal life and thinking.

What special thing did God call David in Acts 13:22<sup>NIV</sup>?

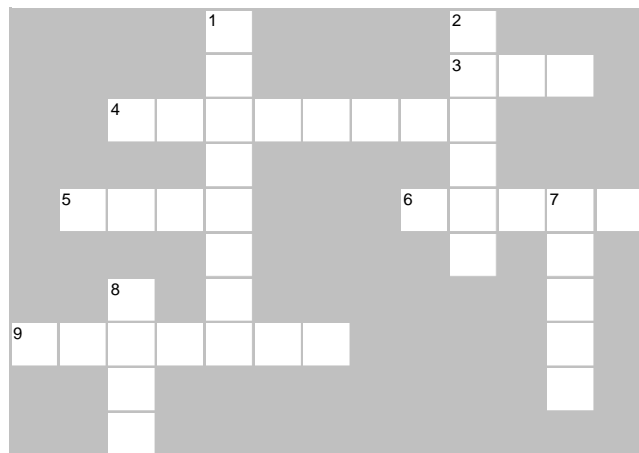
"A man after My Own \_\_\_\_\_ (6a)."

Have you ever heard the saying, "He takes after his father?" - Meaning that he looks or acts like his father? That is what God was saying about David!

2 Samuel 8:15<sup>NIV</sup>, "David reigned over all Israel, doing what was \_\_\_\_\_ (8d) and \_\_\_\_\_ (7d) for \_\_\_\_\_ (3a) his people."

David did not allow hate or jealousy to fill his heart as Saul had, even when Saul kept trying to kill him. What did David do when he heard of Saul's death? 2 Samuel 1:12, "They \_\_\_\_\_ (9a) and \_\_\_\_\_ (5a) and \_\_\_\_\_ (2d) all day for Saul and his son Jonathan..."

David never forgot the friendship of Jonathan. What did he say to Mephibosheth, Jonathan's son? 2 Samuel 9:7<sup>NLT</sup>, "Don't be afraid!" David said. "I intend to show \_\_\_\_\_ (4a) to you because of my promise to your father, \_\_\_\_\_ (1d)."



## Wednesday

**King Saul hated David**, but Saul's son, **Jonathan was David's friend**. Jonathan **warned** David when **his father** was trying to **kill him**.

The words in bold are hidden in the grid.

J	O	N	A	T	H	A	N	F	A	M
I	L	Y	M	A	A	T	E	S	P	A
L	D	S	P	A	T	R	T	N	E	R
W	A	S	S	F	E	A	M	K	I	L
Y	V	M	A	T	D	A	V	I	D	E
K	I	L	L	S	P	A	L	N	S	P
A	D	R	T	N	E	F	R	G	S	F
A	S	A	U	L	M	R	I	L	Y	M
A	T	E	S	P	A	I	L	S	P	A
R	T	N	E	F	R	E	S	F	A	M
I	L	Y	W	A	R	N	E	D	M	A
T	E	S	P	T	A	D	L	S	P	A
R	T	N	E	H	R	S	F	H	I	S
A	M	I	L	E	Y	M	A	I	T	E
S	P	A	L	R	S	P	A	M	R	T
N	E	R	S	F	A	M	I	L	Y	M

After David became king, he wanted to do something nice for his friend Jonathan. But Jonathan had died in the battle, so when David found out that Jonathan had one son (who was crippled), he made him rich and invited him to eat at the palace. Find the way from the crown to the table.

