

## Bible Character Study

David | 1 Samuel 18-20; 2 Samuel 11-12; Psalm 51

### Trials Define Our Friendships

What kinds of friends do you have? Do they encourage you and point you to truth or do they stir up dissention? God's Word has a lot to say about the kinds of friends we should have and people we should avoid hanging out with. We also see a lot about our friends when we go through a difficulty – do they stick it out? Do they offer wise, godly counsel?

**Proverbs 12:26 (NLT)** *"The godly give good advice to their friends; the wicked lead them astray."*

**Proverbs 18:24 (NLT)** *"There are 'friends' who destroy each other, but a real friend sticks closer than a brother."*

**Proverbs 27:17 (NLT)** *"As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend."*

**Proverbs 16:28 (NLT)** *"A troublemaker plants seeds of strife; gossip separates the best of friends."*

**Proverbs 13:20 (NLT)** *"Walk with the wise and become wise; associate with fools and get in trouble."*

**1 Corinthians 15:33 (NLT)** *"Don't be fooled by those who say such things, for 'bad company corrupts good character.'"*

**James 4:4 (NLT)** *"Don't you realize that friendship with the world makes you an enemy of God? I say it again: If you want to be a friend of the world, you make yourself an enemy of God."*

**Psalm 1:1-2 (NLT)** *"Oh, the joys of those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or stand around with sinners, or join in with mockers. <sup>2</sup> But they delight in the law of the Lord, meditating on it day and night."*

# **Trials can be a Result of God's Discipline**

Have you ever felt God's hand of discipline upon you? The purpose of discipline is to instill an obedient response. When we discipline our children, our goal is that they would have a heart that is willing and ready to obey and be repentant of their wrong actions and attitudes. God disciplines us for the same reason, and He does it because He loves us. He wants to bring us back to a right relationship with Him and train us to walk in holiness.

**Hebrews 12:6-7; 10-11 (NLT)** *“For the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes each one he accepts as his child.”<sup>7</sup> As you endure this divine discipline, remember that God is treating you as his own children. Who ever heard of a child who is never disciplined by its father?<sup>10</sup> For our earthly fathers disciplined us for a few years, doing the best they knew how. But God's discipline is always good for us, so that we might share in his holiness.<sup>11</sup> No discipline is enjoyable while it is happening—it's painful! But afterward there will be a peaceful harvest of right living for those who are trained in this way.”*

**Proverbs 13:18 (NIV)** *“Whoever disregards discipline comes to poverty and shame, but whoever heeds correction is honored.”*

**Proverbs 6:23 (NLT)** *“For their command is a lamp and their instruction a light; their corrective discipline is the way to life.”*

**Proverbs 5:23 (NIV)** *“For lack of discipline they will die, led astray by their own great folly.”*

**Psalms 119:67 (NLT)** *“I used to wander off until you disciplined me; but now I closely follow your word.”*

## **Trials Yield a Broken Heart**

Have you ever felt completely broken? Maybe the brokenness has come from external circumstances, or maybe from your own doing? God uses all kinds of difficulties to bring us to a broken place so we cry out to Him in our despair. When we come to the end of ourselves in brokenness, we have a desperate need for God and His restoration.

**Psalm 51:7-8 (NLT)** *“Purify me from my sins, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.  
8 Oh, give me back my joy again; you have broken me—now let me rejoice.”*

**Psalm 51:17 (NLT)** *“The sacrifice you desire is a broken spirit. You will not reject a broken and repentant heart, O God.”*

**Psalm 34:17-18 (NLT)** *“The Lord hears his people when they call to him for help. He rescues them from all their troubles.<sup>18</sup> The Lord is close to the brokenhearted; he rescues those whose spirits are crushed.”*

**Psalm 147:3 (NLT)** *“He heals the brokenhearted and bandages their wounds.”*

**Psalm 119:107 (NLT)** *“I have suffered much, O Lord; restore my life again as you promised.”*

**Notes:**

**Reflection and Response from This Week's Lesson:**

What's my take-away and how will I practice trusting God more through my custom-designed trials?

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