

DAVID

WAITING ON A KING

PASSION

Day 1 — READ 2 Samuel 6:12-22a

FIND the parts in this scripture which illustrate David's passion. In your journal, DESCRIBE your own attitude towards passion? Do you view it as good? bad? Would you describe yourself as a passionate person? Are you at a place in your life where your passion for God is strong? Or are you struggling in an area of your life that deadens your passion for God? REFLECT on where you're at on your journey.

Day 2 — READ 2 Samuel 6:1-15

In the first verses we see how David attempted to bring the ark back to Jerusalem under his own self-direction. Granted, he made a valiant effort by engaging the army of Israel as well as an entire marching band. However, God was displeased with David's effort and showed it in a dramatic way. When David had time to reflect and ask God to show him how to make this work, his second attempt was much different. DESCRIBE the differences.

READ Psalm 127:1-2. How do these verses tie in to listening to the voice of God? REFLECT on the implications of living life under your own self-direction verses God's direction. How has this played out in your own life?

Day 3 — READ 2 Samuel 6:16-20

David's wife, Michal, is quick to put David to shame. All of us have been affected by people who have shamed or criticized us. It may be parents, siblings, extended family members, friends, classmates, teachers, coworkers, supervisors, and/or other people in our circles. We play these conversations over and over again in our memories. LIST some of the hurtful words that you currently carry or have carried in the past. CONSIDER some of the ways in which you may carry the repercussions and shame of your own mistakes.

- * How has shame shaped who you are?
- * How has shame shaped how you parent or how you treat others?
- * How has shame affected your relationship with God?
- * Do you avoid God because you expect Him to be angry or disappointed?
- * Has the fear of God's condemnation kept you from turning to him?

PRAY: God, release me from the prison of shame that I'm trapped in. I cannot free myself, and I need You desperately. I'm putting my trust in You to love me in spite of myself. Teach me how to stop repeating the shame from my past, and bring people around me to love me as I am. Root me and establish me in Your love that I may grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Jesus.

Days 4&5 — READ 2 Samuel 6:21-22a

David had a choice of who he was going to listen to—God or his wife. David was wise enough to realize that the voice of God is more powerful than the voice of shame.

READ Deuteronomy 30:19. Every day we have multiple opportunities to choose life or death, blessing or curse. CELEBRATE some ways that you've chosen life and CONFESS some ways that you've chosen death. How can you become more aware of the effect of your choices have on your life? How does choosing life make you a better person, friend, parent, or leader?

Do you need to hear the voice of God today?

- * READ Psalm 61; Ephesians 3:14-19.
- * THANK God for the love He has for us, the love beyond all measure and beyond our comprehension.

What steps can you take to settle yourself and listen for God's voice each day? How can you recognize the voice of shame and learn how to reject it in favor of God's voice? How does centering yourself on God bring life and make you a more passionate person? CREATE at least one tangible step you can take this week to choose God's voice and, in essence, choose a life of passion.