

# GAME OF THRONES

THE REIGN OF DAVID

## The True King

### Key idea:

David displays the character of a true leader, and is a great pointer to Jesus, the True King.

### Key text:

2 Samuel 15-20 (2 Samuel 15:17-30)

So the king set out, with all the people following him, and they halted at a place some distance away. <sup>18</sup> All his men marched past him, along with all the Kerethites and Pelethites; and all the six hundred Gittites who had accompanied him from Gath marched before the king. <sup>19</sup> The king said to Ittai the Gittite, “Why should you come along with us? Go back and stay with King Absalom. You are a foreigner, an exile from your homeland. <sup>20</sup> You came only yesterday. And today shall I make you wander about with us, when I do not know where I am going? Go back, and take your countrymen. May kindness and faithfulness be with you.” <sup>21</sup> But Ittai replied to the king, “As surely as the LORD lives, and as my lord the king lives, wherever my lord the king may be, whether it means life or death, there will your servant be.” <sup>22</sup> David said to Ittai, “Go ahead, march on.” So Ittai the Gittite marched on with all his men and the families that were with him. <sup>23</sup> The whole countryside wept aloud as all the people passed by. The king also crossed the Kidron Valley, and all the people moved on toward the desert. <sup>24</sup> Zadok was there, too, and all the Levites who were with him were carrying the ark of the covenant of God. They set down the ark of God, and Abiathar offered sacrifices until all the people had finished leaving the city. <sup>25</sup> Then the king said to Zadok, “Take the ark of God back into the city. If I find favor in the LORD’s eyes, he will bring me back and let me see it and his dwelling place again. <sup>26</sup> But if he says, ‘I am not pleased with you,’ then I am ready; let him do to me whatever seems good to him.” <sup>27</sup> The king also said to Zadok the priest, “Aren’t you a seer? Go back to the city in peace, with your son Ahimaaz and Jonathan son of Abiathar. You and Abiathar take your two sons with you. <sup>28</sup> I will wait at the fords in the desert until word comes from you to inform me.” <sup>29</sup> So Zadok and Abiathar took the ark of God back to Jerusalem and stayed there. <sup>30</sup> But David continued up the Mount of Olives, weeping as he went; his head was covered and he was barefoot. All the people with him covered their heads too and were weeping as they went up.

### **Key points:**

1. 2 Samuel 15-20 records rebellions against David, and his attitudes and actions in response to those revolts. In these, we see the traits of a true leader.
2. A true leader is submitted to God and his will.
3. A true leader acts wisely, decisively, and righteously.
4. A true leader does not respond in kind to the sinful actions of others.
5. A true leader is concerned more for others than himself or herself.
6. In all these traits, David is the opposite of Absalom, and a pointer to Jesus, the True King.

### **Questions for discussion/application:**

1. What part of Sunday's text and teaching stood out most to you? Why?
2. How hard do you think it was for David to submit to God and trust him in this situation? Can you think of situations where you found it hard to submit to God and trust Him to do what was best?
3. Bret said, "A true leader is decisive but always restricts their actions so that they are righteous, refusing to do evil to gain or maintain power and position." Can you think of examples where people did unrighteous things to gain or maintain power? Have you ever been tempted to do this?
4. Why do we find it so tempting to respond to the sin of others with our own sinful actions? How can you fight against the urge for revenge?
5. Why does Scripture tell us to serve others rather than focusing on our authority over them? Why is this critical in those who wish to be leaders? What would servant leadership look like in practice?
6. How is Jesus the pattern of true leadership? How is He the pattern for a life of true submission to God? How does He help me to live this way? (See Hebrews 12:2-3).
7. Can you think of someone with whom you can share what you have learned this week? Pray for them and ask God to open a door for you to share His Word this week.

### **Preview of next week: Building God's House (1 Chronicles 29:10-22)**