



# 2 Samuel



**Reading the Bible Together**

**February 2015**

## What is 'In Sync' Bible Reading?

'In Sync' encourages us to read together through the Bible, and then reflect together on what we have read from God's Word. We consider the main message and the key themes of a whole book (or books) of the Bible, and then we can share with others what we have learnt through our Bible reading.

*'I meditate on your precepts and consider your ways. I delight in your decrees; I will not neglect your word.'* (Psalm 119:16)

## Questions to consider

Reading the Bible does not have to be an intellectual study. Anyone can read the Bible and by God's grace understand it. The main thing is that we pray for God's help as we read.

Here are some questions to help you think through what you are reading:

1. What have I learnt about God and about Jesus?
2. What does this teach me about humanity and myself?
3. What has most encouraged me from this book?
4. How does this teach me to love the Lord my God with all my heart, soul and mind? (Matt 22:37-40)
5. How does this teach me to love my neighbour as myself? (Matt 22:37-40)
6. Is there anything else I should learn here to be 'equipped for every good work' (2 Tim 3:17)

## 2 Samuel : What can we expect?

2 Samuel begins with David hearing of and lamenting the death of King Saul and his sons. Ish-bosheth becomes king of Israel and David king of Judah. There is conflict within the nation before eventually David becomes ruler over the whole kingdom.

In 2 Samuel we read about David's many wives and the ensuing family problems he has to deal with, including rape within the palace (Chpt 13) and the rebellion of his son, Absalom (Chpt 15-18). David's adultery with Bathsheba is recounted (Chpt 11) and his arrangement of the murder of her husband Uriah. The Lord sends Nathan the prophet to confront David (Chpt 12) and bring him to repentance for his grievous sins. David's kindness is seen in his dealings with Mephibosheth (Chpt 9).

The book of 2 Samuel is an intricate portrayal of human greatness and folly, of wisdom and sin, of faith and faithlessness, of contrasting perspectives and conflicting desires. David's strengths and weaknesses, sins and repentance act as both examples and warnings to us.

In 2 Samuel 7 God makes a promise with messianic implications that an offspring of David will be established as king over an eternal kingdom.

The book can be divided as follows (Dale Ralph Davis):

Chpts 1-8	A man after God's heart
Chpts 9-20	A servant under God's rod
Chpts 21-24	A kingdom in God's hands

## How to read?

2 Samuel has 24 chapters, so could easily be completed by reading a chapter a day for a month.

**In-Sync for March : Ezekiel**