The Heart of the Matter
No question about it. King David remains among the brightest lights of the Bible. So significant was David that God set aside an entire book of the Old Testament to cover David’s forty-year reign . . . from his highest pinnacle of achievement to his lowest valley of misery and defeat. Without sparing many details of either extreme, the Spirit of God recorded (with admiration as well as with grief) the things that made David great and the things that led to David’s agony of soul. The book of 2 Samuel traces a colorful, as well as contrasting, life and holds lessons that live on to this very day.

Discovering the Way
1. Some General Information
The book of 2 Samuel covers the reign of King David — some forty years — a reign filled with great victories in battle and stunning defeats in temptation.

2. Years of Triumph and Victory
David began his reign with a lengthy period of triumph on the battlefield and an expansion of the nation of Israel.

3. Years of Trouble and Misery
From the pinnacle of success, David fell hard — first in his initial sin with Bathsheba and then in his covering of that sin. David’s life was difficult from then on, as he dealt with the consequences of his choices.

Starting Your Journey
Three lessons linger as we consider 2 Samuel. First, prosperity and ease are perilous times, not blessings. Second, gross sin is a culmination of a process, not a sudden act. And third, confession and repentance help heal a wound but will never erase the scars.
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<tr>
<th>Theme</th>
<th>Blessings or consequences follow every action.</th>
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<tr>
<td>Key Verses</td>
<td>7:12–13</td>
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<td><strong>Christ in 2 Samuel</strong></td>
<td>Foreshadowed in David's reign, which, though imperfect, is characterized by justice, wisdom, and integrity; the Messiah, the Son of David, is promised as an offspring of the Davidic line and One who will sit upon David's throne forever.</td>
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