

1. Have you ever been surprised by the sin of someone else? Describe how it made you feel? What about it surprised you? How did you come to terms with what happened?
2. Read 2 Samuel 23:8–39. In what ways do these “fighting men” represent the glory of God in Israel? How does David demonstrate his appreciation for them, as well as his understanding of God’s provision through them?
3. Read 2 Samuel 24:1–9. Why was taking a census so particularly grievous at this stage of David’s reign in Israel? What do you think about the advice Joab gave David? Why is Joab’s advice ironic given what you know about Joab’s history with David?
4. Read 2 Samuel 24:10–16. How does David realize the sin that he has committed? What does the Lord do in response? How do the choices God gives David reflect God’s mercy?
5. How does David choose (v14)? What does this say about David’s view of God at this moment?
6. Read 2 Samuel 24:16–25. Why would Araunah try to give David his threshing floor? Why does David insist on buying it? How does David’s offering impact the Lord’s actions?
7. Rehearse the parallels between David’s actions with the actions of Jesus. In what ways are they consistent? How do they diverge? Take a few moments to thank God in prayer for sending Jesus as your substitute sacrifice. And ask him to help you, amid the glory and the garbage, to keep your eyes focused and your heart aligned with the greater glory that is yet to come.