

2 Samuel 3:1-20 - *"Abner the Frontrunner"*

- Marriage alliances were very common in the ancient world (see 2 Samuel 3:3) and Geshur was the region located to the north of Mahanaim, the residence of Ish-Bosheth.
 - Why do you think David agreed to this marriage alliance?
 - Do you think God was supportive of this culturally accepted marriage alliance?
 - What is the difference between being able to enjoy a liberty in Christ (Romans 14:14) and doing something that is culturally permissible but not biblically permissible?
 - Why didn't Abner defer to David earlier, if he knew that God had promised to considerate the kingdom under his reign (2 Sam 3:9-10)?
 - In the past, Abner served as the chief commander of Saul in seeking to take David's life (1 Sam 26:5, 15-16) and in seeking to dethrone David under Ish-Bosheth (2 Sam 2:8-10).
 - How do you respond to people when they hurt you wrongfully?
 - How can we ensure that we do not allow ourselves to be overcome by resentments?
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2 Samuel 3:22-4:12 - *"2 Cruel Murders"*

- Abner killed Joab's brother (2 Sam 2:18-23). Why or why wasn't Abner's subsequent death justified?
 - Why wasn't David rejoicing to see that God's plan for him finally was now made possible by the death of his rival, Ish-Bosheth?
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2 Samuel 5 *"David Rules Over All Israel"*

- If you could use one word to describe David's rise to the throne over all of Israel, what word would you use?
- Why would the only way to ascend into the city be through the war shaft (v.8)?
- David sought the LORD for counsel during nearly two (2) identical circumstances regarding the Philistines yet received two (2) different responses from God.
 - What are some reasons why we don't seek the Lord in things we are used to?