A Visitor's Guide to the Old Testament

A Quick Discussion Guide on the Book of 2 Samuel and 1 Chronicles

1.   There are lots of names in 1 Chronicles. Write down the names of FIVE important Bible characters who lived BEFORE David (they don't have to be names that appear in 1 Chronicles). Behind each name jot down a note on why that person seems important to you.

2.   Part of David's work as king in Israel involved organizing the government and the service of people within the Temple. Comment on the "blessings" and the "bane" of the organization and administration of churches. What are different ways in which the church can be organized? Comment on the organization of "service of the people within the church". What are different ways in which worship can be organized?

3.   A theological phrase that Luther is known for is, "*simul justus et peccator*", which means "at the same time both a saint and a sinner". How is that true of King David's life? What lessons about living as a "saint and sinner" can we learn from David?

4.   Write your memory passage below:

5.   Which of the following phrases do you agree with and why:

- The more I read about King David the more I like him.

- The more I read about King David the less I like him.

6.   Describe the pressures of David during Absalom's revolt. What are times when your life experience was most nearly like David's?

       Now read Psalm 3. Which verse or verses most accurately reflect how your felt during those times of extreme stress? What can we learn from David about dealing with stress and anxiety?

7.   David spent much time and effort getting things ready for the Temple to be built, even though the actual building of the Temple fell to Solomon.

       Many a missionary has worked for decades in a difficult field without seeing a single convert. Yet his or her ministry has prepared the way for others to reap a harvest.

       What can you think of that is so significant that you would spend an abundance of time and effort for, even if the full result were not achieved in your lifetime?