



LESSON 23

God forgives David

2 SAMUEL 11:1-12:25



God forgives those who repent.



“David said to Nathan, ‘I have sinned against the LORD.’ And Nathan said to David, ‘The LORD also has put away your sin; you shall not die’” (2 Sam 12:13).

Supporting Truths

1. God forgives sin.
2. God forgives those who repent.
3. God is gracious in the midst of sin.
4. Sin is deadly.
5. Sin leads to more sin.

Objectives

1. State the sins God forgave.
2. Describe David’s repentance.
3. List all the ways God showed grace to David.
4. List all the bad things that happened because of David’s sin.
5. Describe how David sinned more in an attempt to cover up his first sin.

STUDY THE BIBLE LESSON

God forgives David • 2 Samuel 11:1–12:25



Lesson Summary

David committed adultery with Bathsheba, the wife of Uriah, one of his own elite soldiers. Then to cover up, he planned Uriah's murder. Although David thought he had gotten away with it, God knew his sin. God responded with grace that was both painful and kind. God painfully exposed David's sin and disciplined him with many tragic consequences. But this pain was kind, driving David to repent and find forgiveness. God also kindly gave David another son, Solomon, through whom the Messiah would come.

Spotlight on the Gospel

David's sin reminds us that no one is free from sin. So instead of hiding our sin, we should confess it, repent, and seek forgiveness. God will forgive those who repent, because He sent Jesus Christ as the one promised in the Davidic Covenant. Jesus lived a sinless life, died for sins, rose victorious, and will one day return to reign as the perfect King. He will save all those who submit to Him as Lord and trust Him as Savior.

LAST WEEK



**God makes a covenant
with David**
2 Samuel 7:1–29

THIS WEEK



God forgives David
2 Samuel 11:1–12:25

NEXT WEEK



**God gives Solomon
wisdom**
1 Kings 2:1–4; 3:3–15

UNITED KINGDOM

Lesson Commentary

God forgives those who repent.

David had everything—God’s favor, God’s presence, wives, and children. He also had the kingdom and the unbreakable promise of an everlasting dynasty. He had victory over his enemies and prosperity in Israel. What more could he want? For years David had stayed loyal to God, faithfully following God’s word, and enjoying the blessings that come through obedience (Deut 28:1–14; Ps 1). But one afternoon all of that changed. Yet David’s sin, and God’s forgiveness of it, reveals the marvelous forgiveness God lavishes on those who repent.

David sinned and sinned some more (11:1–27)

From the roof of his house, David saw a beautiful woman taking a bath (2 Sam 11:2). So David sent to find out more about this woman (11:3). His servant reported that she was Bathsheba, the granddaughter of David’s most trusted counselor (16:23; 23:34), the daughter of one of David’s elite soldiers (23:34), and the wife of another of David’s elite soldiers (23:39). David had a decision to make: He could turn his eyes away (Job 31:1) and flee sin’s temptation, or let his eyes linger and allow lust to master him. Sadly, instead of fleeing from temptation (2 Tim 2:22), David pursued it (2 Sam 11:3). His lust blinded his judgment. He was *tempted, lured into sin by his own desire*. Then, when he pursued that desire, he committed *adultery, loving another married woman like his own wife* (11:4).

Beware! If God’s chosen king, a man after God’s own heart, can fall so quickly, then anyone can (1 Cor 10:12). But that does not mean that we are doomed to fail. The Bible says that we will never be tempted beyond what we are able to handle, because God is faithful to provide the way for us to escape sin and overcome temptation (1 Cor 10:13). We must be sober-minded and watchful (1 Pet 5:8), devoted to prayer (Col 4:2), and firm in faith (1 Pet 5:9). David’s failure reminds us to put our trust in the God of the Davidic Covenant, in His grace, and in His unbreakable promise of an eternal king (2 Sam 7).

As a result of David’s sin, Bathsheba became pregnant (11:5). However, instead of confessing his sin, David tried to hide it. He was ashamed of what he had done, so he tried to make it seem like Uriah, Bathsheba’s husband, had fathered the child (11:6–13). But David’s first two attempts to hide his sin failed when Uriah acted honorably and refused his offers. When David’s first two attempts failed, he plunged even deeper into sin by sending Uriah and several other soldiers to their deaths at the hands of the Ammonites (11:14–27). David told Uriah not to let this “displease” him, because so long as his affair stayed secret, David cared little for the destruction he caused (11:25).

But it did “displease” God (11:27). David may have thought that everything was fine. He had even managed to make himself look like the good guy by marrying Bathsheba—it looked like he was taking care of the widow of one of his fallen soldiers. But the true nature of David’s crime was not hidden from God. God sees all, and everyone must give an account to Him (Heb 4:13; Ps 11:4).

God responded to David with gracious discipline (12:1–25)

God did not remain silent concerning David’s sin (2 Sam 12:1). He sent Nathan to confront the king, bringing pain but also overwhelming grace. God graciously pursued David by sending Nathan. While we might want to hide our sin, afraid of the shame, God graciously pursues us, convicting us of sin and exposing our sin in order to set us free from sin and restore us to God.

Instead of hiding from Him, let us pray that He search every nook and cranny of our lives (Ps 139:23–24)!

Nathan used a simple story to confront

THINK ABOUT IT
When sin is kept secret, it grows and harms those around us.



THINK ABOUT IT
It is painful to have our sin exposed, but Jesus seeks sinners in order to save them (Luke 19:10).



STUDY THE BIBLE LESSON

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David's sin (2 Sam 12:1–4). Outraged by the actions of the rich man, David unwittingly condemned his own sin (12:5–6). David, like the fictional rich man in Nathan's story, had everything. God had piled upon David grace upon grace, and He would have given more (12:7–8). David's sin shows us that immorality and impurity are just another expression of greed and ingratitude (Eph 5:3–5). When we sin, we despise what God has given us and fuel our greedy desires.

Like the rich man, David broke God's law (2 Sam 12:9; Exod 20:13–14). David demanded that the rich man pay the appropriate penalty, four lambs in exchange for one (Exod 22:1). So, too, would David pay the just penalty for his sin—four sons in exchange for one (2 Sam 12:18; 13:29; 18:14–15; 1 Kgs 2:25). Also, since he had violated a man's daughter, so his own daughter would be violated (2 Sam 13). He had taken a man's wife in secret, but his own wives would be taken in public (16:20–22). God's discipline is *just*; the punishment fits the crime (12:10–12; Job 34:10–12).

By despising God's law, David despised God Himself (2 Sam 12:9–10). Instead of loving God, David scorned God as Hophni and Phinehas had (1 Sam 2:17). Also, like the rich man who ruthlessly killed the poor man's pet lamb, David ruthlessly violated Bathsheba and murdered her husband, Uriah. David's sin revealed ugly cruelty and contempt in his heart. David was furious with the rich man, and God was furious with David. Yet even in this God was gracious, for His righteous anger teaches us to fear Him. The fear of the LORD is good, for it turns us from sin and leads us to life (Prov 16:6; 19:23).

This godly fear led David to repentance (Ps 51). Unlike Saul, David's repentance was genuine (2 Sam 12:13; cf. 1 Sam 15:24). David depended on God's mercy (Ps 51:1) and pled for cleansing (51:2), knowing that only God could wash His sin away (51:7, 9–10). He confessed that his sin was primarily

against God (51:4), that his sin reflected his sinful heart (51:5), and that he could do nothing to earn restoration (51:1–3). He longed to glorify God once again (51:12–15). This is the heart God pardons—a broken and humble heart (51:17). But how could God forgive David when God's own law said he must die (Lev 20:10; 24:17)? Because one day the Son of David would bear the sin of David in his place. God made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us (2 Cor 5:21).

Yet, as a result of his sin, David's newborn son would die (2 Sam 12:14, 18). This is a painful reminder of sin's consequences. God had graciously forgiven David's sin, but God's forgiveness does not always remove the painful consequences of sin in this life. Although the child died, God used this tragedy to continue to draw David to Himself. David was no longer separated from God by sin (Isa 59:2), but was once again depending on God's grace (2 Sam 12:22) and worshiping in God's house (12:20). God is able to bring peace and restoration in the midst of sin's painful consequences.

In fact, out of David's sin God worked grace for the entire world. David and Bathsheba had another son, named Solomon, which means "His peace" or "His restoration" (12:24). God loved this son (12:24), even choosing him to be king after David. This is a remarkable example of God's grace considering the sinful nature of David's marriage to Bathsheba. Through this son came the Messiah, whose death spared David from the death he deserved. This same forgiveness is available to all who, like David, repent of their sins and throw themselves upon the mercy of God.

THINK ABOUT IT
Godly people
are not perfect,
but they are
repentant.



Lesson Outline

God forgives those who repent.

AGES 3–5 LESSON OUTLINE



1. David sinned by treating Bathsheba as his own wife (11:1–5).
2. David tried to hide his sin by having Bathsheba's husband killed (11:6–27).
3. God told David He would punish him for his sin (12:1–12).
4. God forgave David and gave him another son, Solomon (12:13–25).

AGES 6–11 LESSON OUTLINE



1. David sinned and sinned some more (11:1–27).
 - David was tempted when he saw Bathsheba (11:1–2).
 - David pursued his temptation (11:3).
 - David sinned with Bathsheba (11:4–5).
 - David tried to hide his sin by planning Uriah's murder (11:6–27).
 - David's sin displeased the LORD (11:27).
2. God responded to David with gracious discipline (12:1–25).
 - The LORD graciously sent Nathan to expose David's sin (12:1–9).
 - The LORD graciously warned of the consequences of David's sin (12:10–12, 14).
 - The LORD graciously forgave when David repented (12:13; cf. Ps 51).
 - The LORD graciously restored David to true worship (12:15–23).
 - The LORD graciously gave David another son, whom the LORD loved (12:24–25).



TEACH THE BIBLE LESSON

God forgives David • 2 Samuel 11:1–12:25



Lesson Questions

Use these questions to teach or to review this week's lesson.



Ages 3–5 Lesson Questions

- 1. How did David sin?**
He treated someone else's wife as if she was his own wife. Then he allowed her husband to be killed.
- 2. Did God know David had sinned?**
Yes. God knows everything.
- 3. What did David do when God showed him his sin?**
David repented.
- 4. What did God do when David repented?**
God forgave David.



Ages 6–11 Lesson Questions

- 1. When David was tempted, did he turn away from the temptation?**
No. David pursued the temptation and sinned.
- 2. How did David cover up his sin?**
He planned for Uriah to be killed, then he married Bathsheba.
- 3. Did God leave David in his sin?**
No. God sent Nathan to expose David's sin.
- 4. How did Nathan get David to realize that he had sinned?**
Nathan told David a story about a rich man taking a poor man's lamb. David got angry and said the rich man should die and pay back the poor man.
- 5. What did David's sin show about his heart?**
David's family would be full of violence and sin, and David's newborn son would die.
- 6. Was God still good to David?**
Yes. God did not let David stay in his sin. God forgave David. God used the painful consequences to bring David back to Him.
- 7. What was special about David's second son with Bathsheba?**
This son, Solomon, was loved by God, showing that God still loved David. Also, the Messiah would be Solomon's descendant.

Lesson Activities

Choose from the following ideas to introduce, illustrate, and apply this week's lesson.

AGES 3–5



THE WEIGHT OF SIN

Today's lesson provides a good picture of the effect and consequences of not dealing with sin. The longer a person fails to confess and repent of sin, the greater his burden becomes. Bring a bag to class. As you relate each stage of David's sin, pick up another object representing David's sin and carry it in the bag to demonstrate the growing burden of sin. Turning from sin to God in repentance will remove the burden of sin.

NATHAN'S STORY

Before the lesson, read Nathan's story to David from 2 Samuel 12:1–4. Ask the children to identify the rich man's sin. Read Exodus 22:1, which reveals the law about stealing and slaughtering sheep. Talk about the difference between just knowing the law and obeying it (Jas 1:22). In today's lesson, we'll hear about King David's sin, which he lingered in, and how God's prophet Nathan told him this story to help him confess his sin and repent.



GOD KNOWS

Hide one or more objects under a blanket (don't let the children see what you're hiding). Ask the children to guess what's under the blanket. After revealing the hidden objects, ask the children if it's possible to hide anything from God. Tell them that God sees everything we do—both good and evil (Ps 11:4; Heb 4:13).

THE GIFT OF GOD'S GRACE

Despite David's sin and its consequences, God demonstrated His grace toward him. God granted him a son by Bathsheba who would be called Jedidiah, meaning "beloved of the LORD." After telling the story, a wrapped box can be brought out as a sign of God's grace toward David. The children will never be able to guess what God gave David to show His great mercy. Open the box and show them a baby inside, explaining the significance of the child's name. This is a wonderful opportunity to relate to the children the gift of God's own Son, who was given in order that we, too, might be restored to God.



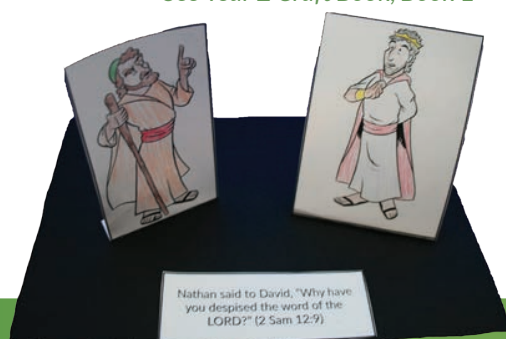
NATHAN'S REBUKE AND DAVID'S REPENTANCE

See Year 2 Craft Book, Book 1.

Materials: Craft sheet, black construction paper, brads, scissors, glue, and crayons.

Directions: Pre-cut pictures from the craft sheet. Have children color the pictures. Glue the picture of Nathan to the black construction paper. Help them to glue the two pictures of David together and attach it to the black paper with a brad. David will be able to rotate to show his expression both before and after Nathan rebuked him.

Nathan's Rebuke and David's Repentance
See Year 2 Craft Book, Book 1



TEACH THE BIBLE LESSON

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AGES 6–8



INTRODUCE

GOD GRACIOUSLY PURSUES SINNERS

In today's lesson, God graciously confronts David's sin through the prophet Nathan (2 Sam 12:1). Read the Parable of the Lost Sheep and the Parable of the Lost Coin to the class in preparation for today's lesson (Luke 15:1–10).

A BIBLICAL DEFINITION OF MARRIAGE

Ask the children if they can recite the Ten Commandments from memory. To help explain the seventh commandment (adultery) in an age-appropriate, sensitive manner, begin by giving the children a biblical definition of marriage. Marriage is a special relationship given by God in which a man and a woman leave their parents and make one new family together. David committed adultery when he hurt the family God gave Him by taking another man's wife as his own. God hates this terrible sin.



ILLUSTRATE

GIVING TEMPTATION AN INCH

Ask the children whether they have heard the saying "Give them an inch, and they take a mile." Tell them that sin is the same way; if given a place in their heart, it will grow. What are some ways that they let sin into their lives? Examples: deception when it comes to chores, allowing other things to take a place in their heart above God, lying, etc. To guard their hearts from evil, they need to not give temptation an inch.

REPENTANCE REQUIRED

David's sin provides a vivid picture of the effect of unrepentant sin. God's solution for sin is repentance—turning from sin and turning to God. This can be highlighted by stopping the lesson at various stages and asking the children what David should have done. Each time you stop, you might also hold up a "U-turn" sign to illustrate what David should have done. You can then tell them what he actually did and how this resulted in even more sin and pain. At each point, David could and should have repented, and the downward spiral could have been halted.



APPLY

A MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART SINS

See Year 2 Craft Book, Book 1.

Materials: Craft sheet, scissors, glue, hole puncher, key ring or paper clip, and crayons.

Directions: Instruct the children to color the hearts according to the directions on the page. Then they can cut out the hearts (not cutting along the broken line of the red heart). Have them cut out the Bible verses and glue each one to the proper heart. Have the students put the hearts in the correct order. Punch a hole in the upper left corner of each heart. Last, instruct the students to slide their hearts onto a key ring or paper clip.

A Man After God's Own Heart Sins
See Year 2 Craft Book, Book 1



AGES 9–11



INTRODUCE

GOD GRACIOUSLY RESTORES

God graciously restores repentant sinners. Read the story of the prodigal son to the class in preparation for today's lesson (Luke 15:11–24). Ask the children to listen for how God graciously restored David during the lesson today.

THE NEVER-ENDING SMELL OF SMOKE

Ask the children if they have ever had a camp fire or have been around someone who has been near a fire. When smoke gets into clothes, furniture, or upholstery, it infuses it with its smell. The smell doesn't come out easily. This is just like sin. Once sin is accepted and allowed to reside in our lives, it infuses our lives and becomes very hard to remove. This is like the sin we find in today's lesson about David and Bathsheba. David accepted sin into his life by looking at another man's wife and then continued to sin by killing Uriah so that he could have Bathsheba.



ILLUSTRATE

THE LIFE CYCLE OF SIN

David's temptation, fall, and restoration represent a full cycle in the life of sin. Read James 1:14–15 as a class and identify the different points in the life cycle of David's sin: "tempted by own desire" (1:14; cf. 2 Sam 11:2–3); "then desire gives birth to sin" (1:15; cf. 2 Sam 11:4); "sin when it is fully grown brings forth death" (1:15; cf. 2 Sam 12:7–14). However, David repented and was forgiven by God (2 Sam 12:13).

SIN LOVES DARKNESS

Bring a mushroom to class. Explain that mushrooms are unique in that they grow best in the dark. Tell the class that sin likes darkness too; it hates to be exposed (John 3:19–20). David went to great lengths to hide his sin (2 Sam 11:6–27).



APPLY

THE LOVE OF A FATHER

Talk to the children about how their fathers show that they love them. They probably will come up with many examples, but fail to mention discipline. Talk to them about how when a father disciplines his children, he is loving them by correcting them. His desire is for them to grow into young men and women of integrity, Christian men and women who know God's commandments and truly desire to follow them. Read Hebrews 12:4–11 as a class. Talk to them about how this is God's desire also and that when we all sin He, as our divine Father, corrects us so that we may grow in our faith in and love for Him.