

UNMASKED

Hiding our Sin

TALK IT OVER

Key Scriptures

In the spring of the year, when kings normally go out to war, David sent Joab and the Israelite army to fight the Ammonites. They destroyed the Ammonite army and laid siege to the city of Rabbah. However, David stayed behind in Jerusalem. ²Late one afternoon, after his midday rest, David got out of bed and was walking on the roof of the palace. As he looked out over the city, he noticed a woman of unusual beauty taking a bath. ³He sent someone to find out who she was, and he was told, "She is Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam and the wife of Uriah the Hittite." ⁴Then David sent messengers to get her; and when she came to the palace, he slept with her... Then she returned home. ⁵Later, when Bathsheba discovered that she was pregnant, she sent David a message, saying, "I'm pregnant." 2 Samuel 11:1-5

People who conceal their sins will not prosper, but if they confess and turn from them, they will receive mercy. Proverbs 28:13

Have mercy on me, O God, because of your unfailing love. Because of your great compassion, blot out the stain of my sins.

²Wash me clean from my guilt. Purify me from my sin. ... ¹⁰Create in me a clean heart, O God. Renew a loyal spirit within me. ¹¹Do not banish me from your presence, and don't take your Holy Spirit from me. ¹²Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and make me willing to obey you. Psalms 51:1-2, 10-12

Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed... James 5:16a

Start talking. Find a conversation starter for your group.

- What is one of the biggest secrets you have ever kept? How well did you keep it concealed?
- Why do adults still have fun putting on masks and costumes and pretending to be other people? What is it that makes it so enjoyable?

Start thinking. Ask a question to get your group thinking.

- Read the full account in 2 Samuel 11:1-17. How did one sin lead to another and continue to snowball for David? How have you seen sin do that in your life?
- What does Psalm 51 teach us about how we should respond to our sins and God's forgiveness?

Start sharing. Choose a question to create openness.

- What are some of the dangers of keeping sin concealed? (See Prov. 28:13, Luke 8:17, Numbers 32:23, 2 Samuel 11, 2 Samuel 12:1-14)
- Why is confessing our sins to others such a vital part of our healing?
- How have you seen the short-term pain of confession lead to deeper intimacy with God and others?

Start praying. Be bold and pray with power.

Father, thank You lavishing forgiveness on us when we choose not to hide our sin but confess it. Give us the strength to quit hiding behind a mask of holiness and embrace the spiritual discipline of confession so we can be forgiven and find healing. In Jesus' name, amen.

Start doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week.

- Confess your concealed sins to God. Ask for His forgiveness.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to lead you to a safe person to confess your hidden sins to and do it. It will be awkward, scary, and hard, it might even cause pain, but the long-term healing that will occur as a result will be worth it.
- Take some time to search the Bible and find out what it says about the dangers of hiding sin and the power of forgiveness.