

Pursuing the Heart of God

What if I stumble

Section 4

1 Samuel 27:1-12; 29:1-11; 30:1-6

1. **We all** _____
 - a. David feels that he will now die at the hand of Saul
 - b. David is so sure that there is nothing better for him than to live with the Philistines and in so doing Saul would quit chasing him.
 - c. David took his 600 men and their families with him to live with the philistines.
 - d. David, his men, and their families lived with the king who was the enemy of God and Israel.
 - e. David knows this arrangement is not good and asks for a city to have as their own, and the king gives him Ziklag.
 - f. David and his men live with the philistines for 16 months.
 - g. David began to attack the people living in the area but left no one alive that could tell what he was doing. He and his men took all the animals and things of value from those battles.

- h. David lied to the king and was not truthful about how he was obtaining the wealth. The king had so much faith in David that he asked him to fight with him.

2. _____ .
(29:1-11)

- a. The philistines go to war again with Israel.
- b. David is at the back of the philistine army as they prepare to fight against Israel.
- c. The princes of the philistines do not trust David and are worried that he will begin fighting with Israel again. They remember what he did to Goliath and are scared that he might still be loyal to Saul.
- d. King Achish still thought David was ok but to make the princes happy asked him to leave.
- e. David calls himself a servant of Achish the king. Contrast that with what he called himself when he fought Goliath. Then he was a part of the Armies of the living God. Now he saw himself as a servant in the army of the philistines. That isn't who he was. He was still the anointed chosen one of God that would

be king of Israel. But that is not how he saw himself.

3. Why do we stumble?

- a. We change our _____
- b. We _____ God's

4. What happens when we stumble?

- a. Things _____ get easier for a
_____.
- b. Just because _____ get easier
doesn't mean you are _____
God.
- c. You will lead _____ astray.
- d. Sin will always take you
_____ than you want to
_____ and will always
_____ you _____ than
you want to _____ and will
always _____ you
_____ than you are willing to
_____. (30:1-8)
- e. We _____ our
lives.
 - i. Just because you are doing right in
one area doesn't mean that you are
living in the will of God in another.

- ii. David was attacking the people that Saul was supposed to be attacking.
- f. Sin always _____
you as _____ than you are in _____.

5. How Do I get up?

- a. The answer is found in 1 Samuel 30:6.
_____ in the _____
- b. Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in his wonderful face. And the things of earth will grow strangely dim, in the light of his glory and grace.

Discussion Questions:

Have you ever found yourself in your own Kobayashi Maru? Share with the group a time that felt like there was no way out?

When we begin to focus on ourselves, we often feel as though we have no other choice than to make a bad decision. Just like David we forget to focus on God. What do you do to help keep your focus on God in times of trouble?

Sin always defines you as less than you are in Christ. Discuss Ephesians 1:1-14 and who we are in Christ. What other passages do you know that tell us who we are in Christ?

One of the things we do when we stumble is forget God's promises. List out all of God's promises that you know. Add the Bible references if you can.

Pursuing the Heart of God

What if I fall?

Section 5

2 Samuel 11-12

1. **Decisions that often seem _____
at the time can lead to _____
_____ decisions (11:1-2)**
 - a. It was the time for kings to go forth to battle.
 - b. David sends Joab to destroy the Ammonites.
 - c. David tarries in Jerusalem.
 - d. Sin often starts with a small seemingly inconsequential decision to not do something or be somewhere God wants us.
 - e. Few people can connect the dots back to the first decision that led to their sin.
 - f. Walking on the roof was not an abnormal thing to do. Seeing Bathsheba bathing may have been an unfortunate turn of events to some. But if he had been where he was supposed to be, he would have never seen her.

2. The Sin _____ (11:3-27)

- a. One sin often leads to another sin
- b. David inquires about Bathsheba. He is told she is the wife of Urriah the Hittite.
- c. He sent for her anyway.
- d. He sleeps with her and she gets pregnant.
- e. When he finds out that she is pregnant he brings home Urriah from the battle.
- f. He tries to get Urriah to go home to his wife to cover his sin but Urriah is a man of honor that will not go home while the rest of the army is sleeping in the fields.
- g. David tries to get him drunk so he will go home but Urriah still does not go home.
- h. David sends Urriah's death warrant to Joab in the hand of Urriah.
- i. Urriah is killed.
- j. Bathsheba mourns the loss of her Husband.
- k. David takes Bathsheba as his wife.
- l. David thinks he has gotten away with his sin.
- m. Lust led to Adultery which led to deception which led to murder.

3. **Be _____ your _____ will _____ you out (12:1-12)**

- a. Nathan a prophet of God comes and tells David a parable.
- b. David is furious with the rich man who steals the poor man's lamb
- c. Nathan tells David "You are the Man"
- d. A sign of spiritual maturity is not that you can see sin in others' lives; even the unsaved can do that. A sign of spiritual maturity is that you can see sin in your own life. –Jerry Pelfrey

4. **When confronted with your sin, _____ is the only response. (12:13-14)**

- a. When David is confronted with his sin he repents.
- b. Our sin allows those who don't know God to have reason to blaspheme God. (14)

5. **Eternal _____ of the _____ (12:15-23)**

- a. David begs for the life of his son.
- b. The people are scared to tell David his son is dead.
- c. David hoped for God's grace to spare his son.

- d. David knew that God was just in his judgment.
- e. David knew that he would see his son again.

Discussion Questions:

How can “inconsequential” decisions lead us into opportunities to sin?

Read James 1:13-15. How do these verses apply to the idea of one sin leading to another?

Discuss the characteristics of those who are pursuing the heart of God we have discovered so far:

- Realizes he/she is chosen by God
- Puts his/her faith into action
- Behaves wisely-Humility, Patience, Faithfulness
- Understands the cost of sin
- Finds strength in the Lord
- Repents of sin
- Has an eternal perspective