

onechurch

bigIdea

What is a mentor? The word *mentor* is first used in Homer's *The Odyssey*. It was a person's name. Mentor was entrusted with the education of Odysseus's son. So to mentor someone means you teach, train, and raise up. To mentor someone means that they watch you and become like you—they follow your lead. Because as parents, our actions always speak louder than our words.



BIG IDEA: Our children learn more from our actions than our words.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Have you ever observed someone's actions and their words NOT matching up? Explain. Which do you tend to believe most—someone's actions or their words?
2. Do you agree or disagree with this statement: "People today get away with sin more than people in our parent's generation did?"
3. Do you think the consequences of sin have changed much over the years? What consequences never change?
4. *Read Galatians 6:7-8.* Explain in your words the law of the harvest. As you reflect on what you have *sown* this year, what *harvest* are you expecting? Weeds? A Bumper Crop? Sick fruit? Why?
5. *Read 2 Samuel 11:1-5.* What led David to commit adultery? Was David where he was supposed to be? How can boredom lead us astray? *Read 1 Corinthians 10:13* and share times in this story when David could have chosen differently?
6. *Read 2 Samuel 11:6-16.* David could have come clean after he learned about the pregnancy. What did he do? What did Uriah, Bathsheba's husband do? Compare Uriah's character to David's. Which one had more integrity?
7. *Read 2 Samuel 12:1-14.* What were the consequences of David's sin?

We reap what we sow. Many people think that if we will simply confess our sins and claim God's forgiveness, then all the consequences of what we have done will be quickly whisked away. That is wrong. Think about it—what if you chose to do something really stupid. What if you went up to a guy that is bigger and stronger than you, and, for no reason, you choose to hit him. He retaliates and he breaks your arm. *Ouch!* But what if you then ask this big guy's forgiveness, and he forgives you! If your arm still broken? Of course it is! Because a broken arm is a broken arm, whether I have been forgiven or not.

8. In what ways did David read *later* and *greater*? (2 Samuel 13:1, 14, 28-29, 37-39; 14:28; 15:10-14; 18:5)
9. In what ways did Amnon treat his sister in the same way David had treated Bathsheba?
10. In what ways did Absalom treat Amnon the same way David treated Uriah, Bathsheba's husband?
11. If you fell morally like David, who would your moral failure injure? How can David's example help safeguard you against a future moral fall?

THINK ABOUT IT

In your small group, listen to the song *Watching You* by Rodney Atkins on his album *Going Through Hell*. Your children are becoming just like you, because their watching you.

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

What areas of your life do you need to work on so that your actions match up to your words?

CHANGING YOUR MIND

Don't be misled—you cannot mock the justice of God. You will always harvest what you plant. Those who live only to satisfy their own sinful nature will harvest decay and death from that sinful nature. But those who live to please the Spirit will harvest everlasting life from the Spirit. Galatians 6:7-8