

## Lesson 83

# David Disobeys God

David sinned by taking another man's wife.

# Overview

## Lesson Focus

David fell into temptation and sinned by taking another man's wife and having the man killed. Nathan the prophet confronted David with his sin by telling him a parable, and David repented. God forgave David, but David faced punishment for his sin.

## Key Passages

2 Samuel 11:14–17, 12:1–14; Psalm 51:1–4

## Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Identify David's sin against God.
- Describe the consequences of David's sin.

## Memory Verse

Psalm 32:5 I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.

## Prepare to Share

### Scriptural Background

Prepare to teach by preparing your heart. Read the key passages for this lesson along with this background.

God had made David king over Israel and promised that his throne would be an enduring one that would one day lead to the Savior (2 Samuel 7:12–17). But David's life was about to change. And as we move further into 2 Samuel and David's life, we witness the reality that the human heart, if left to itself, will always fall to the desires of the flesh (Galatians 5:17). Many find it difficult to think of David as a man after God's own heart (1 Samuel 13:14; Acts 13:22) while reading the account in 2 Samuel 11 of his fall into serious moral failure.

Throughout this account of adultery, deceit, and murder, God gives a glimpse into our hearts and his grace. David's descent began when he shirked his kingly duty as leader and chose to stay behind while he sent his army off to war against the Ammonites (2 Samuel 11:1). This first offense brought about the occasion that led to lusting after the woman Bathsheba from the roof of his palace (2 Samuel 11:2). He was completely enticed by his own fleshly desires and pursued the woman who was the wife of one of his trusted soldiers. David's

sinful manipulation and misuse of her resulted in a baby being conceived (2 Samuel 11:4–5).

We can only imagine what raced through David's mind upon hearing that news! Fearful of being found out, we do know that his immediate reaction was to cover up his sexual sin, and he again used his influence to manipulate the circumstances he found himself in. David ordered Uriah, Bathsheba's husband, back from war, thinking that he would sleep with his wife so it would appear the child was Uriah's (2 Samuel 11:6–10). After this attempt failed, David got Uriah drunk in the hope that drunkenness would break Uriah's resolve not to lie with his wife (2 Samuel 11:12–13). Again, Uriah foiled David's plan, and in desperation, David ordered that Uriah be placed at the forefront of battle and abandoned there to die (2 Samuel 11:15). After mourning her husband's death, Bathsheba moved into the palace, became one of David's many wives, and bore a son (2 Samuel 11:26–27).

It seemed as though David would get away with his sin against God. And yet, the thing that David had done displeased the Lord (2 Samuel 11:27). And in his displeasure, God acted severely but mercifully to David. Through his prophet Nathan, God convicted David—not through thundering condemnation but through a parable of a rich man who took a poor man's pet lamb for dinner (2 Samuel 12:1–4).

David reacted indignantly toward this story—incensed at the idea that a rich man with many flocks would steal the only sheep of a poor man. In fact, David demanded that this rich man should die for his unjust behavior (2 Samuel 12:5). This indignation turned quickly to repentance when Nathan proclaimed, "You are the man!" (2 Samuel 12:7).

David thought he had concealed his sin from public exposure, but God would not let David's sin go undetected. And through the prophet Nathan, God called David to sincere repentance. God showed grace and mercy through the message of Nathan—grace to reveal that David's sin could not be concealed, and mercy that allowed David to continue to live, sure of God's forgiveness.

Psalm 51 gives a closer look at David's repentance and God's forgiveness. David cried out for mercy, begging to be washed, forgiven, and restored to the joy of his salvation. Because God is faithful to forgive, he cleansed David of the guilt of his sin. But David's sin had to be judged. And God accomplished that when he justly atoned for all the sins of every believer through Jesus Christ who presented his life as the perfect sacrifice for sin once for all (Hebrews 10:10–12).

One lesson to be learned from this account of man's deceit and God's forgiveness is that sin rarely happens in a moment but follows a certain progression. Like David, we are tempted by our own lusts and drawn away by our desires. Then desire gives birth to sin, and sin finally brings forth death (James 1:13–15).

In the end, this account with all of its sordid details gives us great hope. We, too, are sinners with hearts that seek our own pleasures. But God will not allow us to conceal sin. If we are children of God, he will graciously reveal our sin,

bring us to repentance, and forgive us through the Redeemer and Savior who died in our place.

## Historical/Apologetics Background

There should be no doubt in our minds that David's string of sins was truly heinous—lust, adultery, deceit, murder. But we can be assured that God has forgiven him of those sins in Christ. David offered a sincere prayer of repentance in Psalm 51, and he trusted that God would cleanse him from sin. Although David did not know the name of Jesus, he could look forward to the Messiah, who would come through his lineage, to take away the sin he had committed. In fact, many of the psalms that David wrote have clear messianic language. Jesus quoted from Psalm 22 on the cross, and we see the fulfillment of its prophetic portion in those who mocked Jesus while he was hanging there in our place (Matthew 27).

Even though David had been cleared of the guilt of his sin and faced no eternal condemnation (Romans 8:1–2; 1 John 4:17–19), he still had to face temporal consequences for his sin. God announced through Nathan that David's first child with Bathsheba would die, that David's house would be plagued by violence, and that his wives would be violated in the full view of Israel. All of these consequences related to the sins David had committed. Like David, we can go to God for forgiveness of our sins, and he will freely forgive us (1 John 1:8–10). We are assured that there is no eternal condemnation because our lives have been hidden with Christ in God (Colossians 3:3). Yet, we can expect to receive discipline for our sins because the heavenly Father chastens his children (Hebrews 12:5–6). In spite of the consequences brought on by sin, we can be sure that God's forgiveness of our sins will lead to eternal life through Jesus Christ. For this we can praise the Creator and Redeemer forever and ever.

## Limited License to Reproduce

A limited, non-exclusive, non-transferable, nonsublicensable license is hereby granted to a single local church or organization to print copies of the PDF materials in the Teacher Digital Resources if 1) you are the original purchaser; 2) you are using the copies for noncommercial purposes (such as for teaching in class) exclusively within your single local church or organization (multi-campus churches, and national/regional denominations are not covered under this license); and 3) you follow the instructions provided in the curriculum pertaining to the printable materials.

This license is for the specific purchaser of the product and does not include affiliated groups or organizations, or other churches or groups in the same denomination as the purchaser, not identified as the actual purchaser. There is no limit to the number of printed copies for use within the single local church or organization which is the actual purchaser. None of the material in this curriculum may be reproduced for any commercial promotion, advertising, or sale of a product or service, or to share with any other persons, churches, groups, or organizations.

The media (audio/video) portions are copyrighted and duplication is prohibited. This license is for materials in the Teacher Digital Resources only and does NOT include reproduction rights for pre-printed teacher books, student guides, student take home sheets, or posters, except on an emergency basis when purchased quantities are not sufficient for a given week.

## Bible Version

Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.