

The Story 12: “The Trials of a King”
2Samuel 5, 11-12 and Psalm 51

March 1, 2026

Big Idea: God is less interested in pretending we are righteous and more interested in restoring us when we repent.

Setup

David was considered “*the man after God’s own heart.*” David was the most prominent king Israel ever knew. In Israel today, along with Abraham and Moses, David’s name is revered. Today we will discover something sobering: *even all-in people can fall.* The issue is *not* whether we sin or not. The issue is *how we respond* when we do.

1. **Big-Time Blessing (2Samuel 5-9).** Following Saul’s death, David becomes king. The tribes unite. Civil war ends. Political instability gives way to strength. David captures Jerusalem and wisely establishes it as Israel’s capital – a strategic move that unifies the nation.
2. **Big-Time Failure (2Samuel 11).** You cannot tell the story of King David without talking about Bathsheba. David’s egregious sin began with a simple glance but culminated in adultery and murder of her husband Uriah.
3. **Big-Time Confrontation (2Samuel 12).** The role of God’s prophet in the Old Testament was very simple and straightforward – speak on behalf of God Almighty. God loves David too much to let him remain in deception. Nathan confronted him and David responds appropriately. When confronted, David uncovers what he had tried to cover.
4. **Big-Time Bible Point: What we cover, God will uncover; what we uncover, God will cover.** David’s consequences were real. But so was God’s mercy. God is more interested in our repentance than in our punishment. He disciplines, but He also restores.

An Exposition on Confession (Psalm 51). Psalm 51 was written after David’s sin with Bathsheba. Whether immediately after or later in life as reflection, it shows that David understood grace deeply. Note – True Confession...

1. **...tells the truth.** David knew his sin. There will be no more cover-up.
2. **...takes responsibility.** No rationalization, “*She shouldn’t have been bathing on the roof.*” This was David’s fault.
3. **...sees sin as God sees it.** Confession means “agreement.” David agreed with God.
4. **...seeks cleansing, not just relief.** David wanted to make things right with God.

Grown-Up Prayer

Psalm 51 is a grown-up prayer for grown-up sin. This is real-life, grown-up prayer. When we fail, stumble or fall – big or small, public or private – we need to respond like David. I wonder how our lives might change, our faith develop, and our faithwalks grow, were we to handle sin the way David does in Psalm 51?

Family Night – Read 2Samuel 12:1-10

- **Elementary School:** Ask, “Who did God tell to confront David following his sin? Who did the man in the story turn out to be? How did David feel after Nathan told him the story? What should we do when we disobey God?”
- **Middle / High School:** Ask, “How did Nathan get through to the king? How does the rich man in the story represent the king? Why is it difficult to take responsibility when we sin? How should we respond when we sin before God?”

Prayer: “Father, we want to be faithful to You, but when we fail, we will take responsibility and apologize. Amen”

Velocity (Middle and High School Students)

Velocity: Meets on Wednesdays here at the church.

Gravity: Today in Both Services

“The Story” Chapter 11 Today

Pop Tarts and Pajamas

The time changes next Sunday, March 8. We will lose an hour of sleep. We thought it would be fun to let your kids roll out of bed and come to church. They can wear their pajamas and we will provide breakfast.

Kenya Mission Trip 2026

Trip is June 4-14. If you are interested, please attend the meeting on March 15 between the services.

Wandering to Jerusalem

Wondering to Jerusalem is for Easter like Wondering to Bethlehem was for Christmas. The family event is Wednesday, March 18. Sign up in KidsJAM.

Baptism

Next Baptism is March 29th. Use the Communication Card to let us know if you are interested or have questions.