



# First Baptist Church Selmer

FIRM FOUNDATION • DAVID AND BATHSHEBA • 2 SAMUEL 11:2-14; 12:7-14 •  
10/29/2023

## MAIN POINT

God is faithful to forgive all sin for those who seek Him through repentance.

## INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

**What skill do you have that took years of practice that now you handle with relative ease?**

**What moved the task from difficult to easy?**

With good training, practice, and experience, jobs in life become easier. Handling some of life's challenges can even become second nature, just as a child learns to tie his shoes and gets to where he can do it without thinking. Other areas of life continue to challenge us. Believers are free from the power of sin, but temptation continues to pull at us throughout our lives. The focus of the temptation may change, but Satan will continue to find ways to try to pull us from our walk with Christ. We can learn from David what to do—and what not to do—when temptation comes knocking on our door.

## UNDERSTANDING

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

| HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ 2 SAMUEL 11:2-14.

2 It happened, late one afternoon, when David arose from his couch and was walking on the roof of the king's house, that he saw from the roof a woman bathing; and the woman was very beautiful. 3 And David sent and inquired about the woman. And one said, "Is not this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?" 4 So David sent messengers and took her, and she came to him, and he lay with her. (Now she had been purifying herself from her uncleanness.) Then she returned to her house. 5 And the woman conceived, and she sent and told David, "I am pregnant."

6 So David sent word to Joab, "Send me Uriah the Hittite." And Joab sent Uriah to David. 7 When Uriah came to him, David asked how Joab was doing and how the people were doing and how the war was going. 8 Then David said to Uriah, "Go down to your house and wash your feet." And Uriah went out of the king's house, and there followed him a present from the king. 9 But Uriah slept at the door of the king's house with all the servants of his lord, and did not go down to his house. 10 When they told David, "Uriah did not go down to his house," David said to Uriah, "Have you not come from a journey? Why did you not go down to your house?" 11 Uriah said to David, "The ark and Israel and Judah dwell in booths, and my lord Joab and the servants of my lord are camping in the open field. Shall I then go to my house, to eat and to drink and to lie with my wife? As you live, and as your soul lives, I will not do this thing." 12 Then David said to Uriah, "Remain here today also, and tomorrow I will send you back." So Uriah remained in Jerusalem that day and the next. 13 And David invited him, and he ate in his presence and drank, so that he made him drunk. And in the evening he went out to lie on his couch with the servants of his lord, but he did not go down to his house.

14 In the morning David wrote a letter to Joab and sent it by the hand of Uriah. (ESV)

**How does one go from being tempted to sinning? Does temptation always lead to sin? Explain.**

**Why did David try everything within his power to get Uriah to sleep with his wife while he was home from the wars?**

David was tempted by three issues in this passage: 1) a beautiful woman, 2) the desire to keep their encounter secret, and 3) fear of retaliation from Uriah. We, like David, face many temptations, yet we always have the choice to give in to the temptation or resist it.

**How did one sin lead to another—and another—in David's case?**

**What was the immediate human cost of David's lust and selfishness?**

David tried to cover his sin, making it worse. He hatched a plan to have Uriah come home from war, sleep with his wife, and think that he was the father of David's child (11:6-13). In doing so, David disregarded Bathsheba, Uriah, and the unborn child. He was not thinking about them but only about himself. David's plan would have worked except for one thing—Uriah was so loyal to his job as a soldier in David's army that he would not sleep with his wife when he returned because it would have been unfair to the other soldiers in the field.

**As a group, create a list of possible actions David could have done to avoid sinning in the first place.**

| HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ 2 SAMUEL 12:7-12.

*7 Nathan said to David, "You are the man! Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, 'I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you out of the hand of Saul. 8 And I gave you your master's house and your master's wives into your arms and gave you the house of Israel and of Judah. And if this were too little, I would add to you as much more. 9 Why have you despised the word of the Lord, to do what is evil in his sight? You have struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and have taken his wife to be your wife and have killed him with the sword of the Ammonites. 10 Now therefore the sword shall never depart from your house, because you have despised me and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife.' 11 Thus says the Lord, 'Behold, I will raise up evil against you out of your own house. And I will take your wives before your eyes and give them to your neighbor, and he shall lie with your wives in the sight of this sun. 12 For you did it secretly, but I will do this thing before all Israel and before the sun.'" (ESV)*

**Why must sin always be confronted?**

**What judgment did God pronounce on David through Nathan?**

**When has God used a close friend or family member to bring conviction to your life? Were you grateful for their influence at the time?**

The Bible states in Proverbs 27:6, "*Faithful are the wounds of a friend; profuse are the kisses of an enemy.*" Although the truth Nathan spoke was difficult to hear, it was necessary and led to a change in David's heart. We are all in need of true friends that will tell us the truth even if the words are hard to hear. The right words, at the right time, and spoken in the right way are worth more than we can ever imagine.

| HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ 2 SAMUEL 12:13-14.

*13 David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the Lord." And Nathan said to David, "The Lord also has put away your sin; you shall not die. 14 Nevertheless, because by this deed you have utterly scorned the Lord, the child who is born to you shall die." (ESV)*

**What did David admit after Nathan spoke?**

According to verse 13, Nathan's spoken words made an impact on David. David confessed his sin to God and was moved to repentance after Nathan brought him face to face with his sin and its consequences.

**Turn to Psalm 51, David's prayer of confession. Which words and phrases point to David's 1) admission of sin, and 2) his desire to be fully restored in his walk with God?**

**From this psalm, is it evident that David is truly repentant? How do you know?**

**Why is confession an integral part of receiving forgiveness?**

We too need to confess our sins to the Lord. By doing so we become more sensitive to the ways we rebel against Him and hurt others and ourselves. We also experience in a far greater way His mercy and cleansing power. Once we have confessed and experience forgiveness, we then need to recommit ourselves to faithful obedience.

## APPLICATION

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

**What would you say to a person who said, "I'm just not able to resist temptation"?**

**Think about your biggest temptations in life right now. What are you most tempted with each day? Now, what action steps can you take to flee that temptation?**

**How can you break the cycle the next time you find yourself committing one sin to cover up another?**

## PRAYER

Begin your prayer with a time of private, silent confession. As you pray together, ask God to keep you keenly aware when temptation is around the corner. Ask the Holy Spirit to be at work in your life and to prick your heart anytime you are tempted. Ask God for the strength to flee temptation, and pray for strength to lean on Him. Thank Him that His presence is always with you, even in the midst of tough temptations.

## COMMENTARY

### | 2 SAMUEL 11:2-14

11:2-3. The roof of the palace was probably on the highest ground, providing the king a commanding view of Jerusalem. He saw a woman bathing (“washing”); the text does not suggest she did so intentionally to lure David into an encounter. David discovered the woman’s identity—she was Bathsheba, daughter of Eliam (one of David’s elite warriors; 23:34) and the wife of Uriah the Hittite (another of David’s elite soldiers; 23:39). At any rate, her married status rendered her off-limits to the king.

11:4. David . . . slept with her—meaning he had intercourse with her. The narrative is silent about Bathsheba’s feelings about coming to the palace and submitting to the king’s wishes. Apparently the intent of the biblical writer was to place ultimate blame where it belonged—with Israel’s king.

11:5-8. The news of Bathsheba’s pregnancy presented special problems for the king because her husband Uriah had been away fighting the Ammonites and thus could not be the father of the child. David sent orders to Joab without revealing the reason he was summoning Uriah. The words of the king to Uriah, wash your feet, suggested a time of gentle relaxing at Uriah’s house, where Bathsheba might arrange an evening with her husband to make it appear that he was the baby’s father.

11:14. When David’s plan failed, he devised a new strategy. Uriah’s actions made a cover-up impossible, so the king decided to eliminate Uriah. David wrote a letter to Joab to send with Uriah. Uriah probably assumed the letter bore instructions about the siege. A loyal soldier of his general and king, he did not break the seal of the letter to read it. Uriah’s obedience to his king contrasted sharply with David’s disobedience to the King of kings.

12:7. In neither reaction did David give evidence of understanding the parable's purpose, so Nathan boldly personalized it for him. With his powerful words, You are the man, the prophet drove home the application of the parable. The parable laid a foundation for what was to come; the words this is what the Lord God of Israel says then introduced God's indictment against the wayward king. The Lord then began to describe all He had done for David, beginning with giving him the kingship and delivering him from the hand of Saul.

12:8-12. The phrase I would have given you even more demonstrated the Lord's willingness to go even further with David's blessing if the king had only asked. David had not merely neglected the command of the Lord; he had despised it with his grievous actions. David's own family would be the instruments of God's judgment. The words I will take your wives and give them to another were fulfilled by David's son Absalom when Absalom tried to usurp the kingship (16:20-22). David's sinful actions perverted his relationship with God, ravaged the lives of two loyal subjects—one a devoted soldier—and consigned David's family to future devastation.

12:13. David's response—I have sinned—contrasts sharply with that of Saul when Samuel confronted him over his sin (1 Sam 15:15,20-21). Saul gave excuse after excuse, but David's heart (1 Sam 13:14) would not let him do so. Nathan assured the king that his life would be spared.

12:14. The language of this verse is difficult and has been rendered different ways. The words you treated the Lord with ... contempt emphasize David's careless treatment of God's commands (v. 9). Other manuscripts read, "You have caused the Lord's enemies to blaspheme," meaning the enemies of God treated Him with disdain because they had seen the hypocrisy of His chosen leader. In either case, God's leader had committed a very public sin, a fact that contributed to God's verdict: the son born to you will die. God would not allow this child—a reminder of David's adultery and murder—to live.