

# David and Bathsheba

2 Samuel 11-12

Legacy chapter 8 – week 3

February 6-7, 2010



## Big Idea...

Because God is both holy and merciful, He is the source of consequences and forgiveness when we sin.

## Opening

The following words are synonyms for faithful: loyal, constant, true, devoted, true-blue, unswerving, staunch, steadfast, dedicated, committed, trusty, trustworthy, dependable, and reliable. Which of these words stands out to you? Why?

In 2 Samuel 11-12 David is unfaithful to God, his people and himself. As you read these chapters, look to see how God's displeasure affects David. Look for David's response.

## Read 2 Samuel 11:1-26

- ◆ Imagine that you are in the story. How would you feel if you were David or Bathsheba or Uriah or Joab? What do you think some of their motivations were?
- ◆ David forgot God's provision for him; instead he took things into his own hands with dire consequences. How could this story have had a different ending?
- ◆ Read James 1:12-17. This passage speaks of a "slippery slope" of sin, its possible outcome and God's good gifts. It's a picture of God's relationship with human beings. How can you relate this passage to David?
- ◆ Even if we may not have the power or inclination to have someone killed, we can forget God's good gifts like David. What is one of God's gifts to you that you may take for granted? What do you need to change in that relationship?

## Read 2 Samuel 12:1-24

- ◆ Why do you think Nathan used this story of injustice to illustrate David's actions? What affect did it have on David? Does it matter the manner in which something is shared with you? Why?
- ◆ God uses Nathan to communicate His displeasure. David is called a thieving, ungrateful, discontented and dissatisfied man. Verse 13 is David's confession.

- Who in your life could be this honest with you if they see you taking a wrong step? How would you hope to respond?
- ◆ There are consequences for everyone in this chapter, even after David admits his sin. Does this seem right to you? Then at the end of this passage, God redeems David's lineage by blessing him with another son, Solomon. What does this passage tell you about God?

### **Read the following passage aloud twice Psalm 51:1-12**

(A psalm of David, regarding the time Nathan the prophet came to him after David had committed adultery with Bathsheba)

*“Have mercy on me, O God, because of your unfailing love. Because of your great compassion, blot out the stain of my sins. Wash me clean from my guilt. Purify me from my sin. For I recognize my rebellion; it haunts me day and night. Against you, and you alone, have I sinned. I have done what is evil in your sight. You will be proved right in what you say, and your judgment against me is just. For I was born a sinner—yes, from the moment my mother conceived me. But you desire honesty from the womb, teaching me wisdom even there. Purify me from my sins, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. Oh, give me back my joy again; you have broken me—now let me rejoice. Don’t keep looking at my sins. Remove the stain of my guilt. Create in me a clean heart, O God. Renew a loyal spirit within me. Do not banish me from your presence, and don’t take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and make me willing to obey you.”*

- ◆ Spend a few moments quietly meditating on this passage. What do you need to hear from God through His word? What part of God’s character do you need to acknowledge?
- ◆ What is God’s role in the relationship? What is ours?
- ◆ Describe a life that is pleasing to God.

The time of meditation may have revealed some specific prayer requests. It may be helpful for your prayer time to divide the group by gender.

- ◆ Pray for each other to come honestly before God... no matter the sin.
- ◆ Pray for each person to have an open heart.

*“Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.” Colossians 3:13-17*

