

# THE GOD OF THE SECOND CHANCE



## **Week 1—David and Bathsheba**

**Text:** 2 Samuel 11:1–12:25

**Topics:** David, Sin, Adultery, Redemption

**Big Idea of the Message:** David's sins were rooted in his pursuit of his own desires ahead of God's.

**Application Point:** God's mercy is always available, even when the sins we commit have such big consequences.

## **Discussion Questions:**

1. What is one thing that stood out to you from this week's message?
2. Read 2 Samuel 11:1–13. How does this passage paint a picture of David? In what ways do David's decisions speak to his disregard of others? Why would it be so disgusting for David to do these things?
3. Read 2 Samuel 11:14–27. How do David's actions show that he continues to try to cover up his many sins? How might David's decisions affect Uriah's household? Israel at war? Israel long-term? Why do we fail to consider the possible impact on others for our decisions?
4. Read 2 Samuel 12:1–24. How does Nathan the prophet call David to give an account? Why is David's response in 12:13 so important? What is Nathan's response, and why is it so important?
5. Why does knowing that God will forgive our sins help us trust God? Why are we so quick to forget that sin exists because the first person humanity sinned against was—and always is—God? How can we attempt to battle this in our faith as we grow in Christ?

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### **Week 2—Peter and Jesus**

**Text:** John 21:1–19

**Topics:** Forgiveness, Hope, Peter

**Big Idea of the Message:** Peter's denial of Jesus left the disciple unable to believe Jesus could forgive him, but Jesus had other plans.

**Application Point:** We are not bound to the decisions we make out of fear. God restores us no matter what we have done. We must be willing to turn back and trust him.

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. What is one thing that stood out to you from this week's message?
2. Read John 21:1–19. What do we learn about Peter and the disciples from this passage? In what ways does this picture of the disciples call us twenty-one centuries later to live in community with other believers?
3. John and Peter's response to Jesus's presence at the shore should be considered. How does John recognize Jesus on the shore? What does Peter do with that knowledge? Why do we sometimes find it so difficult to recognize the presence of God in our lives? Why don't we "jump out of the boat" more often to race to God?
4. Jesus's interaction with Peter is a type of confession and confirmation initiated by Jesus. How do Jesus's words call Peter to a deeper relationship with Jesus? How might Jesus's questions have created conflict for Peter? How about resolution?
5. What does this passage say to you about the power of God's forgiveness and restitution for our lives? How might the miraculous catch, the fish being prepared on the shore, and the words of challenge remind us of God's love for us today?

# 7s in the Gospel of John

## **The Seven "I AM" Statements:**

1. "I am the bread of life" (John 6:35)
2. "I am the light of the world" (John 8:12)
3. "I am the gate for the sheep" (John 10:7)
4. "I am the good shepherd" (John 10:11)
5. "I am the resurrection and the life" (John 11:25)
6. "I am the way and the truth and the life" (John 14:6)
7. "I am the true vine" (John 15:1)

## **The Seven Signs:**

1. Changing water into wine (2:1-11)
2. Healing the nobleman's son (4:46-54)
3. Healing the lame man at Bethesda (5:1-9)
4. Feeding the 5,000 (6:1-14)
5. Walking on water (6:16-21)
6. Healing the man born blind (9:1-7)
7. Raising Lazarus from the dead (11:1-45)

## **7 Disciples fishing when Jesus appears.**

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## **Week 3—Philemon and Paul**

**Text:** Philemon 1:1–25

**Topics:** Redemption, Forgiveness, Generosity, Leadership

**Big Idea of the Message:** Paul uses his influence to lead Philemon to trust God for a change of heart.

**Application Point:** Sometimes we must be open to the way God will change others, which will then lead to a change in our own lives.

## **Discussion Questions:**

1. What is one thing that stood out to you from this week's message?
2. Have you ever been the mediator for people who were arguing? How did you go about listening to be a better source of insight? How did they respond? Would you do it again?
3. Read Philemon. Consider how Paul speaks to Philemon. In what ways does Paul lay a foundation for speaking to Philemon about a hard topic? What stands out about his method?
4. Paul brings his request to Philemon in verses 8–22. What does Paul base his opinion of Onesimus on? Why does Paul feel he can ask Philemon to do what Paul is requesting?
5. Paul makes a request, not a command. Why might this be a better way of getting what Paul desires? How does it challenge Philemon—and the church—to be open to God's way of reconciliation?

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## **Week 4—Jonah**

**Text:** Jonah 1–4

**Topics:** Mercy, Grace, Compassion, Repentance, Retribution

**Big Idea of the Message:** God uses Jonah to bring about a massive redirect in the nation of Nineveh, exposing a great need in the life of Jonah.

**Application Point:** God will use us to accomplish great tasks, but we must be willing to admit when our sinfulness keeps us from embracing his great love for all.

## **Discussion Questions:**

1. What is one thing that stood out to you from this week's message?
2. Read Jonah 1. How does the opening chapter set the tone for what this story might tell us about Jonah?
3. In what ways does the behavior of Jonah contrast with the sailors? What seems to separate the two? Why do you think the sailors responded to Jonah's God the way they did?
4. Read Jonah 2. Jonah's experience from the ship now moves to the inside of a great fish God has prepared. How does Jonah's song offer a better understanding of Jonah's God? What do you learn about the Lord? About Jonah?
5. Read Jonah 3–4. How does the response of the Ninevites resemble both the sailors and Jonah? Why do you think the Ninevites reacted as they did? What stands out to you about it? Do you find Jonah's reaction unsettling? Why or why not? After reading the entire story, what do you think is the real heart behind it?