

SHARE THE BIBLE LESSON

WEEK 23

God forgives David

2 Samuel 11:1–12:25



DAY 1

David sinned and sinned some more • 2 Samuel 11:1–27

READ

2 Samuel 11:1–27

EXPLAIN

The truth of 2 Samuel 11:1–27

When you are tempted, don't do what David did. David was tempted when he saw a beautiful woman taking a bath (2 Sam 11:2). David had a decision to make: He could turn his eyes away (Job 31:1) and flee sin's temptation, or let his eyes linger and allow lust to master him. Sadly, instead of fleeing from temptation (2 Tim 2:22), David pursued it (2 Sam 11:3). He was **tempted**, lured into sin by his own desire. Then, when he pursued that desire, he committed **adultery**, loving another married woman like his own wife (11:4). When Bathsheba became pregnant (11:5), David still had a choice: confess his sin or hide it. Again David made the wrong choice. He tried to make it seem like Uriah, Bathsheba's husband, was the father of her baby (11:6–13). Then he hid his sin by having Uriah murdered and marrying Bathsheba (11:14–27). David thought he had gotten away with it, but God knew, and He was not happy about it (11:27; Heb 4:13; Ps 11:4). So learn from David. Flee from temptation and confess sin quickly, because you cannot fool God.

ASK

1. When David was tempted, did he turn away from the temptation?
No. David pursued the temptation and sinned.
2. How did David cover up his sin?
He planned for Uriah to be killed, then he married Bathsheba.
3. How did God feel about David's sin and cover up?
He was displeased.
4. Could David hide his sin from God?
No. God sees everything.

DISCUSS

1. What are some ways you are commonly tempted? What can you do to turn away from the temptation before you sin?
2. Do you ever try to hide your sin from your parents? Did trying to hide your sin makes things better or worse? Why is it foolish to try to hide your sin?

DAY 2

God responded to David with gracious discipline • 2 Samuel 12:1–25

READ

2 Samuel 12:1–25

EXPLAIN

The truth of 2 Samuel 12:1–25

When you sin, do you want to hide it? Are you afraid of the shame? Or do you realize that God exposes your sin for your own good, so that you can come back to a right relationship with Him? That's what God did for David. He used Nathan to graciously pursue David and expose his sin in order to set him free from sin and restore him to God (2 Sam 12:1–4). He showed David that at the root of his lust was ingratitude (12:7) and unbelief (12:8). When you sin, it is because you are not thankful for God's grace toward you, and you are not trusting that God is enough for you. Ingratitude and unbelief lead to breaking God's law, and those who break God's law are justly punished. David had done evil to another man's family, so he would receive evil in his own family (12:11). Yet even God's just punishment is full of grace, for His righteous anger teaches us to fear Him and repent as David did (12:13). There are still painful consequences, but God uses even these to draw us back to Himself.

ASK

1. How did Nathan get David to realize that he had sinned?
With a story that led David to pronounce his own just punishment.
2. What bad things happened because of David's sin?
David's newborn son would die and his family would be full of violence.
3. Was God still good to David?
Yes. God exposed David's sin, spared David's life (2 Sam 12:5), forgave David, and used the painful consequences to bring David back to Him.

DISCUSS

1. Are you thankful when your sin is exposed? Do you seek to be open, transparent, and vulnerable to your parents and other godly people so that you do not stay in sin?
2. In these verses (Exod 22:1; 2 Sam 12:6; 12:14, 13:33; 18:14; 1 Kings 2:24–25) see whether David's punishment was just. Is sin ever worth it? Have you experienced the painful consequences of sin?

DAY 3

David confessed his sin • Psalm 51

READ

Psalm 51

EXPLAIN

The truth of Psalm 51

Wasn't David's sin (adultery and murder) worse than anything Saul had done? Why didn't God reject David as He had rejected Saul? Because unlike Saul (1 Sam 15:24), David truly repented (2 Sam 12:13). David depended on God's mercy (Ps 51:1) and pled for cleansing (51:2), knowing that only God could wash His sin away (51:7, 9–10). He confessed that his sin was primarily against God (51:4), that his sin reflected

his sinful heart (51:5), and that he could do nothing to earn restoration (51:1–3). He longed to glorify God once again (51:12–15), and yearned to remain in God's presence (51:11a). He pled for the Holy Spirit to stay and keep empowering him to lead God's people (51:11b)? This is the heart God pardons—a broken and humble heart (51:17). But how could God forgive David when God's own law said he must die (Lev 20:10; 24:17)? Because one day the Son of David would bear the sin of David in his place. God made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us (2 Cor 5:21). Godly people are not perfect, but they are repentant.

DAY 3 CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

ASK 

1. Is sin primarily against God or man?
Against God.
2. How did David begin his confession?
By asking for mercy. David knew he had nothing to offer to earn forgiveness.
3. What kind of a heart does God pardon?
A broken and humble heart, a person who realizes the evil and hopelessness of his own sinfulness.
4. How could God forgive David?
Because one day Jesus would bear the sin of David in his place.

DISCUSS 

1. Can you get God's forgiveness by doing enough good after you sin? What sin are you still committing when you try to somehow earn God's approval? (Pride – Phil 3:4).
2. Do you confess your sin right away? How does it feel when you do (Ps 32:1–3)?

DAY 4*God's promises concerning temptation • 1 Corinthians 10:13***READ** 

1 Corinthians 10:12–13

EXPLAIN **The truth of 1 Corinthians 10:12–13**

Beware! If God's chosen king, a man after God's own heart, can fall so quickly, then anyone can. If you think you are strong enough to resist temptation, you are doomed to fail (1 Cor 10:12). But instead of making excuses that the temptation you face is too great, realize that many others have faced the same temptation and overcome it (10:13a). How? Because success depends not on your feeble efforts but upon God's faithfulness (10:13b). He will never allow you to face a temptation that is impossible to resist (10:13c). No matter your past failures or current weakness, you can say no to any temptation that comes your way. This is not because you have the strength in yourself, but because God always provides a way for you to escape from sin (10:13d). As a result, you can successfully endure any temptation you meet (10:13e). So be sober-minded and watchful (1 Pet 5:8), devoted to prayer (Col 4:2), and firm in faith (1 Pet 5:9). Let David's failure remind you to put your trust in the God of David, who is full of grace (2 Sam 7).

ASK 

1. Should you ever think you are past being tempted?
No. When we become self-confident, we fall.
2. Are you doomed to fail and sin like David?
No, because our success depends on God's faithfulness.
3. What kind of temptations do we face?
Temptations "common" to many others besides ourselves.
4. What does God provide in the midst of every temptation?
A way of escape.

DISCUSS 

1. What does it look like to depend on God's strength and not on your own? What sorts of things will a God-dependent person do to continue in His power?
2. Only Christians enjoy God's precious promises concerning temptation. Without God's provision of new spiritual life, it's impossible to stop sinning (Eph 2:1–5). Has God set you free from slavery to sin (Rom 6:5–6)?

DAY 5

The Pharisee and the tax collector • Luke 18:9–14

READ

Luke 18:9–14

EXPLAIN

The truth of Luke 18:9–14

David had everything—God’s favor, God’s presence, and a fruitful family. He also had the kingdom and the unbreakable promise of an everlasting dynasty. He had victory over his enemies and prosperity in Israel. What more could he want? For years David had stayed loyal to God, faithfully following God’s word, and enjoying the blessings that come through obedience (Deut 28:1–14; Ps 1). But one afternoon all that changed. Yet David’s sin, and God’s forgiveness of it, reveals the marvelous forgiveness God lavishes on those who repent. Jesus explained this with a story about two men going up to the temple to pray (Luke 18:9–14). One man, the self-righteous Pharisee, thought he was good enough (18:11–12). His heart was not humble. He was did not recognize his sin and deep need. So he was not ready to receive the Savior. But the other man, the tax collector, was so overwhelmed by his own sinfulness that he wouldn’t even look up to heaven while he prayed (18:13). This man found forgiveness, because he saw his need and humbly repented before God (18:14).

ASK

1. In Jesus’ parable, who went up to the temple to pray?
A Pharisee (a Jewish religious leader) and a tax collector (a job often held by sinful men).
2. What did the Pharisee trust in?
His own good behavior and good works.
3. What did the tax collector trust in?
God’s mercy.
4. Who was accepted by God?
The tax collector. God forgave him because he recognized his sin and humbly repented of it.

DISCUSS

1. Which of the two characters in Jesus’ parable do you most resemble?
2. Explain the proper order of these terms: (a) God’s grace; (b) Humble faith; (c) Faithful obedience; (d) God’s blessings. How did David’s life illustrate this? How did the Pharisee ignore part of this and get it out of order?

NEXT WEEK

God gives Solomon wisdom

1 Kings 2:1–4; 3:3–15

