

King David's successful reign

David's pivotal life shift: enter Bathsheba

David's cover-up exposed

King David's response and restoration

1. As Chapter 12 of The Story begins (2 Samuel 11), we see David enter into sin and begin a domino effect of other sins that followed. Identify each of David's sins and how it led to another sinful choice or action in his life.
2. David's sins did not just affect him but others around him. Note the effects on the following:
 - Bathsheba
 - Uriah
 - The prophet Nathan
 - The military commander Joab
 - Other soldiers under Joab's command
 - The baby conceived by Bathsheba
 - Other people in David's life
3. Once Uriah was dead, David seemed to think he had gotten away with his coveting, adultery, lying, and murder. But when Nathan confronted him, David realized that God knew everything. What are some of the ways we can deceive ourselves into thinking we have covered our tracks and hidden our sins (from ourselves, others, and even God)?
4. King Saul (when confronted by Samuel the prophet) did not admit his sin, repent, and really seek forgiveness...he made excuses. That is why God rejected him. How is David's response to facing the reality of his sinfulness different from Saul's (2 Samuel 12)?
5. God forgave David, but there were still consequences to his sinful actions. What were some of the consequences David faced immediately and over the long term because of his sinful choices? Why is it important that we walk in God's grace but still realize we might face very real consequences of our sins?
6. What do we learn about the holiness and heart of God when we consider Nathan's interactions with David?
7. If you could have asked David at the end of his life, "What advice and insight would you give me about temptation and sin?" what might David say to someone who is presently dabbling in sin?
8. David's life—even with his falls and frailties—still pointed people to God. How can God use our lives (good and bad) to show his presence, love, and grace to the people around us?

Homework: This is a big and bold action challenge. If you have a person or two in your life who are mature in faith and really care about you, consider meeting with them and humbly inviting them to speak truth into your life...any time. Let them know that you will seek to prayerfully listen and receive their words, even when those words are difficult.

For next week, please read Chapter 13 of The Story (1 Kings 1-8, 10-11; 2 Chronicles 5-7; Proverbs 1-3, 6, 20-21)