

THE WHOLE STORY

From Genesis to Revelation

2 Samuel 11:1- 12:25

Instead of reading Ch. 11 & 12 in group, have your group read these passages before arriving.

Introduction:

Just like the sermon's message was PG-13 this weekend, this week's SG guide is meant to help your group get into the *nitty-gritty* of identifying sin and moving one another toward greater trust in Jesus as savior.

David struggled with Saul and his subsequent rise to power as king of Israel. However, these external struggles, real and difficult as they were, were nothing compared to his battle with sin and its' consequences.

Second Samuel 11 is the beginning of a dark season in David's life. This season is initiated when David, like we all have and do, chose his own way over God's way and sought his own pleasure instead of trusting in God's abundant provision. David commits adultery with Bathsheba, attempts to cover up his sin and then hopes that no one will find out.

This Week's Main Focus:

Sin is always seen and judged by God, but can also be forgiven by him.

These chapters are an example of the pattern sin follows in everyone's life. First, sin escalates. David progressed from looking at a woman, to desiring her, to acting on his desire and concludes with more actions to cover up his sin. We cover up and lie about our sin because the shame of confession is weightier than the freedom found in the gospel of Jesus Christ. Second, sin causes collateral damage. Sin is always and foremost against God. No matter the sin, one's relationship with God is damaged; likely the sin will cause strife with other people and oneself. Third, our sin is never hidden from God. No matter how well or long we have hidden our sin, God knows. When sin comes to light it is because God loves us and wants us to be reunited in fellowship with him. Even though the thing that David did displeased the Lord, God desired to have a relationship with him and forgave him.

This week, look for sin in your life. Confess that sin to God and people you are in community with. Rejoice in the forgiveness that we have in Jesus Christ.

Sermon Response Question:

1) What from this weekend's sermon spoke most directly to you? Which of Pastor J.D.'s main points was most applicable for you?

Bible Study Questions:

2) This week we are looking at a very large amount of Scripture. Instead of reading these two chapters in your group time, have your group chronologically tell the events of 2 Samuel 11 and 12.

3) It's easy to minimize our sin by saying, "As long as no one gets hurt, it will be okay." But this passage shows us the collateral damage that is caused by David's sin. List as many people as you can from this passage who were affected by David's sin.

4) This weekend, Pastor J.D. taught us that one way to fight sin and temptation is to *stay engaged in the battle*. He said, "Our main problem is not a lustful body but a bored soul." In what ways are you prone to become "bored" with the story and mission of God? What other "stories" that the world offers seem more compelling for you and/or your family to engage in?

5) Even though David committed a terrible sin and many were affected by his actions, Acts 13:22 still describes David as "a man after [God's] heart." What have you learned about God's grace for yourself through how he rebukes, corrects and forgives David?

Group Application Questions:

6) Confess to the group some ways that you've seen sin escalate in your life. How can you recognize the pattern of sin earlier and seek God's help in confessing and repenting from that sin?

7) Who is there in your life that is holding you accountable? What questions do you need your Christian brothers or sisters to ask you on a regular basis to help you fight sin and trust God?

Prayer:

- Break up into groups of two to three.
- Read through **Psalm 51**.
- Have each person pick 2-3 verses to pray.
- Use the categories of Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, and Supplication.