

# THE KINGS

Date: 4.28.24 | Title: David's Sin and Forgiveness | Scripture: 2 Samuel 11-12

## LEVELS OF BIBLICAL LEARNING

### Middle School Students

The Bible is God's message about Himself and His salvation plan through Jesus. God deserves respect, obedience, and honor. God wants us to live for His glory. God commands people to obey Him. People can acknowledge and follow God's authority in their lives.

### High School Students

The Bible is God's message about Himself and His salvation plan through Jesus. God deserves respect, obedience, and honor. God wants us to live for His glory. God commands people to obey Him. People can acknowledge and follow God's authority in their lives. God wants us to share his messages with those around us.



### MEMORY VERSE

"But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature because I have rejected him. For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart." 1 Samuel 16:7

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## BACKGROUND INFO FOR LEADERS

Up until this point David's life has been a remarkable account of his trust in and obedience to the Lord. In the Near East, kings normally went out to battle during the spring because of the good weather and the abundance of food along the way. This time, during "the time when kings go out to battle, David remained in Jerusalem" (11:1). David dispatches Joab, his army commander, with his soldiers and the army of Israel to continue the battle against Ammon that had begun the previous year while he stays behind. This immediately indicates that something is wrong: the kings go out to battle, but this king does not. All of Israel goes out to battle, but their leader does not. This was not normal practice for David (5:2; 8:1-14; 10:17).

In 11:2 the contrast continues between the king who is at leisure "on his couch" and his soldiers who are fighting on the field. David, from his high elevation on the palace roof, spies a "very beautiful" woman bathing in the courtyard of a nearby house. The emphasis here is on the woman's physical appearance. David inquires about her and discovers that this striking woman, Bathsheba, is "the wife of Uriah the Hittite", one of David's mighty men and among his top warriors. David sends messengers and Bathsheba comes to him and he lays with her (11:2-4). After Uriah's wife returns home, she sends to tell David she is pregnant. Bathsheba's name is not used from 11:3 until 12:24, which intensifies the sin of adultery, she is referred to as "the wife of Uriah" (11:3, 26, 12:10, 15). Since Bathsheba has just experienced menstruation (she was purifying herself from her uncleanness in 11:4) she is not pregnant by Uriah when she comes to lie with David.

When David discovers Uriah's wife is pregnant, instead of repenting and trying to settle the matter openly, David tries to cover his sin by making it appear that the child is Uriah's. David summons Uriah from the battlefield and tries to get him to go home and sleep with his wife, Bathsheba, so that David's sin can be hidden (11:5-13). Uriah, in striking contrast to David, is too noble for this. He does not allow himself to enjoy the pleasures of home while his fellow soldiers are on the field of battle. Failing in his first attempt to cover up his sin, David tries unsuccessfully to get Uriah drunk so he can then be persuaded to go home. Again, Uriah refuses as he considers himself still on duty.

Failing twice to cover up his sin with Bathsheba, David begins to plot the murder of Uriah by taking advantage of Uriah's unswerving loyalty to him as king, even ironically having Uriah deliver his own death warrant. David is determined to hide his sin, so he instructs Joab to place Uriah at the front line of the battle, where he is most likely to be slain (11:14-25). Joab does as David orders and after Uriah the Hittite is killed in battle, a messenger brings the news to David. The plan has worked exactly as David hoped. David expresses indifference about Uriah's death and authorizes Joab to continue the attack. The wife of Uriah laments over the news of her husband. After probably 7 days of mourning, David brings Bathsheba to his house where she becomes his wife and bears his son. "But the thing that David had done displeased the Lord" (2 Samuel 11:27).



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## BACKGROUND INFO FOR LEADERS

David's affair with Bathsheba functions as a great pivot point in 1-2 Samuel. Up to this point, David has been incredibly successful, growing in power and establishing a great kingdom. He consistently defeats his enemies and completes the conquest of the promised land. He is a hero, and everyone loves him. After the Bathsheba event, however, everything starts a downward spiral, and the rest of 2 Samuel chronicles David's struggles and problems.

God is not content to leave David in his sin, so in 2 Samuel 12, God sends the prophet Nathan to confront David about what he has done. Nathan approaches David's issue through a parable where the rich man represents David; the poor man, Uriah; and the ewe lamb, Bathsheba. The Lord recounts all he has done for David: anointing him as king, rescuing him from Saul, giving him a house and wives (12:7-8). Indeed the Lord would have given him "much more" (12:8). David, by sinning, "despised the word of the Lord" (12:9). When confronted, David does not attempt to rationalize or justify his sin and his confession was immediate. Unlike Saul, he does not introduce a parade of excuses to justify his wickedness. David simply and humbly acknowledges, "I have sinned against the Lord" (12:13). Psalm 51 records David's words of repentance after being confronted by Nathan over his sin with Bathsheba. In Psalm 32, David expresses his agony after Nathan's confrontation.

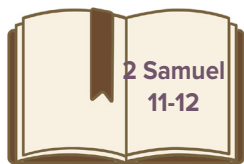
God forgives David of his sin (2 Samuel 12:13), but the terrible consequences of the sin cannot be removed, and God will allow grief and hardship in David's own home. The consequences of David's sin fit the crime that he has committed. David has destroyed the house of Uriah and now conflict will indwell his house (12:10). David's tragic punishment is a lingering one. Since Uriah was killed by violence, the house of David will be continually plagued by violence. (13:28, 29; 18:14, 15; 1 Kings 2:24, 25). David has done evil to another man's family (11:27), therefore, he will receive evil in his own family (13:1-14; 13:28, 29; 15:1-12).

Soon after, David takes Bathsheba as a wife, his son is born (11:27-28). The baby dies, and David's kingdom starts to unravel. The consequences of David's sin begin to reverberate throughout his family, imprisoning all of them in a web of deceit, betrayal, and death. The king is humbled by his weakness to sin. David understands that his sin had broken a relationship with God by his greed, lust, and murder. David's sin was a breach that needed repairing. His repentance was real, but there were still consequences for his actions. In the succeeding chapters of 2 Samuel, however, the judgement pronounced on David is unleashed (Chapters 13-20).

Later, there is mercy in judgment. Remarkably, the Lord blesses and loves the second son of Bathsheba and David, Solomon (12:24-25). One might think that any son of what began as an adulterous union would never be the one to succeed David. God's grace, however, is free and unpredictable. Solomon was specially loved by the Lord.

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## LOCATE THE SCRIPTURE & TELL THE STORY



**Tell the story:** Use the Background Info for Leaders to help teach 2 Samuel 11-12. “David Sins...and Repents” is a child friendly re-telling in The Biggest Story Bible Storybook and “The Good Shepherd” is a summary of David’s kingship in the “Jesus Storybook Bible”.

**TELL  
THE  
STORY**



**Re-tell the Bible Story:** put events in order, draw a comic strip, build it with blocks or playdough, act it out, etc.

**Attributes of God:** Use the attributes of God list and determine the characteristics of God that we see in today’s story. How can knowing these characteristics of God to be true, change the way we live in Christ?

Read directly from Scripture, use the message, or the summary provided in the lesson

**Share the GOSPEL:**

According to the Mosaic Law, both adultery (Lev. 20:10) and murder (Lev. 24:17) required punishment by death. The Lord graciously forgave David’s sin, but the consequences of sin were still there. Forgiveness does not always remove the consequence of sin in this life, only in eternity. Although the sins of David legally demanded his death, the Lord graciously released David from the required death penalty. There are events in the OT record where God required death and others where He showed grace and spared the sinner. This is consistent with justice and grace. Those who perished are illustrations of what all sinners deserve. Those who were spared are proof and examples of God’s grace.

Re-Tell

The Bible  
Story

Put the events in order, draw a comic strip, build it with blocks or playdough, act it out, etc...



# THE KINGS

## ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

**ATTENTIVE** - God hears and responds to the needs of his children.

**COMPASSIONATE** - God cares for his children and acts on their behalf.

**CREATOR** - God made everything. He is uncreated.

**DELIVERER** - God rescues and saves his children.

**ETERNAL** - God is not limited by time. He exists outside of time.

**FAITHFUL** - God always keeps his promises.

**GENEROUS** - God gives what is best and beyond what is deserved.

**GLORIOUS** - God displays His greatness and worth.

**GOOD** - God is what is best and gives what is best. He is incapable of doing harm.

**HOLY** - God is perfect, pure, and without sin.

**IMMUTABLE/UNCHANGING** - God never changes. He is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

**INCOMPREHENSIBLE** - God is beyond our understanding. We can comprehend Him in part but not in whole.

**INFINITE** - God has not limits in His person or on His power.

**JEALOUS** - God will not share his glory with another. all glory rightfully belongs to him.

**JUST** - god is fair in all his actions and judgements. He cannot over-punish or under-punish.

**LOVING** - God feels and displays infinite, unconditional affection toward his children. His love for them does not depend on their worth, response, or merit.

**MERCIFUL** - God does not give his children the punishment they deserve.

**OMNIPOTENT/ALMIGHTY** - God holds all power. nothing is too hard for God. What He wills He can accomplish.

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## ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

**OMNIPRESENT** - God is fully present everywhere.

**OMNISCIENT** - God knows everything, past, present, and future - all potential and real outcomes, all things micro and macro.

**PATIENT/LONG-SUFFERING** - God is untiring and bears with His children.

**PROVIDER** - God meets the needs of his children.

**REFUGE** - God is a place of safety and protection for his children.

**RIGHTEOUS** - God is always good and right.

**SELF-EXISTENT** - God depends on nothing and no one to give him life or existence.

**SELF-SUFFICIENT** - God is not vulnerable. He has no needs.

**SOVEREIGN** - God does everything according to His plan and pleasure.

**TRANSCENDENT** - God is not like humans. He is infinitely higher in being and action.

**TRUTHFUL** - Whatever God speaks or does is truth and reality.

**WISE** - God knows what is best and acts accordingly. He cannot choose wrongly.

**WORTHY** - God deserves all glory and honor and praise.

**WRATHFUL** - God hates all unrighteousness.



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## QUESTIONS TO REBUILD THE STORY

**“Storying” Questions:** As you ask these questions, have your students support their answers by sharing evidence they took from Scripture.

- 1. Where should David have been during the springtime as king?**
- 2. What was David doing instead?**
- 3. How could David have chosen differently during many crucial moments in his encounters with Bathsheba and in his cover up of sin? Make a list of David’s sin throughout this account.**
- 4. How are these sins building on each other and getting bigger and bigger?**
- 5. What are the legal ramifications for adultery and murder?**
- 6. What are some of the consequences (judgment) David’s family experienced because of his sin?**
- 7. Read David’s psalms 32 and 51. What do these words tell us about David? What do they tell us about God?**
- 8. What can we learn about “a man after God’s heart” who sins?**
- 8. How does God show his mercy to David and his family?**

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## PRAYER PROMPTS

God, thank you for grace and for forgiveness. Thank you for making a way for us to escape darkness and death and to instead live in Your light! Help us to stay close to You, to be quick to recognize sin, and to humbly repent. We love you!

## IF TIME ALLOWS:

**Bible Skills Practice:** Encourage your students to not only know the order of the books of the bible but also the different divisions they come in.

**The Torah:** Genesis - Deuteronomy | **History:** Joshua - Esther | **Poetry:** Job - Song of Solomon | **Major Prophets:** Isaiah - Daniel | **Minor Prophets:** Hosea - Malachi | **Gospels:** Matthew - John | **Acts** | **Paul's Letter:** Romans - Philemon | **General Letters:** Hebrews - Jude | **Revelation**

## MISSIONS EMPHASIS:

For the month of March through Easter, our church will be collecting money for the Annie Armstrong Easter offering. This offering goes to fund missionaries in North America. Please encourage your group to collect change for the giving funnel in the lobby.

## REVIEW UNIT VERSE:

Work on memorizing this week's verse with the students in your group. You can use the first letter of each word in the verse to help with this. For example, the unit verse would look like this:

BTLTSDNLOHAAOOTHOSBIHRHFTLSNAMSMLOTOABTLLOTH - 1 Samuel 16:7



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## Application Questions

### LOOK UPWARD



- How does this story apply to your relationship with God?
- What does it teach you about Him- His will and His heart?
- What aspect of His character is He inviting you to experience and enjoy?
- How will you benefit by applying the truths of this story in your relationship with God?
- What practical steps can you take to live out these truths in your relationship with God?

### LOOK INWARD



- How does this story apply to your heart and your own spiritual growth?
- What does it teach you about yourself, your needs, or your goals in life?
- In what aspects of your personal life is God inviting you to grow and mature?
- How will you benefit by applying the truths of this story inwardly?
- How will those around you benefit?
- What practical steps can you take to allow these truths to help you grow spiritually?

### LOOK AROUND



- How does this story apply to your relationship with others?
- What does it teach you about how to see others and relate to them?
- What is god inviting you to do differently in your relationships?

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## Application Questions

### LOOK OUTWARD

- How does this story apply to your ministry and mission in life- to your role in God's kingdom, in society, and in the world?
- What does it teach you about God's purposes for the world?
- What part of His mission is He inviting you to participate in?
- How will you benefit by applying the truths of this story in your ministry?
- How will the world benefit?
- What practical steps can you take to live out these truths in the world?

### LOOK FORWARD

- How does this story apply to your future, both in this age and in eternity?
- What does it teach you about God's plan for your life, now and forever?
- What aspects of eternity is God inviting you to participate in?
- How will you benefit in the future by applying these truths now?
- How will God's kingdom benefit?
- What practical steps can you take to impact eternity now with these truths?