

DAVID'S BETRAYAL OF GOD AND FRIENDS

BIBLE STORY USING INTERLOCKING FACTS FOUND IN CROSS-REFERENCES

David's Sin with Bathsheba 2 Samuel 11:1 - 12:14

(Cross-References – 2 Samuel 16: 23; 23:34, 39)

STRUCTURE

Key-persons: David, Bathsheba, and Nathan

Key-locations: Jerusalem, David's Palace

Key-repetitions:

- David's mighty warriors: three risk their lives to fetch water for David (2 Sam 23:13-17); Bathsheba's father and husband were mighty warriors (2 Sam 11:3).
- David's sin: he stayed home when his soldiers went to war (2 Sam 11:1); he inquired about the woman taking a bath (2 Sam 11:3); he discovered his close relationship with her family, but sent for the woman (2 Sam 11:4); he slept with her (2 Sam 11:4); she became pregnant and David tried to deceive Uriah into sleeping with his wife so he would believe the baby was his (2 Sam 11:6-14); he sentenced Uriah to die in war (2 Sam 11:14; 12:9); he took Bathsheba as his wife to cover up his sins (2 Sam 11:27); he ignored the Lord's command (2 Sam 12:9); his sin made God's enemies lose all respect for him (2 Sam 12:14).
- Things God did for David: God made him king (2 Sam 12:7); saved him from Saul (2 Sam 12:7); gave David Saul's daughter as a wife (2 Sam 12:8); gave David both Israel and Judah (2 Sam 12:8).
- David's punishment for his sins: murder would plague David's family (2 Sam 12:10); his family would bring him calamity (2 Sam 12:11); his wives would sleep with someone else in broad daylight (2 Sam 12:11-12); David and Bathsheba's son would die (2 Sam 12:14).

Key-attitudes:

- David's sloughfulness – he didn't go to war with his men, and he napped during the day.
- David's lust for Bathsheba.
- David's betrayal of close friends.
- David's deceitfulness with Uriah.
- Uriah's faithfulness as a soldier.
- Nathan's bravery.
- David's remorse when he confessed his sin.
- Nathan and the Lord's sternness when dealing with David's sin.

Initial-situation:

King Saul became the first king of Israel. However, on two occasions, King Saul disobeyed the Lord, and the Lord rejected Saul as king. The Lord sent Prophet Samuel to anoint young David as king. King Saul tried to kill David. David lived as a fugitive in wilderness hideouts with King Saul pursuing him.

The Philistines made war on King Saul's army and King Saul died in battle. The tribe of Judah immediately anointed David and he reigned as their king. After seven years, all the tribes of Israel anointed David and he reigned as king of all the tribes of Israel.

King David's men captured Jerusalem and David took up residence there. King David became more powerful, because the Lord was with him. Foreign governments made treaties with King David.

King David wanted to build a temple for the Lord. The Lord told David that he wouldn't build a temple, but rather his son would. The Lord promised to establish David's kingdom forever. King David reigned over all Israel, doing what was just and right for all his people.

King David had victory every time he and his army faced enemies in battle.

(Interlocking cross-reference)

The following event shows the loyalty David's Mighty Warriors had for him. Once, a band of enemies surrounded David. David was thirsty and longed for water and said, "Oh, that someone would get me water from the well near the gate of Bethlehem!" Three mighty warriors slipped through enemy lines, drew water from the well near the gate of Bethlehem, and brought it back to David. David refused to drink the water; instead, he poured it out as a gift to the Lord. David said, "I couldn't drink this water; men risked their lives to get it!" (2 Sam 23:13-17).

Initial-problem:

David stayed home when his army went to war.

Final-situation:

David's sin made the enemies of the Lord lose all respect for the Lord, and David would be punished.

BIBLE STORY

In the spring, it was the custom for kings to go off to war. King David dispatched his commander-in-chief Joab with the king's soldiers to war, but David stayed in Jerusalem (2 Sam 11:1).

One afternoon after lunch, King David took a nap. David got up from his nap and walked around on the flat roof of his palace. From the vantage point of the roof, he saw a beautiful woman bathing. David asked a man about the woman. The man reported, "She's Bathsheba, Eliam's daughter and Uriah's wife" (2 Sam 11:2-3).

David didn't know Bathsheba; however, he knew her family. Eliam, Bathsheba's father, was an elite soldier. He was one of David's thirty mighty warriors (2 Sam 23:34). Ahithophel, was Eliam's father and Bathsheba's grandfather. He was David's chief counselor. David considered that Ahithophel's counsel was the very words of God (2 Sam 16:23). Uriah, Bathsheba's husband, was also one of David's elite thirty mighty warriors (2 Sam 23:39).

King David sent messengers to fetch Bathsheba. She came to him; David and Bathsheba went to bed. Bathsheba returned home. Later, Bathsheba sent word to David, "I'm pregnant" (2 Sam 11:4-5).

King David sent word to the commander-in-chief of his army to send Uriah, Bathsheba's husband, to David. Uriah arrived and David requested information about the war. Then David told Uriah, "Go to your house and have a good night's sleep."

Uriah left the palace, but slept on a mat at the palace entrance with David's servants. Uriah didn't go home.

The next morning, David asked Uriah, "Why didn't you go home?"

Uriah answered, "My commander-in-chief and fellow soldiers are sleeping in tents. My duties as an officer, during a time of war, kept me from going home to sleep with my wife!"

David told Uriah, "Stay here today, tomorrow I'll send you back." However, the next day, David invited Uriah to eat the evening meal with him. David got Uriah drunk. But Uriah didn't go home, he slept on his mat at the palace entrance with David's servants (2 Sam 11:6-13).

The next morning, David wrote a letter to his commander-in-chief. David asked Uriah to deliver the letter to the commander-in-chief. David wrote, "Put Uriah in the front line where the fighting is most fierce. Let him be killed in battle" (2 Sam 11:14-16).

Bathsheba heard that her husband Uriah was dead. Bathsheba grieved for her husband Uriah. After the time of mourning was over, David sent for Bathsheba, and she became his wife. She gave birth to David's son. But the Lord didn't like what David had done (2 Sam 11:26-27).

The Lord sent Prophet Nathan to David. Prophet Nathan told David, "There were two men in the same town, one rich and the other poor. The rich man had many sheep and cattle, but the poor man had nothing except one little female lamb which he bought and raised. It grew up with him and his children. It shared his food, drank from his cup and even slept in his arms. The lamb was like a daughter to him. Now a traveler stopped to visit the rich man. But, the rich man was too stingy to take one of his own sheep or cattle to feed the traveler. Instead, he took the poor man's one lamb and cooked it for his guest to eat."

David exploded with anger and told Prophet Nathan, "The man who did this deserves to die! He must pay for that lamb four times over for his crime and his stinginess!"

Prophet Nathan told David, "You are the man! This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says, 'I made you king over Israel; I saved you from King Saul; I gave you King Saul's daughter and other wives; I gave you both Israel and Judah. Why did you ignore the Lord's command and do this great evil? You murdered Uriah with the sword of your enemy, and you took his wife as your wife! Now, the sword will never depart from your house; murder and killing will continually plague your family. Out of your own family I'm going to bring calamity upon you. I'll take your wives and give them to one who is close to you, and he'll lie with your wives in broad daylight. You did it in secret, but I'll do it to you in broad daylight with all of Israel watching.'"

David told Prophet Nathan, "I've sinned against the Lord."

Nathan replied, "The Lord forgives your sin. You're not going to die for it. Your sin made the Lord's enemies lose all respect for him; therefore, the son born to you will die" (2 Sam 12:1-14).

GENERIC DIALOGUE QUESTIONS

1. What catches your attention in the story?
2. Is there anything in the story that is hard to understand?
3. Who are the main characters in the story?
4. What problems did the characters face?
5. How did the characters face their problems?
6. How have you faced similar problems?
7. Is there someone in the story who is similar to you or who is different from you?
8. What does the story tell about God?

SPECIFIC DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How did David fall into sin?
2. David was guilty of what sins?
3. How did God react to David's sins?
4. What were the consequences of David's sins?
5. Why does a spiritual leader cause people to lose respect for God when he betrays the people?
6. How do we balance two truths: Confessed sins are forgiven; however, confessed sins are still punished?
7. How can we use David's story to help ourselves or to help someone else who has fallen into sin?

LIFE-LESSONS

1. **One sin can provoke a person to commit other sins.** David kept falling deeper and deeper into sin (2 Sm 11:1-17). He erred in staying home when he should have gone to war (11:1). He gave attention to a forbidden desire (11:3). He deliberately committed adultery (11:4). He tried to cover up his sin by misleading another (11:6-15). He continued the cover-up by committing murder (11:15, 17).
2. **Repeatedly sinning will dull a person's sensitivity to God's laws and the rights of other people.** David was insensitive to the news of Uriah's death because he had become callous to his own sin (2 Sm 11:23-25).
3. **A woman who exploits her body in order to achieve rewards sows seeds of moral decay.** Bathsheba used her body to achieve rewards: she became queen and later queen mother. Those who loved her were harmed. Her husband was betrayed and murdered. As a consequence of David's adultery with her, he was punished.

4. **A spiritual leader’s sin causes people to lose respect for God.** David’s sin caused the Lord’s enemies to show contempt for the Lord (2 Sam 12:14).
5. **Confessed sin is forgiven; however, its consequences will endure.** The person who sows his wild oats and, at the time of harvest, prays for a crop failure will have his prayer denied by God. David confessed his sin and was forgiven; however, he suffered the consequences of his sin (2 Sam 12:10-14).
6. **Repentance is evident when the guilty person takes the responsibility for his wrong actions.** David confessed, “I have sinned against the Lord” (2 Sam 12:13; 24:10, 17).

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

1. **Chant:**

Words in **bold and underlined** are stressed. Stress words by stretching them out instead of increasing volume.

Group 1	Group 2
Watch and pray	<u>Watch!</u> <u>Pray!</u>
so that you will not fall into <u>temptation</u>	<u>Not fall</u> into temptation.
The <u>spirit</u> is willing	<u>Willing</u> spirit
but the <u>flesh</u> is weak	<u>weak</u> flesh
All	
“Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak” (Matthew 26:42 NIV).	

2. **Role-playing Drama:**

Invite two listeners to role play a part. Give them the following instructions: “Imagine you are two soldiers who have faithfully followed King David. You have just heard what David did to Uriah, Bathsheba’s husband. How are you going to react to the news of how David treated Uriah?”