

Bible Stories for Adults

David and Bathsheba

2 Samuel 8 - 12

Opening

Gathering: Share a time when you did something wrong as a kid, expecting that no one would know about it, and you were later confronted with it. How did you react?

Today's Focus: David was faithful and God blessed him with success. This success made him feel he was beyond the law and he sinned greatly. He confessed and repented when God confronted him with his sin and God forgave him. God likewise knows our sins and calls us to repent and be forgiven.

Key Verses: *The Lord gave David victory wherever he went. King David dedicated these articles to the Lord.*
2 Samuel 8:6b, 11a

*Then David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the Lord."
Nathan replied, "The Lord has taken away your sin." 2 Samuel 12:13*

Opening Prayer

Lesson

David and the Philistines (1 Samuel 27, 29)

Where did David find safety when Saul was trying to kill him?

1 Samuel 27:1-2, 4 (1-7)

Why didn't Saul ask the Philistines to turn David over?

1 Samuel 14:52a

How was David able to live in the land of his country's greatest enemy?

1 Samuel 27:12 (8-12)

How close of a relationship did David and his men build with the Philistines?

1 Samuel 29:1-2, 6, 9

David, the King, and the Philistines (2 Samuel 8:1)

Did this lead to a friendly relationship between the nations when David became king of Israel?

2 Samuel 5:17, 22

How did David react to these actions?

2 Samuel 5:19-20, 23-25

Was David at war with the Philistines all of his reign like Saul?

2 Samuel 8:1

David and the Moabites (2 Samuel 8:2)

What special relationship did David have with the Moabites?

Ruth 1:22; 4:13, 17

Did this kinship have any impact on David's relationship with the Moabites?

1 Samuel 22:3-4

Did this lead to a friendly relationship between the nations when David became king of Israel?

2 Samuel 8:2

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David and the Zobahites (*2 Samuel 8:3-4, 7-8*)

What kind of relationship did Israel have with Zobah, its northern neighbor?

1 Samuel 14:47

Did relations between the nations improve when David became king?

2 Samuel 8:3-4

How else did God bless David through this victory against Zobah?

2 Samuel 8:7-8

How were these spoils later put to use in praise to God?

1 Chronicles 18:8

David and the Syrians (*2 Samuel 8:5-6*)

What kind of relationship did Israel have with Aram (Syria), the nation to the north of Zobah?

2 Samuel 8:5

How else did God bless David through victory against Aram?

2 Samuel 8:6

David and the Hamathites (*2 Samuel 8:9-10*)

What kind of relationship did Israel have with Hamath, the nation to the north of Aram?

2 Samuel 8:9-10

David and the Edomites (*2 Samuel 8:13-14*)

What kind of relationship did Israel have with Edom, its southern neighbor?

1 Samuel 14:47

Did relations between the nations improve under David?

2 Samuel 8:13-14

David's Response (*2 Samuel 8:11-12, 15-18*)

Did David take the credit for his victories as Saul did?

2 Samuel 8:11-12

How was David viewed as a king?

2 Samuel 8:15

Who were some of his key leaders?

2 Samuel 8:16-18

David and the Ammonites (*2 Samuel 10:1-7*)

What kind of relationship did Israel have with Ammon, its eastern neighbor?

2 Samuel 10:1-2

Did Hanun continue the friendly relations with Israel that his father began?

2 Samuel 10:3-4

Did David respond to this by force?

2 Samuel 10:5

How did this relationship become even more strained?

2 Samuel 10:6-7

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David Fights the Ammonites (2 Samuel 10:8-11:1)

What happened when the Israelite army went out against the Ammonite threat?

2 Samuel 10:8-12

How did the battle turn out?

2 Samuel 10:13-14

What happened when the enemies regrouped?

2 Samuel 10:15-19

Did David leave the Ammonites alone, or did he address the concern that they would try to fight again?

2 Samuel 11:1

David and the Daughter of Seven (2 Samuel 11:2-5)

Did David always do God's will or did he take advantage of his power?

2 Samuel 11:2-4

Who was Eliam, Bathsheba's father?

2 Samuel 23:8a, 34b

Who was Urriah the Hittite, Bathsheba's husband?

2 Samuel 23:39a

How did David's abuse of power and breaking God's commands come back to haunt him?

2 Samuel 11:4b-5

Note: "Purified herself" indicates she just finished the post-menstruation cleansing rituals (Lev 15:19-30)

The point is that she was not already pregnant by her husband when David took her

Can David Cover-up Better Than Nixon? (2 Samuel 11:6-15)

Why did this news become a crisis for David?

Leviticus 20:10

How did David try to cover-up this problem?

2 Samuel 11:6-8

Note: *Gift* refers to food – king's food for a romantic dinner with his wife

How well did this plan work?

2 Samuel 11:9-11

What was David's Plan B?

2 Samuel 11:12-13

What was David's Plan C?

2 Samuel 11:14-15

The Cover-up Works (2 Samuel 11:16-27)

How did David's Plan C work?

2 Samuel 11:16-17

Would this military defeat upset David?

2 Samuel 11:18-21

How did David respond?

2 Samuel 11:22-25

How could Urriah's death help David in covering up his sin?

2 Samuel 11:26-27

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A Case for the Top Judge (2 Samuel 12:1-6)

How did God confront David with the sins he tried to cover up?

2 Samuel 12:1-4

How did David respond to this story?

2 Samuel 12:5-6

The Cover-up Revealed (2 Samuel 12:7-14)

How did David come to realize that he was the evil rich man?

2 Samuel 12:7-9

What just and severe punishment would God pronounce on David?

2 Samuel 12:10-12

Did David deny Nathan's allegations or ask for mercy from the sentence?

2 Samuel 12:13-14

Immediate Punishment (2 Samuel 12:15-25)

How did David respond when he started to see the punishment for his sin?

2 Samuel 12:15-17

How did David respond when God completed this punishment through the death of the child?

2 Samuel 12:18-20

How did he explain his actions to others?

2 Samuel 12:21-23

Did David have any other children through Bathsheba?

2 Samuel 12:24-25

Ammonite Victory (2 Samuel 12:26-31)

By the way, what happened with the army after David had told Joab to attack Rabbah (2 Samuel 11:25)?

2 Samuel 12:26-28

What happened when David joined the troops?

2 Samuel 12:29-31

Closing Prayer

Response - Consider and meditate on one each day this week

1. Do I show God's love even to those who would be my enemies?
(2 Samuel 9; 10:1-2; Proverbs 16:7; Luke 6:27-36; 23:34; Acts 7:59-60; Romans 12:14)
2. Do I hoard the treasures God has given me or do I return them for use in God's service?
(2 Samuel 8:11; Genesis 12:2-3; 14:15-23; 1 Chronicles 29:1-20; Luke 20:20-25; 2 Cor 9:6-15)
3. Do I take credit for my successes or do I give the glory to God?
(2 Samuel 7:18-29; 8:11; Jeremiah 9:23-24; Psalm 116:12; 1 Cor 1:28-31; 2 Cor 10:12-18)
4. When have I sinfully abused power that God gave me?
(2 Samuel 11; 1 Kings 11:1-13; 21; Acts 8:9-24; 1 Thessalonians 2)
5. How do I respond when confronted with my sin? Do I deny or accept responsibility?
Do I continue in my sin or do I repent and look to God for help and forgiveness?
(2 Samuel 12:13; 2 Chronicles 7:14; Ezekiel 33:7-20; Luke 15)