

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) = Philistia was west of Israel along coastline

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

1 Samuel 27:1-2, 4 (1-7) = He went to live in the land of the Philistines

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

1 Samuel 14:52a = Saul was at bitter war with the Philistines all of his reign

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

1 Samuel 27:12 (8-12) = Philistines believed he was hated and rejected by all, not just Saul

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

1 Samuel 29:1-2, 6, 9 = Philistine king even trusted them to go into battle with him against Israel

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 = No, Philistines attacked Israel twice when they heard David was king

How did David react to these actions? = received God's victories

2 Samuel 5:19-20, 23-25 = Looked to God for guidance, followed God's direction and ^

Was David at war with the Philistines all of his reign like Saul? = Fought for peace, not to build an empire

2 Samuel 8:1 = No, God gave him victory and he subdued them

David and the Moabites (2 Samuel 8:2) = Moab was southeast of Israel on the east side of the Dead Sea

What special relationship did David have with the Moabites?

Ruth 1:22; 4:13, 17 = His great grandmother was Ruth, a Moabitess

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

1 Samuel 22:3-4 = Yes, the king of Moab protected David's family when Saul wanted to kill David

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

2 Samuel 8:2 = No, Moabites apparently fought Israel for David to react so severely

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David and the Zobahites (2 Samuel 8:3-4, 7-8) = Zobah was northern border of Israel

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

1 Samuel 14:47 = They were enemies during Saul's reign

Did relations between the nations improve when David became king?

2 Samuel 8:3-4 = No, they fought over territory, but God gave David great victory

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

2 Samuel 8:7-8 = Valuable spoils of gold and bronze

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

1 Chronicles 18:8 = They were used by Solomon in building the temple

David and the Syrians (2 Samuel 8:5-6) = Syria was north of Zobah

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

2 Samuel 8:5 = They sided with Zobah, God gave Israel victory

How else did God bless David through victory against Aram? = God gave David victory wherever he went

2 Samuel 8:6 = They became subject to him and paid tribute, placed outposts in Syria

David and the Hamathites (2 Samuel 8:9-10) = Hamath was north of Syria

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

2 Samuel 8:9-10 = Hamath was afraid so they made friends with David

David and the Edomites (2 Samuel 8:13-14) = Edom was to the south of Israel

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

1 Samuel 14:47 = They were enemies during Saul's reign

Did relations between the nations improve under David? = God gave David victory wherever he went

2 Samuel 8:13-14 = They became subject to him and paid tribute, placed outposts in Edom

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 = No, he credited God and dedicated the plunder to God

How was David viewed as a king?

2 Samuel 8:15 = As a just and right king, he followed God

Who were some of his key leaders? = Benaiah was over special royal guard

2 Samuel 8:16-18 = Joab led army, Zadok & Abiathar were high priests, sons were advisors

David and the Ammonites (2 Samuel 10:1-7) = Ammon was east of Israel, north of Moab

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

2 Samuel 10:1-2 = Friendly under Nahash, David send emissaries to Hanun when Nahash died

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

2 Samuel 10:3-4 = No, he accused the emissaries of spying, they offended and degraded them

Did David respond to this by force?

2 Samuel 10:5 = No, he showed his concern to the men who had been humiliated

How did this relationship become even more strained? = David waited for Ammon to show intentions

2 Samuel 10:6-7 = Ammonites hired mercenaries from countries that David had defeated

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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 = They were surrounded. Joab split the troops and made a battle plan

How did the battle turn out? = Joab went home - Israel's purpose was defense, not empire building

2 Samuel 10:13-14 = The Israelites won and the Ammonites & Arameans retreated

What happened when the enemies regrouped?

2 Samuel 10:15-19 = David took army out and defeated them, Aram quit helping Ammon

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

2 Samuel 11:1 = He attacked and besieged them - this offense was important for defense

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? = *Bathsheba* - daughter of seven

2 Samuel 11:2-4 = Took advantage by coveting & committing adultery with another man's wife

Who was Eliam, Bathsheba's father?

2 Samuel 23:8a, 34b = One of David's Thirty Mighty Men - his personal bodyguard

Who was Urriah the Hittite, Bathsheba's husband?

2 Samuel 23:39a = Also one of David's Thirty Mighty Men - his personal bodyguard

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

2 Samuel 11:4b-5 = She became pregnant

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? = David recognized his role as model of faith to the people

Leviticus 20:10 = Well known penalty for adultery was death for both

How did David try to cover-up this problem? = Intended to make it look like the child was Urriah's

2 Samuel 11:6-8 = Brought Urriah back from siege at Rabbah so he could sleep with his wife

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 = Urriah refused to relax while rest of army was at war

What was David's Plan B? = Urriah kept his honorable position

2 Samuel 11:12-13 = He tried again, but got Urriah drunk first so he would go on home

What was David's Plan C? = David added murder to his list of sins in this situation

2 Samuel 11:14-15 = Have Urriah killed in battle

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

How did David's Plan C work? = Joab didn't pull back as David asked, but put Urriah in the riskiest spot

2 Samuel 11:16-17 = Urriah died as he intended

Would this military defeat upset David? = It was clear to Joab what David was trying to do

2 Samuel 11:18-21 = Only until he heard that Urriah was dead

How did David respond? = Didn't bother him that others had also died in his scheme

2 Samuel 11:22-25 = David tried not to show his joy by saying the defeat was part of war

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

2 Samuel 11:26-27 = He married Bathsheba so that the child would look like his

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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? = Nathan was prophet after Samuel (2S7)
2 Samuel 12:1-4 = Sent Nathan with a sad story of an evil rich man wronging a poor man
How did David respond to this story?
2 Samuel 12:5-6 = Thought it was true, pronounced just and severe punishment against the man

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 = Nathan made it clear, also made clear that God was upset by David's sins
What just and severe punishment would God pronounce on David?
2 Samuel 12:10-12 = His family would live with violence, He would be the victim of open adultery
Did David deny Nathan's allegations or ask for mercy from the sentence? = The child of the sin would die
2 Samuel 12:13-14 = No, he confessed & repented his sin, Nathan offered God's forgiveness

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 = He fasted and prayed day and night asking God for mercy
How did David respond when God completed this punishment through the death of the child?
2 Samuel 12:18-20 = He accepted God's judgment and worshiped God
How did he explain his actions to others?
2 Samuel 12:21-23 = He had been pleading with God, can't change what God has done
Did David have any other children through Bathsheba?
2 Samuel 12:24-25 = Yes, Solomon ("*peace*") - called Jedidiah ("*loved by the Lord*") by God

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 = He weakened them and gained control of their water supply
What happened when David joined the troops?
2 Samuel 12:29-31 = He was victorious and the Ammonites became subject to Israel

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)