

## King David's Reign

In this portion of the text we learn of David's reign as king over Israel. The Bible portrays all its heroes in the same light -- the good and the bad. We learn of David's failure with Bathsheba and the murder of her husband Uriah. It's the spring and the seasonal time for fighting. However, David decides to stay home from the battle and the enemy of God uses this time of idleness to cause David to stumble. Let's play out the story to see what King David does and how his sin plays out.

## Say it! Play it! Pray it!

<b>Objectives:</b>	Play out the Role of King David and his reign over Israel. Gain insight into our own faith. Have fun with your family.
<b>Number of Players:</b>	3 - 6 or more (narrator, King David, Bathsheba, servant of David, servant of Bathsheba, Joab, Nathan) each person can play more than one role if needed
<b>Length:</b>	30 minutes - 1 hour
<b>Set up:</b>	You can get as elaborate as you like. You will need one area that will be David's house and another area that will be Bathsheba's house and one more area that is the front line of the battle. Props: note from Bathsheba to King David telling him that she is with child. Note from King David to Joab telling him to place Uriah on the front line. As the Narrator is reading, the separate characters should act out what is being said and dramatize how these events make them feel.

**Narrator:** It happened in the spring of the year, at the time when kings go out to battle, that David sent Joab and his servants with him, and all Israel; and they destroyed the people of Ammon and besieged Rabbah. But David remained at Jerusalem. Then it happened one evening that David arose from his bed and walked on the roof of the king's house. And from the roof he saw a woman bathing, and the woman was very beautiful to behold.

**David: (to his servant)** Who is that woman?

**servant of David:** Is this not Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?

**David:** Bring her to me.

**Narrator:** Bathsheba was brought to David and she came to him, and he lay with her, for she was cleansed from her impurity; and she returned to her house. And the woman conceived.

**Bathsheba: (to her servant)** Please take this message to the king.

**servant of Bathsheba: (runs to the kings house)** King David, I have this message from Bathsheba. (servant leaves and David Reads the note)

**David:** (quietly reads the note) I am with child. - Bathsheba

**David: (to his servant)** Run to Joab at the battle and have him send Uriah the Hittite to me.

**Narrator:** And Joab sent Uriah to David.

**David: (to Uriah)** How is Joab doing and the people? How is the war prospering? Go down to your house and wash your feet. Spend time with your wife.

**Narrator:** So Uriah departed from the king's house, and a gift of food from the king followed him. But Uriah slept at the door of the king's house with all the servants of his lord, and did not go down to his house.

**servant of David:** My king, Uriah did not go down to his house.

**David:** Bring Uriah to me.

**David: (to Uriah)** Did you not come from a journey? Why did you not go down to your house?

**Uriah:** The ark and Israel and Judah are dwelling in tents, and my lord Joab and the servants of my lord are encamped in the open fields. Shall I then go to my house to eat and drink, and to lie with my wife? As you live and as your soul lives, I will not do this thing.

**David:** Wait here today also, and tomorrow I will let you depart.

**Narrator:** So Uriah remained in Jerusalem that day and the next. Now when David called him, he ate and drank before him; and he made him drunk and at evening he went out to lie on his bed with the servants of his lord, but he did not go down to his house. In the morning it happened that David wrote a letter to Joab and sent it by the hand of Uriah.

**Uriah: (runs to Joab and gives him the letter and departs to his company)**

**Joab: (quietly reads the message)** Set Uriah in the forefront of the hottest battle, and retreat from him, that he may be struck down and die.

**Narrator:** So it was, while Joab besieged the city, that he assigned Uriah to a place where he knew there were valiant men. Then the men of the city came out and fought with Joab. And some of the people of the servants of David fell; and Uriah the Hittite died also. Then Joab sent and told David all the things concerning the war.

**Joab: (to the servant of David)** When you have finished telling the matters of the war to the king, it happens that the king's wrath is raised, and he says to you: 'why did you approach so near to the city when you fought? Did you not know that they would shoot from the wall? Who struck Abimelech the son of Jerubbesheth? Was it not a woman who cast a piece of a millstone on him from the wall, so that he died in Thebez? Why did you go near the wall?' Then you shall say, 'your servant Uriah the Hittite is dead also.'

**Narrator:** So the messenger went and came and told David all that Joab had sent by him.

**servant of David: (to the king)** Surely the men prevailed against us and came out to us in the field; then we drove them back as far as the entrance of the gate. The archers shot from the wall at your servants; and some of the kings servants are dead, and your servant Uriah the Hittite is dead also.

**David:** Thus you shall say to Joab: 'Do not let this thing displease you, for the sword devours one as well as another. Strengthen your attack against the city, and overthrow it.' So encourage him.

**Narrator:** Then the Lord sent Nathan to David. And he came to him and said to him:

**Nathan:** There were two men in one city, one rich and the other poor. The rich man had exceedingly many flocks and herds. But the poor man had nothing, except one little ewe lamb which he had bought and nourished; and it grew up together with him and with his children. It ate of his own food and drank from his own cup and lay in his bosom; and it was like a daughter to him. And a traveler came to the rich man, who refused to take from his own flock and from his own herd to prepare one for the wayfaring man who had come to him; but he took the poor man's lamb and prepared it for the man who had come to him.

**Narrator:** So David's anger was greatly aroused against the man.

**David:** As the Lord lives, the man who has done this shall surely die! And he shall restore fourfold for the lamb, because he did this thing and because he had no pity.

**Nathan: (pointing his finger at David)** You are the man! Thus says the Lord God of Israel; I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you from the hand of Saul. I gave you your master's house and your master's wives into your keeping, and gave you the house of Israel and Judah. And if that had been too little, I also would have given you much more! Why have you despised the commandment of the Lord, to do evil in His sight? You have killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword; you have taken his wife, and have killed him with the sword of the people of Ammon. Now therefore, the sword shall never depart from your house, because you have despised Me, and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife. Thus says the Lord: Behold, I will raise up adversity against you from your own house; and I will take your wives before your eyes and give them to your neighbor, and he shall lie with your wives in the sight of the sun. For you did it secretly, but I will do this thing before all Israel, before the sun.

**David:** I have sinned against the Lord.

**Nathan:** The Lord has put away your sin; you shall not die. However, because by this deed you have given great occasion to the enemies of the Lord to blaspheme, the child also who is born to you shall surely die.

(Nathan leaves)

**David: (to the Lord) (from Psalm 51)** Have mercy upon me O God according to Your loving-kindness, according to your tender mercies. Blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against You, You only have I sinned, and done this evil in Your sight. That you may be found just when You speak, and blameless when You judge.

Behold I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me. Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts, and in the hidden part You will make me to know wisdom.

Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean. Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Make me hear joy and gladness, that the bones You have broken may rejoice. Hide Your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquities.

Create in me a clean heart, O God. And, renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from Your presence, and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of Your salvation. And, uphold me by Your generous Spirit. Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, and sinners shall be converted to You.



# FAMILY STUDY

Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God, the God of my salvation, and my tongue shall sing aloud of Your righteousness. O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall show forth Your praise. For You do not desire sacrifice, or else I would give it; You do not delight in burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and contrite heart - these, O God, You will not despise.

Do good in Your good pleasure to Zion; Build the walls of Jerusalem. Then You shall be pleased with the sacrifices of righteousness, with burnt offering and whole burnt offering; Then they shall offer bulls on Your altar.

**Discussion:** Have each person share how it felt to them to play the role they did and what insights they gained about the people they played, God's character and their own life. Questions to consider: How did David's sin start and then grow? If you were David, what could you have done at each stage to stop the cycle of sin? What are some consequences that you have experienced from your own sin?

**Prayer:** Close in prayer thanking God for His provision and for all that you have learned and the fun you had with your family.