



SMALL GROUP STUDY

David's Reign

In this portion of the text we learn of David's reign as king of Israel. The Bible portrays all its heroes in the same light -- the good and the bad. We learn of David's failure. It's the spring and the seasonal time for fighting. However, David decides to stay home from the battle and the enemy uses this time of idleness to cause David to stumble.

David's Transgressions (chapters 11-12)

While David stays home from the war he walks out on his roof top where he saw a woman bathing. She was very beautiful to behold. Sin upon sin is piled up in David's life.

Discussion Questions:

- a. What was David's first sin and how did it lead to another and another?
- b. Is sin ever worth the trouble you get in with God? (Psalm 32) What are the effects of sin in a believer's life?
- c. Why did the prophet Nathan tell David a parable about a rich man and a poor man and a small sheep?
- d. Examine your heart: Have you ever had your conscience bother you? Have you ever deadened your conscience to sin in your life?
- e. Was David forgiven? What were the consequences of David's sin?

David's Troubles (Chapters 13-24)

David and Bathsheba's son dies. His daughter is raped by her 1/2 brother, his son (David has 8 wives). Then his son Absalom kills his other son Amnon. According to the law Absalom should be put to death because of the murder. David eventually allows Absalom to return to his house, but there is no intimacy or fellowship--no forgiveness. Then bitterness brews in Absalom's heart and he eventually overthrows the kingdom from David.

Discussion Questions:

- a. Why do you think David did not discipline his son Amnon after he raped his sister Tamar?
- b. Examine your heart: Do you have a relationship with a parent or a child that needs to be mended? Will you pray today and act to bring about reconciliation?
- c. What did Absalom do to steal the hearts of the people?
- d. Why did David flee Jerusalem when Absalom stole the hearts of the people?
- e. Who kills Absalom and how?
- f. Why does it say in chapter 25 that the Lord incited David to number the people and in Chronicles 21 it says Satan incited David to number the people?

Dealing with Sin

1. Admit it: "I have sinned." Take responsibility and do not shift the blame.
2. Leave it: Repentance -- make a clean break and go in the opposite direction.
3. Replace it: God's forgiveness. There are consequences, but you are forgiven.