

The Story Adult Study Guide

For the Week of November 24, 2019

Chapter 12: "The Trials of a King"



Key Events: David's sin and repentance, Absalom's rebellion, preparations to build the temple

Key Characters: David, Nathan, Bathsheba (see pages 489-490 for descriptions)

Bible Reference for this Chapter: 2 Samuel 11-12, 18-19; 1 Chronicles 22, 29; Psalms 23, 32, 51

1. Identify the sins David committed on pages 161-162. How did his thoughts, words, and actions form a progression of sins?
2. The Lord sent Nathan to speak with David about his sins. What instructions does God's Word provide for confronting others about sin?
3. Read David's prayer on pages 163-164 (Psalm 51:1-12). What elements of repentance are included in David's prayer?
4. Read another penitential psalm of David on pages 165-166 (Psalm 32:1-7, 10-11). What important truths and comforts are found in this psalm?

Note on page 167: Absalom was David's son by his wife, Maacah. See 1 Chronicles 3:1-9 for a listing of David's wives and sons.

5. David was both father and king of Absalom. Describe David's dilemma dealing with his son's rebellion. What dilemmas do Christian parents sometimes face with their older and adult children, and how should parents deal with these situations?
6. David made preparations for the future. (pages 169-172) By God's grace, what was David's legacy? By God's grace, what legacy should every Christian leave?

Note on page 173: This poem of David is the renowned Psalm 23.

7. Other thoughts and comments? Please share messages of personal comfort, hope, and encouragement you received from chapter 12.

Prayer Suggestions

- Pray for eyes to see the domino effect of sins in my life, and for a heart of sincere repentance.
- Ask God to place people in my life that love me enough to confront me with my sins.
- Thank God for the redemptive work of Jesus that covers all my sins.

SCHEDULE REMINDER: For next Sunday, Dec. 1, we will not hold Bible Class or Sunday school over Thanksgiving break.

Study Guide Helps for November 24

1. As is often the case, David's sins produced a domino effect – each sin led to another and resulted in more and greater consequences. Each sin required another sin to conceal his wrongdoing. His sins involved and impacted many others. The progression of David's sins included = idleness (although it wasn't a sin to refrain from joining his army, David placed himself into a susceptible position for temptations) → coveting and lust → adultery → lying and scheming to cover up his sin (multiple attempts) → conspiracy to commit murder → murder → stealing → more adultery (and polygamy) → more cover up.

2. God's Word instructs Christians to confront others regarding sin and not ignore it. See Matthew 18:15-18, Galatians 6:1-5, James 5:19-20, 1 Corinthians 5:1-5, and Matthew 7:1-5. Confronting others about sin: 1) is a responsibility and right Jesus gave to every Christian (loosing and binding keys); 2) is done out of love for God and that person; 3) is done for the purpose of leading that person to repentance and restoring the faith relationship with God; 4) should be done in a gentle, patient, and respectful manner; 5) should not be done in a judgmental, hypocritical, or vengeful manner; 6) should take precautions not to get pulled into sin.

3. Elements of repentance in Psalm 51: 1) acknowledgement, admission and confession of my sin – *For I know my transgressions . . . Against you, you only, have I sinned . . . Surely I was sinful at birth*; 2) contrition = genuine sorrow and shame over my sin – *Let the bones you have crushed rejoice . . . Hide your face from my sins*; 3) request forgiveness and a restored heart – *Blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity . . . Create in me a pure heart, O God . . . Restore to me the joy of your salvation*; 4) trust that God is merciful and forgives my sin in Christ – *according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion . . . Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean*; 5) commitment to serve and obey God (through the Holy Spirit and the means of grace) – *renew a steadfast spirit within me. . . (Do not) take your Holy Spirit from me. . . grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.*

4. Share phrases of truth and comfort in Psalm 32. They include: 1) Christians live under God's state (condition) of grace, and this status is a joy and blessing – *Blessed is . . .*; 2) hiding/obscuring sin and bearing the guilt is physically, psychologically and spiritually devastating – *When I kept silent, my bones wasted away . . . groaning all day long . . . your hand was heavy upon me . . . my strength was sapped*; 3) relief from sin and guilt comes through confession and absolution – *Then I acknowledged my sin to you . . . And you forgave the guilt of my sin*; 4) through a life of repentance, we place our lives into God's loving, merciful and protecting hands – *the rising of the mighty waters will not reach them. You are my hiding place; you will protect me from trouble and surround me with songs of deliverance*; 5) confession and absolution is a vital part of our public and private worship life – *Rejoice in the Lord and be glad, you righteous; sing, all you who are upright in heart!*

Note on page 167: David had many wives and concubines and fathered many children. David's polygamy and adultery had disastrous consequences for his family life and political life. For details about Absalom's conspiracy and rebellion, see 2 Samuel 15.

5. David loved his son and longed to forgive him and restore their relationship. David probably carried parental responsibility (possibly guilt) for the path his son had taken. However, David's rule as king was threatened by Absalom, and suppressing the revolt was politically necessary. Absalom's rebellion also jeopardized David's lineage which was essential in God's plan of salvation leading to the Savior. Share dilemmas Christian parents face with older and adult children. Situations include children who stray from God and his Word, don't live a God-pleasing life, and fall from their faith in Jesus. Many factors affect how parents should deal with these situations. God-pleasing rebuke is necessary (see point #2 above), yet maintaining a relationship for ongoing communication (gospel encouragement) is beneficial and preferable. Parents can provide Christ-centered, loving discipline even to adult children.

6. David's preparations left a spiritual legacy impacting the Israelite nation and the world: 1) he assembled workers and materials for the construction of the temple; 2) he preached God's Word to his son Solomon and the Israelites and told them to remain faithful to God and serve him only; 3) he made preparations for the kingdom to be handed over to Solomon to fulfill God's promise of David's line leading to the Messiah; 4) he was the Holy Spirit's inspired writer who penned a number of psalms in the Bible. God intends every Christian to leave a spiritual legacy. Through our time, talents, treasures and testimony, we want to lead others to Jesus to expand Christ's kingdom during our life now and after we go home to heaven (through our witness, family, friends, ministries, etc.).

7. Answers will vary. Consider/discuss elements of chapter 12 that relate to our daily walk of faith.

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