March 2022

Theme: When God Intervenes

“Mistake to Majesty (Bathsheba)”

**Summary:** The writer of this study providesan in-depth look at the story of David and Bathsheba and how David’s curiosity led to sin that would have an everlasting impact. The author provides lessons to be learned from this big, terrible, awful mistake; a lesson for the outsider looking in, a lesson for those in a mess, a lesson for all our messes, and a lesson for us all.

**Scripture:** 2 Samuel 11

**Songs: “**Amazing Grace” *Rejoice,* page 230; **“**Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)” by Chris Tomlin (YouTube); “Nothing But The Blood” *Rejoice*, page 180.

**Suggestions and Helps**

**Promotional Helps**

*Resources:* Poster and invitation are available at <http://www.wnac.org/treasure/program>helps

**Presentation Ideas**

*Ice Breaker:* At the beginning of the meeting, provide each person with an index card and a pen. Ask each attendee to write down an interesting fact about themselves that no one else may know. When everyone is finished, have the leader collect all the index cards, shuffle them, and read each one. Have the group guess which fact is about which person. This activity builds upon the fact that curiosity led to David’s sin with Bathsheba.

*Presentation*:

Pray to know the best way to approach your group in presenting this study.

Discuss thoroughly the four lessons as written in the program: a lesson for the outsider looking in, a lesson for those in a mess, a lesson for all our messes, and a lesson for us all.

*Monologue:*

Ask someone to present the following as a monologue:

**Secrets, Lies, and Cover-Ups: The Art of Confession**

**Read This:** “So confess your sins to one another and pray for one another so that you may be healed.” (James 5:16)

**Think:** Secrets, lies, cover-up, scandal—all the makings of a great drama. And if only it were as simple as double-dipping. But the secrets we carry so often have far greater consequences than cross-contaminating party condiments.

One familiar biblical tragedy most of us are familiar with is the story of David and Bathsheba found in 2 Samuel 11. First, the sin: David saw a beautiful woman bathing, did some investigating, found out she was married to one of his soldiers but decided to sleep with her anyway.

This could’ve been the end of the story, but sins often refuse to stay quiet. Bathsheba got pregnant. And so began the cover-up plan. David ordered her husband back from the battlefield with the assumption he would go home and sleep with his wife. But this soldier’s loyalty ran deep, and he refused to go to his house while other soldiers fought for their lives. The next day David even got him drunk, but he still refused to go home. Finally, David sends the soldier back to battle with a letter to the commanding officer with a strategic plan to ensure his death.

David harbored a secret for one reason only: to avoid the consequences of his sin. He was so desperate to keep his secret he went to great lengths to make sure no one found out. He repeatedly compromised his character as well as that of others such as Bathsheba and Joab, the commanding officer.

But then it seemed like it was all settled. David took the now widowed Bathsheba as his wife. What God saw broke his heart, and he loved David too much to let him get away with it. He was confronted by Nathan the prophet and the punishment for his crime was the death of the child Bathsheba bore him and a promise that “the sword” would never leave his house (vs. 10).

We may think we can contain our sin, and no one will get hurt if they don’t know about it, but sin has a ripple effect. David’s household was forever changed. Those around us feel the consequences though they may not understand the reasons behind them. The darkness in our hearts, and consequently the guilt and shame we feel, eventually finds its way into every aspect of our lives.

Therefore, confession isn’t just a suggestion—it’s a commandment. We confess our sins before God and are forgiven, but we also need to confess especially those secretive, habitual sins to another mature believer. The church is the hands and feet of Christ—made of those who can walk the journey towards healing with us. Left to our own devices it’s far too easy to slip back into the dark crevices of our hearts, pretending everything is okay while we rot from the inside out. We need to be able to rely on the prayer and willpower of others we run dry. Accountability is a beautiful picture of what church is about.

Ultimately, there may still be the natural consequences of our sin to deal with, but we don’t have to face that alone—God is with us and hopefully others as well. How sweet to walk in freedom with God as well as our family, friends, and church. “My grace is enough for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness” (2 Corinthians 12:9).

**Ask:** Is there a secret struggle in your life you need to confess and get some accountability for? Whether you answered yes or no, who is someone in your life who would be a prayerful accountability partner should you need one now or later? Would you also be prepared to take on someone else’s burdens to help them heal*? Taken from: https://skitguys.com/blog/secrets-lies-and-cover-ups-the-art-of-confession*

*Testimony:* Invite someone to share who has made mistakes that affected people besides themselves that have experienced forgiveness and God has allowed them to move past their issues and blessed them to be used in His Kingdom work. Suggestions may include a recovering drug addict, alcoholic, unwed mother, etc. Emphasis should be blessed on forgiveness and not the mistakes.

*Breakout Groups:* Have the group break into four groups. Ask each group to discuss, explore, and come up with one mistake David made in 2 Samuel 11. After an appropriate amount of time determined by the leader, ask the groups to reconvene and have one person provide their group’s findings to the whole group. The leader should then summarize and conclude.

**Study**

Additional studies about David and Bathsheba

https://www.crosswalk.com>faith 10 Things to Know About the Story of David and Bathsheba

<https://www.biblestudytools.com/david-and-bathsheba> David and Bathsheba-Bible Story Verses and Meaning

**Missions**

From your congregation, reach out to a single mother or more than one mother who may just need some TLC. Offer to provide an afternoon of childcare, a complimentary meal, a grocery pickup, or a monetary gift. Use your imagination to allow a mother or more than one mother who may be struggling to realize, their church family cares about them.

**Service**

Contact an organization that provides care for children, such as children’s homes and/or crisis pregnancy centers, and inquire about any needs. Coordinate a drive to help meet those needs and involve your church congregation. The drive duration should be determined by other activities happening in your church.

**Prayer**

Close with prayer guiding the ladies to pray in this manner as shown in the Skit Guys blog mentioned above:

If you have secrets that need to be brought to light, ask God to whom He would have you confess. And if you don’t, praise God for that and ask him to safeguard you against the temptation to harbor sin in your heart because none of us are far from it.

**Refreshments**

To build on the fact that we feel freer and “light” when we confess and receive forgiveness, prepare light refreshments such as vegetables and dip, fruit and dip. Build on the feeling of “light.”

**Extra**

**Prepare for the Rest of the Family offering on April 24. WNAC receives a percentage of the total offering.**

**Poem**

**If We Ask**

**God’s Love is greater than our sin.**

**So ask forgiveness even when –**

**You’ve held a secret in your heart.**

**You’ve let it tear your life apart.**

**You’ve chosen to indulge a lie.**

**You’ve taken low roads not the high.**

**You’ve linked up to the gossip chain**

**You’ve laughed in spite of others pain.**

**You’ve entertained the darkest night.**

**You’ve played with fires foolish light.**

**You’ve searched the world for who to be.**

**You’ve listened to the enemy.**

**God’s Love is greater than our past.**

**Our sins Forgiven – If we ask.**

**Karen Rene’ Pryor “to make Him known”**