



# 3

## David Disobeys God

### Key Theme

- God provides salvation from sin through Jesus Christ.

### Key Passages

- 2 Samuel 12:1–14; Psalm 51:1–4

### Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Describe David's sin against God.
- Describe God's response to David's sin.



## Lesson Overview



### Come On In

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Students will place a bookmark at 2 Samuel 12 and Psalm 51.

Students will practice the memory verse by unscrambling words on the Memory Verse Review Sheet then reciting the verse to each other or to the class.



### Activity 1: David Disobeys God Class Notes

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Students will fill out the David Disobeys God Class Notes as you study the lesson. Pass out the class notes before you begin to teach.



### Studying God's Word

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David chose his way over God's law when he gave in to greed and lust. Convicted by a simple parable delivered by the prophet Nathan, David cried out to God in repentance, and God, in His mercy, forgave him.



### Activity 2: David Wasn't Perfect

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Students will stick strips on the board that list the good and the bad things about King David. The class will discuss sin and forgiveness.

# Lesson Preparation

## WHAT YOU WILL DO



### COME ON IN

- ☐ Cut paper into strips for each student to mark today's study passage in 2 Samuel 12 and Psalm 51.
- ☐ Print one Memory Verse Review Sheet from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student.



### DAVID DISOBEYS GOD CLASS NOTES

- ☐ Print one David Disobeys God Class Notes from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student. Keep the answer key for your use.



### STUDYING GOD'S WORD

- ☐ Study the Prepare to Share section.
- ☐ Go Before the Throne.



### DAVID WASN'T PERFECT

- ☐ Print one David Activity Guide from the Resource DVD-ROM.
- ☐ Print and cut apart the David Activity Strips from the Resource DVD-ROM.

## WHAT YOU WILL NEED

- ☐ Memory Verse Poster
- ☐ Paper bookmarks
- ☐ Memory Verse Review Sheet for each student

- ☐ David Disobeys God Class Notes for each student
- ☐ David Disobeys God Class Notes Answer Key
- ☐ Pencils

- ☐ Student Take Home Sheets

- ☐ David Activity Guide
- ☐ David Activity Strips
- ☐ Poster putty or tape



## Memory Verse

**2 Samuel 7:22** Therefore You are great, O Lord God. For there is none like You, nor is there any God besides You, according to all that we have heard with our ears.

► **Pace your lesson!** Use the clocks to mark the time you want to finish each section. This will help you stay on track and finish on time. You may need to shorten or drop sections as necessary.





# Prepare to Share

## SCRIPTURAL BACKGROUND

Prepare to teach by preparing your heart. Read the key passages listed above with this background.

God had made David king over Israel and promised that his throne would be an enduring one that would one day lead to the Savior who would redeem sinners (2 Samuel 7:8–17). But David's life was about to change. And as we move further into 2 Samuel and David's life, we witness the reality that the human heart, if left to itself, will always fall into the lust of the flesh and the ways of the world (Galatians 5:17). Many find it difficult to think of David as a man after God's own heart (1 Samuel 13:14; Acts 13:22) while reading the account in 2 Samuel of his fall from grace into serious and deadly moral failure.

Throughout this account of adultery, deceit, and murder, God gives a glimpse into our hearts and His grace. David's descent began when he shirked his kingly duty as leader and chose to stay behind while he sent his army off to war against the Ammonites (2 Samuel 11:1). This first offense brought about the occasion that led to lusting after the woman Bathsheba from the roof of his palace (2 Samuel 11:2). He was completely enticed by his own fleshly desires and pursued the woman who was the wife of one of his trusted soldiers. David's sinful manipulation and misuse of her resulted in a baby being conceived (2 Samuel 11:4–5).

We can only imagine what raced through David's mind upon hearing that news! Fearful of being found out, we do know that his immediate reaction was to cover up his sexual sin, and he again used his influence to manipulate the circumstances he found himself in. He ordered Uriah, Bathsheba's husband, back from war so that he would sleep with his wife so it would appear the child was Uriah's (2 Samuel 11:6–10). After this attempt failed, David got Uriah drunk in the hopes that drunkenness would break Uriah's resolve not to lie with his wife (2 Samuel 11:12–13). Again, Uriah foiled David's plan, and in desperation, David ordered that Uriah be placed to the front of battle and abandoned there to die (2 Samuel 11:15). After mourning her husband's death, Bathsheba moved into the palace, became one of David's many wives, and bore a son (2 Samuel 11:26–27).

It seemed as though David would get away with his sin against God. And yet, the thing that David had done displeased the Lord (2 Samuel 11:27). And in His displeasure, God acted severely but mercifully to David. Through His prophet Nathan, God convicted David—

not through thundering condemnation but through a parable of a rich man who took a poor man's pet lamb for dinner (2 Samuel 12:1–4).

David reacted indignantly toward this story—incensed at the idea that a rich man with many flocks would steal the only sheep of a poor man. In fact, David demanded that this rich man should die for his unjust behavior (2 Samuel 12:5). This indignation turned quickly to repentance when Nathan proclaimed, "You are the man!" (2 Samuel 12:7).

David thought he had concealed his sin from public exposure, but God would not let David's sin go undetected. And through the prophet Nathan, God called David to sincere repentance. God showed grace and mercy through the message of Nathan—grace to reveal that David's sin could not be concealed and mercy that allowed David to continue to live, sure of God's forgiveness.

Psalms 51 gives a closer look at David's repentance and God's forgiveness. David cried out for mercy, begging to be washed, forgiven, and restored to the joy of His salvation. Because God is faithful to forgive, He cleansed David of the guilt of his sin. But David's sin had to be judged. And God accomplished that when He justly atoned for all the sins of every believer through Jesus Christ who presented His life as the perfect sacrifice for sin once for all (Hebrews 10:10–12).

One lesson to be learned from this account of man's deceit and God's forgiveness is that sin rarely happens in a moment, but follows a certain progression. Like David, we are tempted by our own lusts and drawn away by our desires. Then desire gives birth to sin, and sin finally brings forth death (James 1:13–15).

In the end, this account with all of its sordid details gives us great hope. We, too, are sinners with hearts that seek our own pleasures. But God will not allow us to conceal the sin. If we are children of God, He will graciously reveal our sin, bring us to repentance, and forgive us through the Redeemer and Savior who died in our place.

## HISTORICAL/APOLOGETICS BACKGROUND

There should be no doubt in our minds that David's string of sins was truly heinous—lust, adultery, deceit, murder. But we can be assured that God has forgiven him of those sins in Christ. David offered a sincere prayer of repentance in Psalm 51, and he trusted that God would cleanse him from sin. Although David did

not know the name of Jesus, he could look forward to the Messiah, who would come through his lineage, to take away the sin he had committed. In fact, many of the psalms that David wrote have clear messianic language. Jesus quoted from Psalm 22 on the Cross, and we see the fulfillment of its prophetic portion in those who mocked Jesus while He was hanging there in our place (Matthew 27).

Even though David had been cleared of the guilt of his sin and faced no eternal condemnation (Romans 8:1–2; 1 John 4:17–19), he still had to face temporal consequences for his sin. God announced through Nathan that David's first child with Bathsheba would die, that David's house would be plagued by violence, and that his wives would be violated in the full view of Israel. All of these consequences related to the sins David had committed. Like David, we can go to God for forgiveness of our sins, and He will freely forgive us (1 John 1:8–10). We are assured that there is no eternal condemnation because our lives have been hidden with Christ in God (Colossians 3:3). Yet, we can expect to receive discipline for our sins because the heavenly Father chastens His children (Hebrews 12:5–6).

In spite of the momentary consequences brought on by sin, we can be sure that God's forgiveness of our

sins will lead to eternal life through Jesus Christ. For this we can praise the Creator and Redeemer forever and ever.

For more information on this topic, see the Online Resource Page.



## BEFORE THE THRONE

Holy Redeemer, it is not easy to look at David's failures. He was a man after God's own heart. Yet his sin was great. May the life of this saint remind me that I too need to be on guard when it comes to temptation and sin. When my flesh says "yes," help me to say "no" to sin. And when I sin, convict me of my sin immediately, so that I may repent quickly and say as David did, "Have mercy on me and restore the joy of your salvation." May you impress this lesson on my class, so that the students would learn how serious sin is and understand that forgiveness comes only from you.



## COME ON IN

As students arrive . . .

- They will mark their Bibles at 2 Samuel 12, and Psalm 51 with strips of paper.
- They will unscramble the scrambled words on the Memory Verse Review Sheet and practice reciting the verse to each other, together, and/or to the class.

*This time at the beginning of class should be used to review the memory verse. We have provided an activity sheet on the Resource DVD-ROM for you to use. Students should unscramble the letters of the missing words and then recite the verse to you or another student. Each week the verse will get harder to unscramble. You may have other ideas and ways to encourage your students to memorize the verse.*



After all the students arrive, pray with them before beginning the lesson.



## REVIEW

Using the Lesson Theme Posters provided with each lesson, quickly review the previous lesson(s) with your students. Take 5 to 10 minutes to reinforce the important truths the students have heard so far in your class.

Ask the children questions about the previous lessons as you display the Lesson Theme Posters. Reflect briefly on the passages you read, bringing the objectives and themes back into focus. This will refresh the truths in your students' minds and maintain continuity as you teach through the lessons.



# David Disobeys God Class Notes

## MATERIALS

- ☐ David Disobeys God Class Notes for each student
- ☐ David Disobeys God Class Notes Answer Key
- ☐ Pencils

## INSTRUCTIONS

*Print the class notes for each student. Pass them out at the beginning of class. Have students fill in the blanks as you study the lesson.*

We will be completing these class notes as we study the Bible passages. Try not to work ahead. Fill in the blanks as we come to them. I'll let you know when to fill in something.

## CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

When we complete the class notes, we will know better what happens when a man of God sins.



## Studying God's Word

Let's get started. First some background. David was the king of Israel—appointed by God. His life showed that he was a man after God's own heart—a man committed to the God who had made him king and had given him courage and success. God had promised David that his family would be honored forever—through Jesus Christ—the eternal King. God blessed David with many victories over his enemies and protected him

wherever he went. It seemed as though David had everything in order and could do no wrong. But that wasn't the case. We will read today how even a man as great as David can fall away from God into horrible sin!

## READ THE WORD

David's army had gone out to war, but David remained in Jerusalem. This was not a good idea to begin with. He was a great, courageous king. He should have been leading his army but was at home alone instead. While he was home, he saw a beautiful woman, the wife of one of his army commanders, a man named Uriah. He wanted the woman, Bathsheba, for his own wife. His desires were against God's law. God's people know that marriage is one man and one woman for life.

- ? When he realized his desires were against God's law, what could he have done? *Allow discussion. Prayed, asked God to help him, turned away from it, asked someone to help him do the right thing, meditate on God's Law, resisted the temptation, etc.*

But David didn't care—sin and lust had gripped his heart. He was so caught up in his sin that he tried several ways to cover up his sin and finally gave the order that would kill Bathsheba's husband on the battle field. He then brought Bathsheba, the lovely woman, into the palace to become his wife. David's sin was great. He stole a man's wife and murdered the man!

- ? Does anyone know which commandments against God King David was breaking? *Do not kill and do not commit adultery. Refer to the Ten Commandments Poster.*

This did not please God at all! Sin never pleases God. So God sent one of His prophets, Nathan, to challenge the powerful king. Nathan was the one who had given God's promise to David that his descendant would rule on his throne forever. Well, this time Nathan had a far different message for David. The prophet told David a parable or story. We're going to find out what that story was about. Let's read 2 Samuel 12:1–4 together. *Divide the passage for members of the class to read aloud.*

## EXAMINE THE WORD

Why had Nathan shared this story with King David? Let's take a closer look at our text and see if we can figure it out.

### Observe the Text

- ? This parable was about two men. What does 2 Samuel 12:1 say about them? *One is rich and the other poor.*
- ? What did the rich man have? *2 Samuel 12:2. He had many flocks and herds. Have students fill in #1 on their class notes—many.*
- ? What did the poor man have? *2 Samuel 12:3. He had nothing but one lamb.*

► Use the History of Israel Poster included with your teacher kit to show your class where the biblical accounts you study chronologically fit into this timeline.

**2 Samuel 12:1–4**

► After filling in each point on the class notes, have the students re-read the statement together or call on individual students to read it.



? **How did the poor man feel about his one lamb?** *2 Samuel 12:3. He loved the lamb like his family; it was like a daughter to him. Have students fill in #2 on their class notes—one, loved.*

? **Who came to the rich man?** *2 Samuel 12:4. A traveler.*

Yes. A traveler came to stay with the rich man. The Bible says that the rich man wanted to feed the traveler, but he didn't want to kill any of his many lambs.

? **What did this rich man do?** *2 Samuel 12:4. He took the poor man's lamb and prepared it for the man.*

What? The rich man, who had many lambs, was not willing to use one of his own. So he killed the poor man's lamb, his pet, the only thing he had, and they ate it for dinner! *Have students fill in #3 on their class notes—poor, sheep, fed.*

? **What do you think King David's response to that would be?** *Allow brief discussion.*

Let's find out! *Read 2 Samuel 12:5–6 aloud.*

2 Samuel 12:5–6

? **How did King David feel?** *2 Samuel 12:5. He was angry.*

? **What did King David say about the rich man?** *2 Samuel 12:5–6. The man should die! He should pay it back four times.*

? **So look at #4 on your class notes. What is the answer?** *No! Have students fill in #4 on the class notes—no.*

Listen to what happened next! *Assign someone to read 2 Samuel 12:7.*

2 Samuel 12:7

? **What did Nathan say to David?** *You are the man! Have students fill in #5 on the class notes—man.*

What? Did David kill the poor man's lamb? No. He didn't. This is a parable—a story. Nathan told the story so David would see his own sin. Nathan was comparing David to the rich man. The rich man in the story had everything he needed—and so did David! The rich man took what he wanted from someone else even though it wasn't right. David did the same thing. The rich man in the story took the poor man's lamb and killed it! David took Uriah's wife and had Uriah killed. Look at 2 Samuel 12:9. *Assign a reader.*

It's pretty clear that God and Nathan knew about David's sin. David killed Uriah and took Uriah's wife, Bathsheba, to be his own. This was against God's commandments. David had sinned against God. He had stayed home from the battle, had become tempted by lust and greed, and had given in to that temptation. Then God, through Nathan, showed David how terrible the sin was by using a parable about a lamb.

2 Samuel 12:9

So how did David respond to Nathan, God's prophet? Go to 2 Samuel 12:13–14. *Assign a reader.*

2 Samuel 12:13–14

- ? What did David say about his sin? *2 Samuel 12:13–14. I have sinned against the Lord. Complete #6 on your class notes. Lord.*
- ? Do you think David was sorry for his sin? *Yes.*
- ? What did the Lord say to David—through the prophet Nathan? *2 Samuel 12:13. The Lord will put away your sin. David would not die.*
- ? So, did God forgive David? *Yes.* How would you complete #7 on your class notes? *2 Samuel 12:13. Away.*

## Discover the Truth

Even Israel's greatest king, the man after God's own heart, fell into sin.

- ? How could a man like David commit such terrible sin? *Allow brief discussion.*

Because Adam sinned, all people are born sinners. David was a sinner like you and me. He was tempted by his sinful desires. And he chose to disobey God's law. So the temptation became sin. Temptation forces us to make a decision. Either we can choose God's way and not sin, or we can choose our own way, which is sin.

- ? Which way did David choose? *His own way.*

David was a rich and powerful king, so maybe he thought he could get away with this sin. But God always knows our hearts and everything we do. God knew every detail of David's sin. David was found out. Even though God would forgive him, David was punished. God said that the baby born to David and Bathsheba would die—and the baby did die.

We need to be careful and check our hearts often so that sin doesn't sneak in and take a hold of us! It's easy for that to happen because we are born sinners. Only by trusting in Jesus and His grace can we live a life pleasing to Him.



## READ THE WORD

Psalm 51:1–4

Well, we already said that David was sorry for his sin. Turn to Psalm 51 in your Bibles. This was written by King David after this sin against God. *Divide the passage for members of the class to read aloud. Read Psalm 51:1–4.*

## EXAMINE THE WORD

Now let's ask more questions and see what these verses have to say to us about sin, repentance, and forgiveness.

### Observe the Text

- ? What did David ask God for in the very first line? *His mercy.*
- ? What did David want to be washed and cleansed of in Psalm 51:2? *His iniquity and his sin.*



That's right. David was asking for God's mercy and forgiveness. Complete #8 on your class notes. *Have students complete #8 on the class notes—mercy, forgiveness.*

? David knew whom he had sinned against. Who was that? Psalm 51:4.  
*Against the Lord.*

? Yes. David knew he had sinned against the Lord God! And although his sin did hurt others—Bathsheba and Uriah—his sin was worse against God. And he knew it! So, how would you complete #9? *Allow for answers. Have students fill in #9 on their class notes—God.*

## Discover the Truth

David's sin was known by God. David cried out for God's mercy and confessed his sin to God. He asked for God's forgiveness. David sinned against Uriah and Bathsheba in terrible ways. But David's sin was ultimately against God! God hates sin. He hates sin because He is holy—so holy He can't stand any sin. *Refer to the Attributes of God Poster.*

When we sin, we often hurt ourselves and others—just like David did. Yet, our sins, like David's, are against God first. God is the one we should fear. God is the one who will punish!



HOLY

*(Refer to Attributes Poster)*

## David Wasn't Perfect

### MATERIALS

- ☐ David Activity Guide from the Resource DVD-ROM
- ☐ David Activity Strips
- ☐ Poster Putty or tape

### INSTRUCTIONS

*Follow the script on the David Activity Guide as you proceed. Put the headings "What do we know about King David", "Good", and "Bad" on the board before starting.*

*Students will put statements on the board or wall under the headings "good" and "bad." The strips list some of the good things we know about King David and some of the bad things that he did. See the David Activity Guide on the Resource DVD-ROM for more details. After the strips are organized into columns on the board, encourage further discussion using the Connect To The Truth Below.*

### CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

David was a man of God. But he was a man—and he was a sinner. We are all sinners. Because we are all descendants of Adam, the first man, we all have a sin nature. That's why Jesus came. He was the only perfect man. And because He was perfect, His death on the Cross could offer the sacrifice for sin that God demanded. We can never be good enough to get to God on our own. But, praise God that He sent Jesus. If we humbly repent of our sin like David did, and turn away from our sin to Jesus our Lord, God will forgive us and wash our sins away.





# Applying God's Word

## WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

Today you heard about David's sin. What David did was horrible. He allowed the lust and greed in his heart to grow until he followed his desires into terrible sin. God was angry at David's sin. He sent the prophet Nathan to tell David a parable—a story about a lamb, a rich man, and a poor man. The story was about David! When David heard the story he acknowledged his sin. He repented of his sin against the soldier Uriah. He knew that his sin was against God. He begged for God's mercy. And God, in His mercy, forgave David of all his sins.

## GOD'S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

David cried for mercy, begging to be washed, forgiven, and restored to God and to the joy of His salvation. We are called by God to do the same. God can't stand sin. And it is so easy to fall into sin. In fact, ever since Adam sinned in the garden, we are all born into sin. We all deserve hell because God is holy and He hates sin. But God provided a way that we could be saved from hell.

God provides salvation from sin through Jesus Christ to all who will come to God, ask forgiveness, turn from their sins, and believe in Jesus Christ. Receiving Jesus is the only way we can be made right with God. Jesus lived a perfect life and made a perfect sacrifice when He died on the Cross.

Remember, it is easy to fall into sin. Even David, the man after God's own heart, committed horrible sins. Only God and His Word can help us stop sinning.



► Pass out the Student Take Home Sheets and remind the students to practice the memory verse this week.



### MEMORY VERSE

**2 Samuel 7:22** Therefore You are great, O Lord God. For there is none like You, nor is there any God besides You, according to all that we have heard with our ears.



### GROUP PRAYER TIME

- Praise God that He is holy and just.
- Thank God for forgiving our sins when we turn to Him in repentance.
- Ask God to help us to be quick to repent when we realize we have sinned.