



# 3

# David Disobeys God

## Key Theme

- God provides salvation from sin through Jesus Christ.

## Key Passages

- 2 Samuel 11:1–17, 12:1–14; Psalm 51:1–4

## Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Describe what led David to sin.
- Describe God’s response to David’s sin.



## Lesson Overview



### Come On In

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Write on the board, “What does the descent into sin look like?”

Students will place a bookmark at 2 Samuel 11, 12, and Psalm 51.

Students will practice the memory verse by unscrambling words on the Memory Verse Review Sheet, then saying the verse aloud.

Paper bookmarks

Memory Verse Review Sheet from the Resource DVD–ROM for each student



### 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.

Study the Prepare to Share section.

Pencils

Go Before the Throne.

Student Guides



### Activity: Sin’s Progression

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Students will correlate the progression of David’s sin to the progression principle found in James 1:13–15. This progression can help us understand and fight the sin in our lives.

Student Guides

Pencils



## Prepare to Share

### SCRIPTURAL BACKGROUND

Prepare to teach by preparing your heart. Read the lesson key passages along 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.

► **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.





## COME ON IN

As students arrive . . .

- They will mark their Bibles at 2 Samuel 11, 12, and Psalm 51 with strips of paper.
- They will say the memory verse after they unscramble the words on the Memory Verse Review Sheet.

*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.*



## Review

God has revealed many promises in His Word. Last week, we looked at a promise He made to King David regarding the throne. We generally refer to this promise as the Davidic Covenant. The promise was more than just who would sit on the earthly throne of Israel—there was an eternal promise from God.

**What was the eternal promise, and how was it fulfilled?** *The promise was that the throne of David would be established forever. Since no earthly king could ever fulfill this promise, Jesus came as the God-man from the line of David to sit as the King of kings on the throne of David.*

We saw several places where God revealed how this promise would be fulfilled. God's revelation to us is progressive in the sense that more detail is revealed over time. In

Genesis 49 there was a hint of a ruler from Judah. In 1 Samuel, we saw David receive the anointing as ruler. In 2 Samuel we saw the promise of David's throne. Isaiah added some more detail about the ruler, and Micah told us He would be born in Bethlehem. Then, Gabriel announced the Messiah to Mary and used the promise to David to explain Jesus's birth.

Jesus came to earth and lived a perfect life. He never sinned. However, David was not perfect. He was a sinful man even though he is described as a man after God's own heart. Our lesson today will look at an example of sin in David's life and his trust in God to forgive him of his sin.





# 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!

In your Student Guides you'll find the Class Notes for Lesson 3. We will be completing these notes as we study the Bible passages today. Try not to work ahead. Fill in the blanks as we come to them. I'll let you know when to fill something in.

➤ Write on the board, "What does the descent into sin look like?"

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

## 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 laws. 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, read and thought about God's Law, resisted the temptation, etc.*

But David didn't care—sin and lust had gripped his heart. He had Bathsheba brought over to the palace and the Bible says he slept with her, and she became pregnant.

David was so caught up in his sin that he tried several ways to cover it up and finally gave the order that would kill Bathsheba's husband on the battlefield. David then brought Bathsheba 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 broke? *Do not murder; do not covet; 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

## 2 Samuel 12:1–4

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 verse 1 say about them? *One was 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.*
- ? 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.*

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 discussion.*

## 2 Samuel 12:5–6

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

- ? 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. 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.*

## 2 Samuel 12:7

Listen to what happened next! *Assign someone to read 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.

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

- ? What did David say about his sin? *I have sinned against God.*
- ? Do you think David was sorry for his sin? *Yes. Have students fill in #6 on their class notes—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. Have students fill in #7 on their class notes—yes.*
- ? But God would punish the sin. Uriah's wife—now David's wife—Bathsheba was going to have a baby. What did God tell David about the baby? *2 Samuel 12:14. The baby would surely die.*

This was the punishment for David's sin against God. The baby would die. God did punish David's sin. *Have students fill in #8 on their class notes—yes.*

## 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. Look at the sin diagram on your class notes. See how 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 between David and Bathsheba would die—and the baby did die.

We need to be careful to 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 ask in verse 2? *Wash me from my iniquity; cleanse me from my sin.*  
That's right. David was asking for God's mercy to forgive him.
- ? What did David tell God in verses 3 and 4? *He confessed his sin. He realized that he sinned. His sin was before him.*
- ? So, based on what we just read in Psalm 51, how would you complete #9? *Allow for answers. Have students fill in #9 on their class notes—confessed, mercy, forgiveness.*

### 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!

- ? Look at #10 on the class notes. Who is it we really sin against every time? Who did David sin against? *Against God. Have students fill in # 10 on their class notes—God.*



HOLY



# Sin's Progression

## MATERIALS

- Student Guides
- Pencils

## INSTRUCTIONS

*The students will be reading through 2 Samuel 11 and comparing it to James 1:12–15, so make sure everyone has a Bible or is partnered with someone who has one.*

We are going to continue our lesson today with an activity. You will look at the account of David's adultery in 2 Samuel 11 and then use a passage from James 1 to understand David's descent into sin. We will review what you found in just a few minutes.

## CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

- ? What are the three steps of the progression of sin that we see in James 1? *1) We are tempted by our desires; 2) Desire/lust leads us to sin; 3) Sin leads to death.*
- ? According to this passage, where does temptation come from? *God is not the one who tempts us; it is our own desires that lead us into sin.*
- ? How did temptation come into play in the account? *David saw a beautiful woman and he was tempted to lust after her.*
- ? Where did David allow his desire to lead him? *He asked about the woman, had her brought to the palace, and had an adulterous relationship with her.*
- ? What did this relationship lead to? *She became pregnant and sent a message to David.*
- ? In what way did David's sin lead to death? *After failing to cover up his sin by trying to have Uriah sleep with his wife, David had Uriah killed. The child also died.*

In this account, death was a very real outcome of David's sin. That is not always the exact outcome in every sin, but

we know that the wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23). But we cannot forget the rest of that verse—the gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.

David should have taken his thoughts captive to obey God. He knew that lusting after a woman was wrong. He could have stopped there and repented.

He knew that inviting a woman who was another man's wife, one of his own valiant men, to his home was a sin. He could have stopped there.

But he didn't. David allowed his own desires to lead him into sin; which led to more sin by trying to cover it up; which led to more sin by having Uriah killed! Sin is not something to toy with, and knowing that it is our lusts and desires that begin the process, we need to master those desires before sin masters us. And we can only do that with God's help.

## Discover the Truth

David had sinned in a terrible way, but he was not willing to acknowledge that sin and he sought to cover it up in many ways. However, he was willing to judge the man in the parable for stealing a sheep. Sin has a way of making people think in very irrational ways.

But David was willing to humbly confess his sin. And God was willing to pardon his sin. Here we see a beautiful picture of the gospel. David confessed his sin and asked God to cover his sin. He did not try to bribe God with good works or to justify his sin—he humbly repented and asked God to forgive him.





# Applying God's Word

## WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

As we think about the slope that David chose to continue down into his sin, we need to be careful to remember that David was human—just like you and me. David's sin against God was no different than our sin. When we sin, we offend God. Because God is holy and just, He must punish our sin. Since we are sinning against the infinitely holy God, the punishment we deserve, and that David deserved, is death and punishment in hell for eternity. However, in God's mercy and grace, He has paid for the sins of those who repent and trust in Christ to take the penalty of sin in their place.

That was David's attitude and that must be ours. For everyone who is in Christ, there is no condemnation (Romans 8:1) and we have no fear of hell (1 John 4:18). We look to God to forgive our sins through the sacrifice of Christ on our behalf.

## GOD'S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

- ? **Which attributes of God do we see demonstrated in this account?** *God is omniscient; He knew of David's sin. God is holy; He hates sin. God is just; He must punish sin. God is merciful; He did not give David the penalty due to him, but did offer consequences for his actions. God is loving; He sent Nathan to confront David so that he would repent.*
- ? **How could using a parable or a parallel example help you to approach another believer to confront him or her about a sin (Galatians 6:1)?** *Sometimes people are blind to their own sins (for various reasons). By asking them to consider a sin in the life of another person, as Nathan did with David, they may be able to recognize the error and then you could ask them to apply it to their life. This could be a way to gently approach someone in sin.*
- ? **How does knowing that there is a progression of sin from temptation to action to death help you to battle the sin that is in your own heart?** *As we begin to understand that the sins we commit begin within our own hearts, we have hope to begin to battle those things. We can take responsibility for our sin as the result of our own desires that we allow to lead us into sinful actions. This also helps us get to the root issue by working backward from a sinful action to understand the motives of our heart and then putting that sinful desire to death.*

LOVE  
MERCIFUL  
JUST  
OMNISCIENT  
HOLY

? **How can you use Psalm 51 as a model for repenting when you sin?** *Discuss various answers focusing on acknowledging and confessing sin and asking God to forgive that sin in Christ.*

? **Many people in the church believe that they need to seek “professional” help for dealing with sin in their lives. They look to secular psychology rather than trusting in the sufficiency of Scripture. How has seeing how the passage in James can help you diagnose sin helped you better appreciate the sufficiency of Scripture?** *To know that the Bible has a very practical way of helping us understand the way that sin progresses from temptation, to action, to death should be a great encouragement. God’s Word has answers to help us overcome the sin in our lives. Secular psychology is based on the philosophies of humanism, and not on God’s Word. Most secular counseling methods seek to minimize or re-label sin and label sinful activities as disorders or diseases.*

? **What would we have missed if we had read through this account and concluded our lesson with: “The moral of the story is, ‘Don’t commit adultery and murder or bad things will happen in your life.’”?** *If we simply focus on the external moral behaviors that we should be avoiding and the consequences that those behaviors bring, we miss the hope that is found in the gospel. If we focus on Christ and what He has done for us, there is hope to overcome sin. We can’t make the mistake of thinking that the gospel is just to save us and then we live our lives trying to obey. We must always look to the gospel as a reminder that God continues to use the truths of the gospel to grow us and change us to be more like Christ. It is God’s power by the Holy Spirit that allows us to overcome sin. Moralistic living cannot accomplish that sort of change and only leads to frustration when people realize they can’t live a godly life in their own power.*



### 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

Be sure to pray with your class before you dismiss them.

- Thank God for offering us forgiveness of our sin through Christ.
- Praise God for the examples of repentance in Scripture.
- Ask God to help each person understand the sin in their own life and to put those sins to death.

