



# 3

## David Disobeys God

### Key Theme

- God provides salvation from sin through Jesus Christ.

### Key Passages

- 2 Samuel 12:1–7, 12:13–14

### 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

Students will practice the memory verse by spilling out the Memory Verse Cards and putting them in the correct order. Then, they will say the verse aloud to each other and/or to the teacher.



### Activity 1: Lesson Notes

Students will add pictures to the board during the lesson.



### Studying God's Word

David chose his way over God's Law when he gave into 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's Review Bounce

Students will review the lesson while bouncing a ball within the circle and answering questions.

# Lesson Preparation

## WHAT YOU WILL DO

## WHAT YOU WILL NEED



### COME ON IN

- If you haven't already done this, print and cut the Spill the Verse Cards from the Resource DVD-ROM for each group of 2–3 students. Print the cards on cardstock.

- Memory Verse Poster
- Spill the Verse Cards for every 2–3 students
- Containers with a lid or small paper bags to hold the cards



### LESSON NOTES

- Print all titles, headers, and pictures from the Lesson Notes on the Resource DVD-ROM. Each student should have at least one sign or picture to add to the board during the lesson.

- Titles, headers, and pictures from the Lesson Notes
- Poster putty or tape



### STUDYING GOD'S WORD

- Study the Prepare to Share section.
- Go Before the Throne.
- Print the Lesson Board Work Outline from the Resource DVD-ROM for your use. This will show you how your board should look at the end of the lesson.

- Student Take Home Sheets
- Lesson Board Work Outline



### DAVID'S REVIEW BOUNCE

- Print the David's Review Bounce Questions Sheet from the Resource DVD-ROM for your use.
- Bring in a playground ball.

- Playground ball
- David's Review Bounce Questions Sheet

# 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 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.



## COME ON IN

As students arrive . . .

- They will spill the Memory Verse Cards out and put the words from the memory verse in the correct order.
- They will practice saying the verse aloud to their group and/or for the entire class.

*This time at the beginning of class should be used to review the memory verse. We have provided an activity, Spill the Verse, on the Resource DVD-ROM for you to use. 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.



## Lesson Notes

### MATERIALS

- Lesson Titles and Headers
- Lesson Pictures
- Poster putty or tape

### INSTRUCTIONS

*Refer to the Lesson Board Work Outline to see how these different elements will go up on the board. Print and cut the lesson signs, parable pictures, headers, and titles. You may need to make duplicates. Each student should have at least one lesson picture to put on the board during class.*

*Put the two titles and two headers on the board. Pass the lesson pictures out at the beginning of class. As you teach the class, the students will add their pictures to the board under the proper titles and headers.*

*After students add their pictures to the board, have them repeat the point and review what is already posted.*

### CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

As we study today and add our pictures to the board, we'll see that King David was a man after God's own heart—but he disobeyed God. King David was both good and bad.

➤ Because of the age and ability of 1st and 2nd graders to read and comprehend, we encourage you to read the Scriptures to the students. However, if you have strong readers, by all means have them participate by reading God's Word.



# Studying God's Word

➤ 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.

➤ Refer to the Lesson Board Work Outline to see how the titles, headers, signs, and pictures should be arranged on the board.

## READ THE WORD

? Let's get started. We are going to talk about David today. I'm going to put this sign up on the board. Can anyone read it? *Allow someone to read it. Put the King David sign on the board.*

? Now what does this say? *Good. And this? Bad. Put the Good and Bad signs under King David.*

We will read about King David today from the Bible. We will hear some good things and some bad things. As we go through the lesson, you will be adding the pictures I have given you to this display on the board. Pay special attention so you know when you will be coming up to add your picture to the board.

What about King David? He was the king of Israel and was a man after God's own heart. God promised David that one day the eternal King—Jesus—would come from his family.

? There are two pictures to be put up already! The first one is about David being a man after God's own heart. Who has that? Would that go on the good or bad side? *Have student put the picture on the board in the good column.*

? And who has the sign that tells us that Jesus would one day be the eternal King from David's family? That Jesus and King David are in the same family? Would that go on the good or bad side? *Have student put the picture on the board in the good column.*

This was a special promise and God had blessed David in many ways. David was a very special king and it seemed like he could do no wrong. But that wasn't the case. Even King David was led into sin! That's what we'll talk a little about today.

Today's lesson happened at a time when David's army had gone out to war, but David stayed at home in Jerusalem. He should not have stayed home. He was a great, courageous king and should have been leading his army. While he was home and his army was fighting for him, he saw a beautiful woman. Her name was Bathsheba. She was married to one of his army commanders. He wanted the woman to be his wife. But that was against God's Law. God says that marriage should be one man and one woman for life.

David knew what he wanted was against God's Law. But he didn't care—sin had a hold on his heart. And so he took Bathsheba, Uriah's wife.

? Who has the picture that shows King David and Bathsheba? Does that go on the good or bad side? *Have the student add the picture to the bad column.*

Uriah was fighting for King David's army. King David took Uriah's wife. And King David lied about it. When lying didn't work, King David had Uriah, his faithful servant, KILLED! This was a terrible sin against God. He took another man's wife and then had the man killed. God has said from the beginning that marriage is one man and one woman for life AND His commandments tell us we should not kill!

- ? Who has the picture that shows that David had Uriah killed? Where should that picture go? *On the bad side. Have the student add the picture to the bad side.*

Well, it looks like David made some really bad choices. This did not make God happy at all! Sin never pleases God. God was going to deal with King David. And He did it through one of His prophets, Nathan. Nathan came to King David with a message from God! The prophet told David a parable, or a story. We're going to find out what that story was about. I'll read 2 Samuel 12:1–4. Turn there in your Bibles. *Help students who have their Bibles turn to the passage.*

Listen very carefully. I am going to ask you some questions about what I'm reading. *Read the passage aloud.*

2 Samuel 12:1–4

## EXAMINE THE WORD

### Observe the Text

- ? There are three people mentioned in 2 Samuel 12:1. Who are the three people? *The Lord, Nathan, David.*
- That's right. The Lord sent Nathan to David. And Nathan told him this story.
- ? The story was about two men. What was different about the two men? *2 Samuel 12:1. One was rich and the other was poor. Who has the picture that shows the happy poor man? And who has picture #2 that shows the rich man? Put both those on the board under The Parable. Have students add their pictures under the title The Parable.*
- ? What did the rich man have? *2 Samuel 12:2. Refer to the pictures. Many flocks and herds.*
- He was very rich. He had a lot of sheep, lambs, goats, and animals.
- ? What did the poor man have? *2 Samuel 12:3. He had nothing but one lamb. Refer to the pictures.*
- ? 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. Who has the picture of the poor man with the lamb in his arms? Put that under The Parable on the board. Have student add the picture under The Parable.*
- ? Who came to the rich man? *2 Samuel 12:4. A traveler.*

► Re-read the verses as necessary to help the students hear the answers directly from the Bible text.

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 own lambs.

- ? So what did this rich man do? *2 Samuel 12:4. He took the poor man's lamb! Who has the picture showing that? Can you add that to our parable pictures? Have student add the picture under The Parable.*

The rich man took the poor man's one and only lamb. It was like his pet. But the rich man took it and prepared it for dinner! The poor man was very sad.

- ? Now remember. This is a story that God told to King David through the prophet Nathan. What do you think King David's response to that would be? *Allow brief discussion.*

## 2 Samuel 12:5–6

Let's find out what the Bible says! *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.*

## 2 Samuel 12:7

Listen to what happened next! *Read 2 Samuel 12:7 and point with emphasis as you read "You are that man!"*

- ? What did Nathan say to David? *You are the man!*

David didn't kill anyone's lamb. But the story Nathan told was about David. This was a parable to show David that what he had done to Uriah, one of his army commanders, was wrong.

- ? Who remembers what King David did to Uriah? *He took his wife and had Uriah killed.*

*Refer to the pictures on the board. David had made some very bad choices. He took another man's wife and then he had that man killed!*

- ? What is God's plan for marriage? *One man and one woman for life!*

That's right. And God does not want us to kill each other! So God sent Nathan to tell David this story. David was a very powerful king and he could have thrown Nathan out. But he didn't do that. He listened to Nathan. You see, 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. *Refer to the pictures on the board that list these two things.*

Hmmm. I wonder what David did next? God's Word tells us. I'm going to read it. *Read 2 Samuel 12:13–14.*

? What did David say about his sin? *2 Samuel 12:13–14. I have sinned against God.*

David knew he had sinned against God. David confessed his sin. He realized that his sin was wrong!

? Confession is a good thing. Who has the picture that shows David praying and confessing his sin to God? Put that in the good column. *Have the student with the picture add it to the board in the good column.*

? Do you think David was sorry for his sin? *Yes.*

? He was sorry. And God answered David. What did the Lord—through the prophet Nathan? *Re-read 2 Samuel 12:13. The Lord will put away your sin. David would not die.*

God forgave David. Who has the picture that shows David after God forgave him? Another picture for the good column. Put it there. *Have the student add the picture to the board in the good column.*

## Discover the Truth

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

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

The Bible says that all people are sinners. David was a sinner like you and me. He was tempted by his sinful desires. He wanted things that he couldn't have. But he took them anyway. He disobeyed God. David chose to go his own way.

? Which way did David choose to go? *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. He confessed his sin and God forgave him.

We need to be careful and check our hearts, too. It's easy to sin and be disobedient. But it does not please God. We need to live in a way that honors God. But that isn't always possible. So when we do sin, we should confess it to God, and He will forgive us.





# David's Review Bounce

## MATERIALS

- David's Review Bounce Questions Sheet
- Playground ball

## INSTRUCTIONS

*Bring in a rubber playground ball. Have the children stand in a circle. Ask a question. Have the students raise their hands if they know the answer. Bounce the ball to one of the students. When the student has answered, he can bounce the ball back to you. Continue through the questions, allowing different students to catch the ball and bounce it back to you. Repeat the questions if time.*

Today we learned about how King David disobeyed God. In our review game we'll answer some questions to see how well you remember the lesson. Explain to the students how to play the game and then play it.

## CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

We learned that the man after God's own heart—King David—fell into sin. He had everything going for him and God had blessed him. But, David wanted things his own way. And he wanted what he could not have. He was selfish and ignored God.

God was not pleased with David's sin. God hates all sin. And God sent Nathan the prophet to David to tell the parable about the rich man, the poor man, and the lamb. David was angry at the rich man in the story but soon realized it was about him! David confessed his sin before God and asked for God's forgiveness. And God forgave David.



## Applying God's Word

### WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

Today you heard about David's sin. What David did was horrible. He did exactly what he wanted without even thinking about God. He sinned. 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 and realized it was about him, he was sorry for what he had done to Uriah. He knew that his sin was against God. He begged for God's mercy. And God, in His mercy, forgave David of his sin.

## GOD'S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

David knew he had sinned. And he asked God to forgive him. God wants us to do the same thing when we sin. God can't stand sin. And it is so easy to fall into sin. In fact, ever since Adam sinned in the Garden of Eden, 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 our sins and hell.

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

Remember, it is easy to fall into sin. We should guard our hearts against sin. Only God and His Word can help us stop sinning. That is why Bible study and prayer are so important. Ask God to help you to obey Him better each day. And when you do sin, ask God for His forgiveness.



➤ Pass out the Student Take Home Sheets and remind the children 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.

