

# THE UNITED KINGDOM

Lesson 6  
November 13

Saul, David & Solomon

David Loses  
His Way  
2 Samuel 11-12

In the spring of the year, the time when kings go out to battle, David sent Joab, and his servants with him, and all Israel. And they ravaged the Ammonites and besieged Rabbah. But David remained at Jerusalem. (2 Sam 11:1)

One late afternoon, when David was walking on the roof of the king's house, he saw from the roof a woman bathing. When he sent and inquired about her...

“Is not this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?” (11:3)

Bathsheba was already married. She was the wife of one of David's top warriors (23:39). David already had concubines and wives (5:13). But on this front, in this moment, David didn't act like a man after God's own heart. He acted like the kings of the nations who did not know the LORD.



Later, Bathsheba sent and told David that she was pregnant.

Instead of repenting and confessing his sin to Uriah and the LORD, David tried to cover his sin up, first by calling Uriah home (11:6-13). But when Uriah continued to act as an honorable soldier in David's army, David arranged for Uriah to be killed in battle (11:14-21). When Uriah had died, David took Bathsheba as another wife and she bore him a son. So had David sinned, covered it up, and gotten completely away with it all?

But the thing that David had done displeased the LORD. (11:27)

In 2 Samuel 12, the LORD sent Nathan to David with a story of a rich man who had many flocks and herds who took a poor man's one little ewe lamb, killed it, and served it as food to a guest (12:1-4).

Then David's anger was greatly kindled against the man, and he said to Nathan, “As the LORD lives, the man who has done this deserves to die, and he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity.”

Nathan said to David, “You are the man!” (12:5-7)

Nathan doesn't sugarcoat David's sin. “Why have you despised the word of the LORD, to do what is evil in his sight?” (12:9). And in 2 Samuel 12:14, “Nevertheless, because by this deed you have utterly scorned the LORD, the child who is born to you shall die.” In 12:10, a terrible promise was made: “Now therefore the sword shall never depart from your house.”

In 12:24, a second son is born to David and Bathsheba named Solomon. We'll obviously learn much more about him soon, but for now, David losing his way has given us plenty to talk about...

## For Class & Family Discussion:

- In **2 Samuel 11**, David saw, wanted, and took what didn't belong to him. Does that remind you of anything and anyone else in the Bible? What does it teach us about the nature of temptation and sin?
- After David had sinned, what should he have done? Instead, what did he do? Was he the first (or the last) to act like this? What does it teach us about human nature?
- It may have looked for a while like David had sinned, covered it up, and gotten completely away with it all. But what should we learn from the last sentence in **2 Samuel 11**? In fact, notice what David himself wrote in **Psalms 139:1-12**.
- When the LORD sends Nathan to David, Nathan tells him a story (**12:1-6**). Why? Is there anything we can learn from Nathan's approach?
- Why do you think Nathan described David's behavior the way he did in **12:9** and **12:14**?
- We heard a terrible promise in **12:10**. If you know anything about David's story from this point forward, what do you think is meant by this terrible promise?
- **Psalms 51** is described as "A Psalm of David, When Nathan the Prophet Went to Him..." What can we learn from this psalm of David?
- David surprises his servants in **12:15-23**. Notice especially his words in **12:22-23**. Is there anything we can learn from his perspective?