

## *Promised Land 2 Study and Discussion Questions*

*Lesson Four: David's Sin and Its Consequences – 2 Samuel 11-24; 1 Chronicles 20-21; selected Psalms*

Read 2 Samuel 11-12 and 1 Chronicles 20:1-3.

- 1) What sins did David commit in 2 Samuel 11?
  
- 2) Was it possible, even likely, that Bathsheba was known to David prior to his inquisition about her? Who was Bathsheba (reread 2 Samuel 11:3 carefully with 2 Samuel 23:8a, 24a, 34b, 39; 2 Samuel 16:23; and 1 Chronicles 27:33a)?
  
- 3) As we read Bible stories, it is always good to ask, “Why was this event included in the record of the Scriptures? What purpose does it serve in the larger story of the Bible? What does it reveal about God? What lesson is contained in it for my life?” How would you answer some of these questions with regard to the story of David’s infidelity with Bathsheba?
  
- 4) Reread 2 Samuel 12:5-7a with Matthew 7:3-5.
  - a) Would you be willing to pray this week that the Lord will open your eyes to any faults in you, faults for which you quickly condemn others but fail to see in yourself? Come back to this question at the end of the week and record any insights you receive that you might consider sharing.
  
  - b) At some time in your life, you have probably been on the receiving end of rebukes given by an individual who knows you well, as was David. Perhaps you have been tempted to ignore or scorn your critic’s words because of your awareness of his or her own faults (faults which may even be similar to the one for which they are correcting you). What can you learn from David’s example in 2 Samuel 12:13 and from Proverbs 12:1, 13:1, 15:5? (You may also be interested to read 1 Chronicles 3:4-5 to see how David apparently later honored Nathan.)

From 2 Samuel 11 -19:

- 5) Read 2 Samuel 13. According to 2 Samuel 3:2, what important position did Amnon hold and how were his passions (2 Samuel 13:2) a reflection of what he had witnessed in his father’s life (see 1 Samuel 25:43 and 2 Samuel 3:2-5, 3:13-16, 5:13-16, 11:2-4, 15:16)?
  
- 6) Reread 2 Samuel 13:21. Is there any indication in chapter 13 that David took action to discipline Amnon for raping his stepsister? Perhaps you need to discern whether to take action or remain silent about something you’ve recently heard. Will you ask your discussion group to pray with you for discernment (avoid sharing details that would make you guilty of slander or gossip)?
  
- 7) Compare 2 Samuel 12:1-14 (the telling of Nathan’s story and David’s response to that story) to 2 Samuel 14:4-21 (the telling of the story of the widow from Tekoa and David’s response to her story). You may include details from other parts of 2 Samuel 11-19 in your answer if you choose.

See Questions 8 and 9. Then skim 2 Samuel 14-20, looking for answers.

- 8) Record the names of the people who took sides for or against David (include verse numbers):

FOR DAVID	AGAINST DAVID
	(Continued, next page)


9) Imagine how David must have felt as he left Jerusalem and then as he returned. Record your thoughts.

10) From the chart in Question 8, notice how our life can be defined by our choices. List some decisions that you have to make for which you need the Lord to give you wisdom.

Skim 2 Samuel 21-24 and 1 Chronicles 21, in which David faced two national crises (famine and a plague). Also read Psalm 32 and 51, David's psalms of repentance.

11) According to 1 Chronicles 21:27-22:1 and 2 Chronicles 3:1, for what later purpose was Araunah the Jebusite's threshing floor set apart?

12) Compare 2 Samuel 24:1 with 1 Chronicles 21:1. How might these two verses be reconciled (see Job 1:9-12, 2:4-6, and James 1:13)?

**13) State the most outstanding lesson you learn about God in:**

- a) 2 Samuel 21
- b) 2 Samuel 22:1-23:7
- c) 2 Samuel 24
- d) Psalm 32 and 51

David faced many crises during his forty-year reign. Some were the result of his own sins and some were not. Since the fallout of David and Bathsheba's sin plays such a big role in this lesson, we will conclude by returning to 2 Samuel 11-20 for some final thoughts.

**14) Consider all the people who suffered from David's sin with Bathsheba, a sin that he had hoped to keep private.**

- a) How were Nathan's prophetic words in 2 Samuel 12:10-14 fulfilled in the remaining chapters of 2 Samuel?
- b) Which other individuals suffered as a result of David's adultery?
- c) What conclusions can you draw about "private" sins?

**15) Reread 2 Samuel 12:24-25 with 1 Kings 4:29-34 and 2 Chronicles 3:1, 5:1.**

- a) What do Solomon's birth and the magnificence of his life tell you about God's desire and ability to redeem the messes of our lives, as He did for David and Bathsheba?
- b) Which mess will you bring to the Lord and trust Him to redeem?