

12. The war described in verses 6-14 was fought by hired soldiers from Aramea (Syria) to bolster the Ammonite forces against Israel. What attitude did Joab have toward Israel? toward God?

STUDY 4

DO I Face My Sin?

2 SAMUEL 11:1-12:25

13. What effect would David's presence in the second battle have had on the morale of the soldiers and of the entire country?

How did David's presence on the battlefield demonstrate his continuing reliance on the Lord?

Sin is very rarely a single act but is "like a rope twined from many threads...one [sin] grows out of another, and often the new is committed to cover or excuse the old" (Gothold). It is not surprising, then, that our inclination to defend and protect ourselves when we sin is as natural to us as breathing. Even a great king and mighty warrior like David was human and was susceptible to temptation and prone to covering up his wrongs. The scriptural account in this study shows us not only the "many threads" of David's sin but also the healing forgiveness of God.

14. How do you tend to respond if you are caught doing something wrong?

READ 2 SAMUEL II.

2. How did David's actions that evening in Jerusalem indicate that he lacked something constructive to do? Where should David have been? (Recall David's activities in 2 Samuel 10:17-18.)

4. Discuss ways to "nip in the bud" the temptations of life before they lead you to make sinful decisions. Consider a variety of real-life temptations, and be practical in your suggestions for resisting them.

3. What verbs in verses 2-4 show the progression of David's lust?

5. What was David's first action after he heard that Bathsheba was pregnant (verse 8)?

In what ways were David's emotions, mind, and will involved in his sin?

What was Uriah's response to David in verse 11? Why did he respond this way?

Describe the tone and content of David's reply to God's judgment.

STUDY 5

Can I Rejoice?

PSALM 32

Sin. It pervades our lives. It causes us to hurt others and others to hurt us. It damages relationships, destroys life, and steals joy. This psalm, written by David as he faced the glaring sin in his own life, shows us that whenever we are willing to uncover our sins, God is willing to cover us with his forgiveness and give us new reasons to rejoice.

1. Can you rejoice in the Lord right now? Why or why not?

READ PSALM 32.

2. Who is blessed in verses 1-2?

12. Summarize David's mood and actions before and after the death of his child. What was David's apparent motivation? What did David's reply to his servants in verse 22 reveal about his dependence upon God?

13. How did God communicate his forgiveness to David through the prophet Nathan when Bathsheba gave birth to a second child (see verse 25)?

14. If you can, share an experience you've had that demonstrates both God's justice and his love to you.

6. Contrast David's behavior toward his enemy Saul in 1 Samuel 24:10 with his behavior toward his dedicated soldier Uriah. What made the difference?

7. Why do you think it comforted David to rationalize Uriah's death?

8. Why does one sin often lead to another?

In what ways can an understanding of the nature of sin help you resist temptation?

Secure in the cover-up of his sin, David married Bathsheba and went about conducting the affairs of state. Nearly one year passed between the end of chapter 11 and the beginning of chapter 12.

READ 2 SAMUEL 12:1-25.

9. Why was the parable of the poor man's ewe lamb appropriate and effective for showing David his sin?

Why did David respond so strongly to the parable?

10. List the things that God had done and would do for David (verses 7-12).

How did God's two judgments correspond to David's sins of adultery and murder?

11. What was the root of David's sin?