

# LESSON 10

## SIN, REBUKE, AND REPENTANCE

(READ 2 SAMUEL 9-12)



### Introduction

All was well with David. Construction continued on his palace. He had established a central place of worship in Jerusalem, centered on the Lord's Tent of Meeting and the ark of the covenant. His wives had provided him with sons. Militarily, David's army had given him great victories over Moab, while the campaign against Rehob netted him "1,700 horseman and 20,000 foot soldiers" (2 Samuel 8:4). Outposts at Aram of Damascus guarded Israel's northern frontier. A garrison in Edom prevented attacks from the south. Israel had her king. This king brought security, peace, and prosperity with "justice and equity to all his people" (2 Samuel 8:15). David faithfully served the Lord, and the Lord granted David many victories.

With secured borders, David sent forces throughout Israel to attack the Ammonites. Unlike the past, David stayed home (2 Samuel 11:1). Just ahead, another defining moment in David's life—his adulterous affair with Bathsheba and what happens afterward—allows us to view David in a completely new light. This time sorrow, war, rebellion, and the death of three sons follow as David says, "Yes!" to temptation and tries to hide his sin from God. You may recall that Saul, Israel's first king, sinned. When Samuel brought the Lord's chastisement, Saul blamed everyone but himself. Will David become another Saul with his actions, or will David's actions offer a different course entirely? Another defining moment lies just ahead—a time that will test David's faith. How will he react?

### Jonathan's Son

Read 2 Samuel 9:1–3. How faithful are most people at keeping their word? Do some people say one thing and end up doing another? In 2 Samuel 4:4, the ancient writer of Samuel introduces us to Jonathan's son—Mephibosheth. After David had established himself king over Israel and Judah, he remembered a vow made years before—first to Jonathan and later to Saul (1 Samuel 20:12–15; 24:21–22). David had pledged not to "cut off" all of Saul's descendants when he came into power. To David's delight, he reunited with Jonathan's son Mephibosheth.

**121.** How did David honor his pledge to Jonathan and Saul?

**122.** From what infirmity did Mephibosheth suffer? What else did David do to provide for Jonathan's son?

**123.** What do you learn from David about the care of people with infirmities?



### **Victory over the Ammonites**

Read 2 Samuel 10. David's attempt to establish a relationship with the Ammonite king, Hanun, was met with a rebuff. Hanun dishonored David's emissaries by shaving off half of their beards and cutting off their robes at the waist.

- 124.** Although surrounded by Ammonites and Syrians, Joab, one of David's generals, said, "May the LORD do what seems good to Him" (2 Samuel 10:12). How did Joab's words express his full confidence in God?

### **David and Bathsheba**

Read 2 Samuel 11. Another of David's defining moments is at hand. One evening David saw Bathsheba bathing and fell in love. David sent for a servant and "inquired about the woman."

- 125.** David's servant brought back news that David should have heeded. What were his words?  
**126.** An amorous tryst followed. David tried to hide his sin after Bathsheba announced her pregnancy. He failed. How did David try to justify his relationship to Bathsheba?

### **Rebuke and Repentance**

Read 2 Samuel 12. Sin may escape man's eyes, but it does not escape God's eyes. When Saul sinned, God sent Samuel to rebuke him. God used the prophet Nathan in like manner with David.

- 127.** What message did Nathan bring? Note especially verse 10.  
**128.** In addition, Nathan spoke of an "evil against you out of your own house." How did David react to God's rebuke? How was David's reaction different from that of Saul in previous sessions?  
**129.** The depth of David's repentance is expressed in Psalm 51. How would you describe the suffering that David endured because of his sin?  
**130.** Have you ever felt like David? If you feel comfortable, share your experience.  
**131.** Although David received God's forgiveness, sin still carried temporal consequences. What sorrow followed because of David's sin?  
**132.** God brings good out of evil. Bathsheba bore a second son for David. God named the child Jedidiah—"Beloved of the Lord." You and I know him by the name given by his parents. What did David and Bathsheba call this son?

### **God's Word for Today**

God's Law shows us our need for a Savior. Nathan brought the full force of God's Law and laid it on David. He also applied the balm of God's grace in the Gospel.

- 133.** Apply the words of Proverbs 28:13 to David. Now, if you feel comfortable, apply these words to yourself.



**134.** God promises, “I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more” (Jeremiah 31:34). How do these words—completed in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ—reassure you?

### **In Closing**

- Think about a time when God sent a “Nathan” into your life.
- Consider a time when you served as a “Nathan” to a fellow Christian.
- Read **2 Samuel 13–16** to prepare for the next session.

Pray: Father in heaven, I confess my sinfulness before You. I have not always done what You desire. I often put my desires ahead of Yours. I have not loved others as myself. For that, I am truly sorry. Forgive me, and renew a right Spirit within me, for the sake of Jesus Christ, my Savior. Amen.