



UPSTATE GROUP GUIDE

Through the Bible

April 14 - 20

2 Samuel 11-12

Things to Know

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Studying God's Word *In Community*

*Reminder. Seek to understand and apply God's word, **not** rehash the sermon.*

Sermon Recap

1. "Idle Hands Are the Devil's Workshop... and David's Rooftop."

- When kings go to war, David took a nap.
- **"We were made for mission and should occasionally rest—not the other way around."**
Sin loves to stroll in when we're spiritually snoozing.

2. "You Can't Tame What's Trying to Kill You."

- David didn't just glance—he lingered. And sin pounced.
- **"Sin is an apex predator. You are not in control—it is."**
When temptation knocks, don't invite it in for coffee. Run.

3. "Sin Will Dig You a Hole—and Hand You the Shovel."

- David...Saw → Inquired → Sent → Took → Lay.
The progression of sin is subtle... until it's not.
- **"If David can fall, you can fall. If David can fall, I can fall."**

4. "Fig Leaves Still Don't Work."

- David tried to cover his sin, just like Adam. But God sees through fig leaves and fake stories.
- **"Secret sin on earth is open scandal in heaven." - Adrian Rogers**

5. "God Doesn't Erase Sin... He Transfers It."

- David's sin was "put away" because it was **put on** Jesus.
- **"That's not divine forgetfulness. That's divine substitution."**
The cross is where grace outruns guilt—every time.

Discussion Questions

1. From 2 Samuel 11:1

"In the spring of the year, the time when kings go out to battle... but David remained at Jerusalem."

Question:

What are some areas in your life where you've chosen comfort over calling, and how has that opened the door to spiritual vulnerability?

2. From 2 Samuel 11:2

“It happened, late one afternoon, when David arose from his couch and was walking on the roof...”

Question:

How can we train our hearts to recognize the moment when a glance becomes a gaze, and how do we develop habits that help us flee temptation rather than flirt with it?

3. From 2 Samuel 11:14–15

“David wrote a letter to Joab and sent it by the hand of Uriah. In the letter he wrote, ‘Set Uriah in the forefront... then draw back from him.’”

Question:

When have you been tempted to cover sin instead of confessing it, and what have you learned about the long-term consequences of trying to manage or hide sin?

4. From 2 Samuel 12:7

“Nathan said to David, ‘You are the man!’”

Question:

Do you have someone in your life who loves you enough to confront you like Nathan? If not, what’s keeping you from inviting that kind of accountability?

5. From 2 Samuel 12:13

“David said to Nathan, ‘I have sinned against the Lord.’ And Nathan said... ‘The Lord also has put away your sin.’”

Question:

How does this verse reshape the way you view confession and forgiveness, and how can you more fully live in the freedom that comes with God’s grace?

Read

Read 2 Samuel 11:1-5 and 12:1-15 and make observations about the text.

- What is God teaching us in the passage?
- What does this reveal about who God is, what God has done, and how I should respond?
- Which part of the text was most meaningful to you and why?
- What do you need help understanding about this passage?

Scripture

2 Samuel 11:1-5

David and Bathsheba

2 Samuel 12:1-5

11 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 It happened, late one afternoon, when David arose from his couch and was walking on the roof of the king's house, that he saw from the roof a woman bathing; and the woman was very beautiful. ³ And David sent and inquired about the woman. And one said, "Is not this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?" ⁴ So David sent messengers and took her, and she came to him, and he lay with her. (Now she had been purifying herself from her uncleanness.) Then she returned to her house. ⁵ And the woman conceived, and she sent and told David, "I am pregnant."

Nathan Rebukes David

12 And the Lord sent Nathan to David. He came to him and said to him, "There were two men in a certain city, the one rich and the other poor. ² The rich man had very many flocks and herds, ³ but the poor man had nothing but one little ewe lamb, which he had bought. And he brought it up, and it grew up with him and with his children. It used to eat of his morsel and drink from his cup and lie in his arms,^[a] and it was like a daughter to him. ⁴ Now there came a traveler to the rich man, and he was unwilling to take one of his own flock or herd to prepare for the guest who had come to him, but he took the poor man's lamb and prepared it for the man who had come to him." ⁵ 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,

[The Holy Bible, English Standard Version](#). ESV® Text Edition: 2016. Copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. 2 Samuel 11:1-5, 12:1-5

Living on Mission In Community

The story of David's fall is not just a historical warning—it's a personal invitation to examine our own lives. David didn't fall in a day; he drifted slowly through idleness, temptation, compromise, and cover-up. And the same pattern lies at our doorstep. If we're honest, most of us aren't in danger of waking up tomorrow and committing headline-level sins—but we are in danger of slowly drifting from intimacy with God, lowering our guard, and excusing behaviors that once grieved us. The call is to stay alert, stay humble, and stay in step with the Spirit. Grace is available, but so is the danger of drift. So here's the question: **Where in your life are you lingering when you should be running?**

How is God leading me to respond to His Word this week?

Optional Breakout Questions

Consider making time at the end of the group to break out into groups of 2-4 (keep them gender specific). Have them answer these three questions about their weeks:

1. How did you feed yourself?
 - *(What have you been doing to feed your spiritual life, and how is it going?)*
 2. How did you feed others?
 - *(How did you share the gospel or gospel truth with someone this week?)*
 3. How did you feed your flesh?
 - *(What sins did you struggle with this week? How can your friends hold you accountable?)*
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Leader Resources

Sermon-Based Curriculum: “The Damage of Sin and the Beauty of Grace”

Text: 2 Samuel 11–12

Main Idea: Sin is worse than you think, but God's grace is better than you can imagine.

Sermon Series: The Life of David

Setting: Upstate Church Haywood Small Groups

Part 1: *Opening & Group Focus*

Group Objective:

Create a vulnerable, gospel-centered atmosphere where people can reflect on their own temptation, recognize sin's danger, and run to Christ for grace and cleansing.

Opening (Prayer & Reflection Moment)

Leader:

Begin with this moment: Invite the group into 30 seconds of silent reflection.

“Let’s pause and ask God to speak clearly to us tonight—not just to inform us, but to transform us. Pray that He would help us take sin seriously, and grace even more seriously.”

Pray aloud (sample):

“Gracious God, open our eyes today to see both the weight of our sin and the wonder of your grace. Help us not just to study David’s story—but to see our own need, our own hearts, and your mercy. Make this more than a discussion. Make it a moment of clarity, repentance, and hope. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

Teaching Content

Scripture Focus: 2 Samuel 11:1–5, 26–27; 12:1–15

Have someone read it aloud. Then say:

“This is one of the most tragic and yet most grace-saturated stories in the Old Testament. It’s a story of failure—but also of forgiveness. And it’s not just David’s story.

It's ours."

Teaching Point 1: Sin is Progressive and Subtle

"The sin that plagues human existence is never a restful enemy. It always looks to progress, to advance, and ultimately—to conquer." – [Sermon]

Key Verses: 2 Samuel 11:1-2

- David wasn't where he was supposed to be—and that gave sin room to grow.
- He wasn't in mission. He was idle. And sin found a foothold.

Amplified Commentary:

"David had become a little too comfortable in his success. When kings go out to battle, he stayed home. And in that moment, his heart was vulnerable. He wasn't engaged in purpose—he was at ease."

– *NAC Commentary on 2 Samuel 11*

Quote:

"Sin will take you farther than you want to go, keep you longer than you want to stay, and cost you more than you are willing to pay." – *Adrian Rogers*

Discussion Questions:

1. When are you most vulnerable to sin—when you're stressed? bored? successful?
2. Have you ever justified passivity by telling yourself you "deserve rest"? How can we recognize healthy rest vs. dangerous idleness?

Application:

Make a list of "mission-minded" practices that keep you spiritually engaged. What might God be calling you back into?

Teaching Point 2: Sin Grows When We Linger Instead of Flee

"David lingered when he should have left." – [Sermon]

Key Verse: 2 Samuel 11:2-4

- "He saw... she was very beautiful..." – he stayed long enough to make a judgment.

Illustration (from sermon):

"It's like the idiots who buy lions and say, 'I've had him since he was 2 months old.' No, dummy. He's had you."

Quote:

“Temptation usually comes through a door that’s been deliberately left open.” – *Spurgeon*

Discussion Questions:

1. **Are there doors you’ve left open to temptation?**
2. **What are the warning signs that you’re lingering instead of fleeing?**

Application:

Pick one area where you’ve been lingering. Share with the group (or a partner) how you plan to shut that door this week.

Teaching Point 3: Sin Always Comes with Collateral Damage

Key Verses: 2 Samuel 11:14–27; 12:10–14

- **Uriah dies. The child dies. The sword will never leave David’s house.**
- **Even forgiven sin has consequences.**

Quote:

**“You’d better know what sin is going to cost you before you move forward.” – [Sermon]
“Secret sin on earth is open scandal in heaven.” – *Adrian Rogers***

Discussion Questions:

1. **Why do we believe the lie that our sin only affects us?**
2. **What are some examples you’ve seen—either personally or culturally—of sin’s ripple effect?**

Illustration Prompt:

Read or have someone share your “If I Fall” list. (You may want to invite group members to write their own during the week.)

Teaching Point 4: God’s Grace Is Shocking but Sufficient

Key Verses: 2 Samuel 12:13 / Romans 3:25

“The Lord has put away your sin...”

“God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement...”

Quote:

“That’s not divine forgetfulness. That’s divine substitution.” – [Sermon]

“God put David’s sin on Jesus. Ultimately, David’s sin cost Jesus His life.” – [Sermon]

Gospel Emphasis:

- **David didn’t die for his sin because Christ would. God passed over his sin because He was planning to pay for it.**

Discussion Questions:

1. **How does this view of substitution help us understand why God forgave David?**
2. **Have you ever struggled to believe your sin is really “put away”? Why?**

Application:

Invite group members to write down one sin they’ve carried shame for. At the end of the session, lead a prayer time where they can surrender it at the cross.

Closing Reflection & Prayer

Read Aloud:

“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” – 1 John 1:9

Leader:

Let’s take a moment to do what David did. Let’s stop hiding and start confessing.

Prayer Prompt:

- **Thank God for the way He confronted David and for the way He confronts us with mercy.**
- **Ask Him to help you hate sin and cling to Christ.**
- **Ask Him to protect your group from idleness, temptation, and cover-ups.**

Optional Homework / Midweek Challenge

“If I Fall” List

Write down the personal and relational consequences that would occur if you fell into secret sin. Keep it somewhere visible. Let it serve as a reminder not of fear, but of faithfulness.

Recommended Resources for Leaders:

- **Psalm 51 – Have a group reading time or memory challenge.**

