



## Introduction

We're concluding a four week series where we're looking at stories from the Old Testament about people who faced unexpected problems, and chose to trust in God and follow Him through those challenges. The question we're asking ourselves is, "Will I follow God, *even if* things don't go the way I planned?" In this third fourth lesson we learn that even if we do something terrible, we can be forgiven.

To watch this week's sermon before your group discussion, go to [www.journeyoffaith.com/messages](http://www.journeyoffaith.com/messages)

## Share Your Story

1. How would you define "sin"?

## Hear God's Story

2. Read 2 Samuel 11-12 straight through as a group. One possibility is to have one person read chapter 11, and another person read chapter 12. Either way, imagine yourself in the story watching this unfold in front of you as you read together.
3. What happened here, in your own words?
4. What can we learn about David in this story?
5. Take a look at this list of how some of David's sins compounded as time went on:
  - David married multiple wives before Bathsheba
  - David chose comfort over leading his own troops
  - David committed adultery in his heart, even before he ever formally met Bathsheba
  - David pursued the affair, despite knowing she was married
  - David attempted to cover up the pregnancy
  - David lied to Uriah about why he'd been called home
  - David had Uriah unknowingly deliver his own death sentence to Joab
  - David abused his power by letting Uriah be killed in battle
  - David let Bathsheba mourn and very likely did not tell her the truth
  - David married Bathsheba, probably taking credit for compassion on a soldier's widowUsing this as an example, how have you noticed sins compounding over time in your own life?
6. What can we learn about God in this story?  
(Tip: Check out 12:13-14 especially.)

7. What themes in these two chapters can you identify that are still relevant for us today as we try and live well with God and others?
8. What do you still have questions about, or what do you still wrestle with from this study, that we could talk about together?
9. When you think of David's sin that continued to compound, see how God responded, think of the many other people in this story negatively impacted by David's sin, and take a step back to view it all together: What are three ways you can apply the underlying messages from this story to your own life next week?
10. What has this study brought up for you that you'd like your fellow group members to keep in prayer for or compassionately hold you accountable for?
11. 5 Minute Focused Prayer: Select a leader to move the group through these different rhythms, where the leader says the following:
  - a. Let's spend 60 seconds with our eyes closed, focusing on the presence of God and being present before Him.  
*(Time 60 seconds quietly)*
  - b. Now, spend 30 seconds bringing to Him what He brought up in your heart during our study, and surrender yourself over to Him while asking for forgiveness.  
*(Time 30 seconds)*
  - c. Now, spend 30 seconds giving Him thanks for forgiving us and loving us.  
*(Time 30 seconds)*
  - d. Now, let's spend 2 minutes in open prayer with each other. If there are moments of silence between prayers, use that time to focus on learning to be aware of God's presence with you.  
*(Time 2 minutes)*
  - e. (The leader closes with a short prayer of thanks.)  
*(1 minute)*

### **For Parents: Repackaging for Youth**

1. For those who have young children in the home, what are some ways you could teach this lesson to them that takes into account their age and learning level?

For questions about this curriculum, contact Pastor Matthew Jensen at [matthew.jensen@journeyoffaith.com](mailto:matthew.jensen@journeyoffaith.com)