



Life Guide

applying God's Word to life

SIN is S.I.N.
February 11th-13th, 2017

2 Samuel 11:1–17, 26–27 ¹ In the spring, at the time when kings go off to war, David sent Joab out with the king's men and the whole Israelite army. They destroyed the Ammonites and besieged Rabbah. But David remained in Jerusalem. ² One evening David got up from his bed and walked around on the roof of the palace. From the roof he saw a woman bathing. The woman was very beautiful, ³ and David sent someone to find out about her. The man said, "Isn't this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam and the wife of Uriah the Hittite?" ⁴ Then David sent messengers to get her. She came to him, and he slept with her. (She had purified herself from her uncleanness.) Then she went back home. ⁵ The woman conceived and sent word to David, saying, "I am pregnant." ⁶ So David sent this word to Joab: "Send me Uriah the Hittite." And Joab sent him to David. ⁷ When Uriah came to him, David asked him how Joab was, how the soldiers were and how the war was going. ⁸ Then David said to Uriah, "Go down to your house and wash your feet." So Uriah left the palace, and a gift from the king was sent after him. ⁹ But Uriah slept at the entrance to the palace with all his master's servants and did not go down to his house. ¹⁰ When David was told, "Uriah did not go home," he asked him, "Haven't you just come from a distance? Why didn't you go home?" ¹¹ Uriah said to David, "The ark and Israel and Judah are staying in tents, and my master Joab and my lord's men are camped in the open fields. How could I go to my house to eat and drink and lie with my wife? As surely as you live, I will not do such a thing!" ¹² Then David said to him, "Stay here one more day, and tomorrow I will send you back." So Uriah remained in Jerusalem that day and the next. ¹³ At David's invitation, he ate and drank with him, and David made him drunk. But in the evening Uriah went out to sleep on his mat among his master's servants; he did not go home. ¹⁴ In the morning David wrote a letter to Joab and sent it with Uriah. ¹⁵ In it he wrote, "Put Uriah in the front line where the fighting is fiercest. Then withdraw from him so he will be struck down and die." ¹⁶ So while Joab had the city under siege, he put Uriah at a place where he knew the strongest defenders were. ¹⁷ When the men of the city came out and fought against Joab, some of the men in David's army fell; moreover, Uriah the Hittite died. ²⁶ When Uriah's wife heard that her husband was dead, she mourned for him. ²⁷ After the time of mourning was over, David had her brought to his house, and she became his wife and bore him a son. But the thing David had done displeased the LORD.

1. Tell the members of your group about your high school graduation picture. (Share the warts and all - what you were wearing, length of your hair, glasses, etc.)

2. Agree or disagree. Sin's temptations are the hardest to resist when life is going great for us.
3. In what way did David's idle hands prove to be the devil's workshop? What implication does this have on our lives?
4. List some ways in which the devil tries to play our strengths against us. (cf. sermon for some examples).
5. How do Jesus' words in our gospel reading add insight to God's "warts and all" sketch of David's life and ours. (Matthew 5:21-37).
6. Agree or disagree and why? Sinners never get away with their sins.
7. Throughout his life, David wrote a great number of psalms. But it seems that during the nine months of Bathsheba's pregnancy, David's pen "fell silent." Without feeling compelled to make this a time for "true confessions," describe how sin may have had a similar effect on you or someone you know (no names, please – speak in generalities).
8. Confronting sin, ours or someone else's can be the hardest thing we ever have to do. What will it take for you to be a "Nathan" (cf. 2 Samuel 12) for someone you know or love?
9. Use the learning device from the sermon to summarize its message. Share with the group law thoughts that struck you hardest and gospel thoughts that comforted you most. What will you take from the message to share with a friend or relative?

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