

WORSHIP

SUGGESTED WORSHIP SONGS:

King Jesus, Only A God Like You, Lord I Give You My Heart, Jesus At the Center, A Broken Spirit

WELCOME

Have you or your family ever experienced a major failure in life that you were able to overcome somehow? What was its effect on you?

You are also highly encouraged to celebrate the Lord's Supper with your Dgroup on this first week of the month.

*Use **1 Corinthians 11:23-29** as Bible reading and guide for this activity.*

WORD

1 SAMUEL 16:7

⁷But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."

PSALM 51:16-17

¹⁶For You do not delight in sacrifice, otherwise I would give it; You are not pleased with burnt offering. ¹⁷The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and a contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.

Read entire **Psalms 51, 1 Samuel 16:1-12, 2 Samuel 11:1-12:25**

We often think of King David as the "man after God's own heart", the greatest king Israel ever had. His was certainly an extraordinary life! Yet David started off as a very ordinary shepherd boy of about twelve years of age when God chose him to be Israel's king. The youngest among his father Jesse's eight sons, David was not even considered by his family to be future king material (**1 Samuel 16:10-12**)! But God sets a different criterion for those He chooses to use in an extraordinary way, for God looks at the heart, not at what man sees outwardly (**1 Samuel 16:7**).

DANGER OF SIN

The young, anointed king started off strong. Though he experienced much difficulties as he was hunted, on the run for his life from his predecessor, King Saul (who also happened to be his father-in-law), and forced to live away from his wife, David remained true to the Lord. He wrote seventy-five Psalms of worship, many of which were composed when he was a fugitive. From these psalms, we see how David worshiped God continually, completely trusted and depended on his Shepherd, and had a deep love for the Lord and His words. He also treated even his enemies with grace and kindness — mourning the death of king Saul and looking after the welfare of Saul's descendants instead of annihilating them once David ruled as king. He experienced one-hundred percent victory against his enemies — starting off with Goliath, then all the other armies that fought against Israel. But it was at the height of his successes that David fell into sin (**2 Samuel 11:1-27**).

David committed idolatry, adultery, murder, deceit against one of his valiant warriors in his inner circle, Uriah. The king broke most of God's laws and what he did was evil in

the sight of God (**2 Samuel 11:27**). What started as a "private sin", the sin of complacency, led to his graver sins. God sees the heart, and though we may not commit adultery outwardly, we still do when we lust in our minds (**Matthew 5:28**). The danger of sin is that it starts small, unnoticed by most and it happens when we least expect it. Sin begets more sin and the consequences are deadly (**2 Samuel 12:7-12, Psalm 32:3-4**).

THE PERFECTION OF MERCY

We see the depths of David's sinfulness, but we also see the perfection of God's mercy at work. The Lord sends Nathan the prophet to convict David of his sin. Yet God did not use harsh words to judge David — He used a story to open David's heart to the ugly truth about himself (**2 Samuel 11:1-9**). David was quick to judge the character in the story as a wicked man deserving of death (**2 Samuel 11:5-6**) all the while blind to the fact that he was that man, until Nathan puts it bluntly to him (**2 Samuel 11:7**). God sends Nathans to us to rebuke us with gentleness, opening our eyes to our sins and leading us to repentance. As **Romans 2:4** puts it, God's kindness leads us to repent. When God convicts us, it is not to condemn us, but rather to save us if we repent (**John 3:17**). It is only through Jesus that all sinners can experience the perfection of God's mercy instead of death that our sins deserve.

THE RESTORATION THAT COMES WITH REPENTANCE

David's repentance is evident by the admission of his guilt, the confession of his sin against the Lord (**2 Samuel 12:13**). We can see a glimpse of what was going on in David's broken heart as he prays to God in **Psalms 51**, a psalm he wrote after Nathan confronted him. As he cries out for God's mercy, the

WORD (cont'd)

psalmist acknowledges that the only sacrifice that is acceptable to God is a broken and contrite heart, no other thing or deed on the sinner's part (**Psalms 51:16-17**). David recognizes that he sinned because he was born a sinner (**Psalms 51:9**) and we are all just like David needing God's forgiveness.

God restored David to a right standing before Him: **Psalms 32:5** "I acknowledged my sin to You, and my iniquity I did not hide; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD" and You forgave the guilt of my sin. Selah" (**see also 2 Samuel 12:13**). The Lord even blessed David with an heir who will succeed him as king (**2 Samuel 12:24-25**). Offer to God a heart that is broken over sin, for He graciously forgives every time. But there is a warning for all of us that we can learn from David's extraordinary life. Yes, he was completely forgiven and restored but was not spared from sin's consequence. God forgives, but He does not take away all the consequences of our sins. In David's life, the immediate consequence of his sins was the death of his infant son (**2 Samuel 12:14**). The far-reaching consequences included the incestuous rape of David's daughter by her half-brother, the rebellion and violent end of another beloved son who murdered almost all his brothers, and even at the end of David's life, another

son attempted to take David's throne away from the rightful heir, Solomon (**2 Samuel 13, 15, 18; 1 Kings 1**).

THE MIRACLE OF GRACE

David certainly went through much difficulty, pain and suffering in his extraordinary life. He was not a perfect man, yet, how was he able to accomplish so much from writing psalms to defeating armies? How could he recover from the deepest sin and still be called by God as "a man after My own heart"? It is all because of God's grace, through His Spirit at work in and through David (**1 Samuel 16:13**) to accomplish God's plan through this ordinary man. God used David's greatest failure and turned it into God's greatest triumph through Jesus Christ, the Son of David. The Messiah's lineage included Bathsheba, and this fact highlights God's miracle of grace for all of us (**Matthew 1:6**).

David was a man after God's own heart, a king who failed to fulfill all of God's commands. **Jesus** is God after man's heart, the true King who was faithful to fulfill all of his Father's will even unto death, so that all of us who are called and believe in Him can have a heart after God's own heart and become fellow heirs with Him. **Be broken to live after God's heart!**

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)

1. In what ways can you identify with David? How is his life similar or different from yours?
2. Have you responded to God's rebukes with a broken and contrite heart? Why or why not?
3. What will you do to safeguard yourself against the dangers of sin?

WORKS

PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

Pray for the Lord to convict people of their sins, and that they will respond with a broken and contrite heart. This week share about God's mercy and grace through the gospel of Jesus to those that you pray for.

WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

I. Thanksgiving

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

II. Country and the World

- Upright and moral governance of Public Servants
- A God-centered Philippines
- Repentance and Salvation

III. Church

- That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples
- Elders, Pastors, Leaders, and Families
- Ministries and Churches worldwide

IV. CCF Facilities

- Worship and Training Center
- Prayer Mountain

V. Personal Concerns

- Deeper intimate relationship with God
- Righteous living
- Salvation of family and friends