

2 Samuel 11-12

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Psalm 51:1

Readings this week:

S	2 Samuel 11
M	2 Samuel 12:1-25
T	Psalm 32
W	Psalm 38
Th	Psalm 40
F	Psalm 51
S	Psalm 103

David was not a perfect man

Like all of us, he did wrong things. In this lesson we will look at how David went wrong, how he felt about his sin, and how he was able to move forward when he realised God had forgiven him.

Have you ever done something and not owned up to it? Did ignoring your wrongdoing make you feel any better about it? Discuss in your group what you have experienced.

David and Bathsheba

David's greatest sin is recorded in 2 Samuel 11. Isn't it remarkable that the Bible records people's sins as well as the good things they did? Especially when it is recording the sins of an all-powerful king.

You are the man

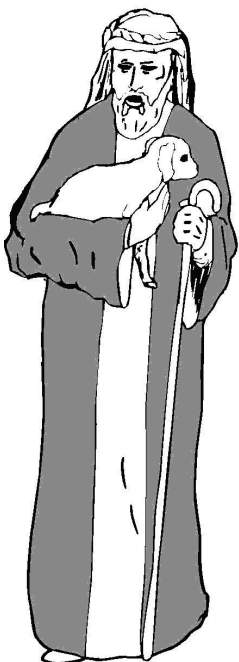
Read 2 Samuel 12:1-9 to find out how David was made to take responsibility for what he had done.

In Nathan's parable, what sins and wrong attitudes did the rich man have?

Did David have the same sins and attitudes?

How did David feel:

- before Nathan came to him? (Psalm 32:3-4)
- when Nathan told him he was the man in the parable? (2 Samuel 12:13)
- when he knew that God had forgiven him? (Psalm 32:1-2, 11-12)



We can feel just the same way as David did, even though the circumstances in our lives are very different. Talk in your group about your answers to these questions.

When you have done something wrong, what makes you:

- accept that you have sinned?
- repent?
- confess your sins?
- ask for God's forgiveness?
- accept his forgiveness?

The prodigal son

Someone else who needed to be forgiven – look at Luke 15:11-32

When the son decided to go back home, see how he recognised:

- that his sins were against God as well as his human father
- that sin had made him unworthy to be his father's son
- that it had damaged his relationship with his father

Are these things true of our sins?

See how his father helped him to overcome his sin

- a robe to cover his sin
- a ring and shoes to restore his status
- a party to show that he was fully restored to the family

Can you find the same things in Psalm 51:9-12? Look at the title to see who wrote it.

Jesus told us that there is a condition to being forgiven. Look in Matthew 6:14 to find out what it is.

The Bible teaches us that through baptism all our sins are forgiven and we are able to make a completely new start. We are able to build a new relationship with God through Jesus.

Digging Deeper

Sin and its consequences

We know that God forgave David for the awful things he had done but David still had to suffer the consequences.

This isn't the same as God punishing him. It just shows us that sin changes us and the way people think of us.

If you made a list of David's sons in lesson 32 you can find out a bit more about them.

- 2 Samuel 13:1-19 (verses 1-2,14-15 tell the main part of the story)
- 2 Samuel 13:20-39 (verses 20-22,28-29,38-39)
- 2 Samuel 15 (verses 1-6, 13-14)
- 2 Samuel 18 (verses 1-15,33)
- 1 Kings 1;1, 5-53 (verses1,15-21, 38-39, 49-53)

Thank God that we are able to be forgiven when we ask to be.