



Lifegroup Study Guide 2 Samuel 11-12

Ice Breaker

Think of a time when your sin took you where you didn't want to go and you stayed longer than you wanted to stay. If you feel comfortable, please share with your group about your experience.

Introduction

The events related in 2 Samuel 11-12 mark a low point in David's life. Coming off a great victory against the Ammonites and the Arameans, David finds himself in an interesting situation. In chapter eleven, we discover that, instead of leading his army into battle, David decided he would spend some down-time while the rest of his men went out to fight on his behalf. David unknowingly found himself in the wrong place at the wrong time. David's error in judgment placed him in a situation where he would face a temptation that would lead him down a road that he never intended to travel. By chapter twelve we see the devastating consequences of David's sin: His life would never be the same and the nation would also suffer. In the end, David would acknowledge his sin and be reconciled to God. Unfortunately, the consequences could not be undone. Despite being a man after God's own heart, David could not escape the spiritual, physical, and emotional consequences of his sin.

Read 2 Samuel 11:1-24

How is David's behavior different here than in previous chapters? Did David consciously set out to rebel against God? Sin has a way of sneaking into our lives and taking hold of us without us even knowing it. Can you relate to David's dilemma? If so, how?

Read 2 Samuel 12:1-14

God sends Nathan to confront David concerning his sinful behavior. What do you think of David's initial response? Are you surprised at David's initial reaction? Why or why not?

Once David realizes that he is the "rich man" in Nathan's story, his attitude changes dramatically. What do you suppose changed in David's thinking?

God has unique and powerful ways of getting our attention. What do you believe the difference is between conviction and condemnation?

4Read Hebrews 12:4-11

What is the goal of God's discipline in our lives? (See verse 10)

What can we learn from David's life about sin and God's discipline?

Conclusion

Like David, our spiritual lives are marked by high and low points. It is easy to walk with God when we are experiencing the high points. What do we do when we are going through the low points? What can we learn from David's life? Eventually, David exhibits humility and repentance. God responds to David's humility and he is restored to intimacy with God. The consequences of his sin will still be realized, but his relationship with God is restored!