



Lifegroup Study Guide 2 Samuel 13-14

Icebreaker

Every family has areas and different degrees of dysfunction. There is no such thing as “The Perfect Family.” What are some ways your family of origin might have been dysfunctional and how has that affected your family today?

Introduction

In 2 Samuel 13-14, we see the fruit of David’s sin from chapters 11-12. Chapter thirteen is an unbelievable record of horrific events that happened in the life of David’s family. This chapter is marked with lust, anger, hatred, and deep sadness. In this chapter, we see the depth of mankind’s depravity encapsulated in one family’s story. In chapter fourteen, we see the unhealthy dynamics in David’s family as the emotional chess match begins. Unhealthy patterns of communication plague David’s family and false assumptions run rampant. In all these things, David was reaping the result of his own sin, and the full harvest was still to come.

Read 2 Samuel 13:1-14

The story of Amnon’s sin is similar to David’s sin. What do we learn about unbridled passion in both David’s and Amnon’s stories? What lessons can we learn these stories?

Read 2 Samuel 13:14-21

After getting what he strongly desired, Amnon’s feelings toward Tamar changed. Why do you think this happened?

How did Amnon’s sin impact Tamar? David? Absalom? In the heat of his passion, Amnon did not consider the impact his actions would have on others. Do you think if he realized the impact of his actions on others he would have still done the same thing? Why or why not?

Read 2 Samuel 13:23-29

As a result of Amnon's actions, Absalom decided to avenge his sister by having Amnon killed. What does scripture teach us about revenge? (Lev. 19:18, Romans 12:19-20, 1 Thess. 5:15, 1 Peter 3:9) How is this different from the world's view concerning revenge?

Read 2 Samuel 14:21-33

After having Amnon killed, Absalom fled to Geshur where he lived for three years. After some prompting by Joab, David eventually allowed Absalom to return to Jerusalem. Even though Absalom lived in Jerusalem, he was still estranged from his father David. If you follow the trail of David's sin, Amnon's sin, and Absalom's sin, what do you see? How has sin impacted David's family? How has David's sin impacted his relationship with Amnon and Absalom?

Conclusion

Sin will take you farther than you want to go, keep you longer than you want to stay, and cost you more than you are willing to pay. God's forgiveness and mercy are available, but sometimes the fruit of our sin will continue to negatively impact future generations. Sometimes the best offense is a good defense! The enemy is prowling around like a hungry lion seeking whom he may devour. Every day we must put on the full armor of God that we may be able to withstand the devil's schemes! Future generations are counting on it!