

## Unit 11, Session 5: David Sinned and Was Restored

Dear Parents:

The Ammonites were no strangers to the Israelites. They often fought over the region of Gilead, which stretched east of the Jordan River. David had tried showing kindness to the Ammonites, but they humiliated the Israelite ambassadors. (See 2 Sam. 10:1-5.) Thus began a war between the Israelites and Ammonites. This context sets the scene for the story of David's sin and restoration.

David had experienced a season of blessing from God and success on the battlefield. The tribes of Israel united under David. But the upward trajectory of David's life did not continue much longer.

One evening, David looked from his rooftop and saw Bathsheba bathing. He found out that she was the wife of Uriah, one of David's elite soldiers. Her married status alone made her off-limits to David, but he nevertheless called for her and slept with her. David probably assumed his sin would go unnoticed, until Bathsheba told him she was pregnant. With Uriah gone to war, it was obvious the baby was not her husband's.

David called Uriah home from the battle and encouraged him to be with his wife. But Uriah refused. Uriah didn't think it was fair for him to be with his wife while other men were at war.

So David instructed his army commander to position Uriah in the most violent part of the battle so he would be killed. This time, David's plan worked. Uriah was killed, and David took Bathsheba as his wife.

God knew David's sin and sent Nathan the prophet to confront David. David's confession is recorded in Psalm 51. God wanted David's heart to change so he would not want to sin again.

Like David, we need more than a changed lifestyle to be made right with God; we need new hearts. Jesus died to satisfy God's wrath against sin so that we could be made alive in Him.

**When David sinned against God, God forgave him, but sin always comes with a price. God spared David's life, but David's son died. When we sin, we deserve death. But we can receive God's forgiveness because God sent His Son, Jesus, to pay the price for our sin.—**

## Big Picture Question

How is Jesus the perfect King? Jesus perfectly rules over the universe as the King of kings.

## Tell the Bible Story

Open your Bible to 2 Samuel 11–12; Psalm 51. Use the Bible storytelling tips on the Bible story page to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “David Sinned and Was Restored.”

**LEADER** • When David sinned by taking Uriah’s wife, did David think anyone would find out? (*no*) David even made a plan to make sure no one found out; he had Uriah killed in battle! But who knew about David’s sin? (*God*) God sees all of our sin.

God sent the prophet Nathan to confront David. Nathan told David a story, but David didn’t realize that the story was actually about him. David was the man who had taken something that was not for him. Was David sorry for his sin? (*yes*) David sinned against God, but **David repented and God forgave him**. In Psalm 51, David asked God to give him a clean heart.

## Questions from Kids Video

Show the “Unit 11, Session 5” questions from kids video. Prompt kids to think about whether or not God always forgives. Guide them to discuss why it can be difficult for us to believe we are fully forgiven.

## Missions Moment

Write the words *HOME*, *SCHOOL*, and *NEIGHBORHOOD* in capitalize letters on separate pieces of poster board. Below each word, write the following prayer requests:

- Pray for this place.
- Pray for the people in this place.
- Pray for ways to share in this place.

Tape the posters on a wall.

**LEADER** • God forgave David. We can be forgiven of our sins through Jesus. Missionaries, like the Harrell family in Mozambique, go and take this good news to people all over the world. Wherever God has placed us, we can tell people they can be forgiven of their sins. Will you commit to telling someone about Jesus this week?

Instruct kids to stand by one of the posters taped on the walls labeled with places where they can commit to sharing about Jesus. Give groups time to pray according to the prompts listed on each poster.

## Key Passage

Show the key passage poster. Lead the boys and girls to read together Psalm 145:13. **LEADER** • The Lord is our King even now. His kingdom will never end. What a wonderful King to serve, who keeps His promises and cares for His people. Let's sing our key passage song and remember these words from Psalm 145:13.

## Sing

Sing together "Your Kingdom" and "Crown Him With Many Crowns"

## Pray

Invite kids to pray before dismissing to apply the story. **LEADER** • God, You are so good. You pour out Your mercy on undeserving sinners, and we are thankful. We can turn from our sin and turn to You, knowing that we will find forgiveness through Jesus. God, make us truly sorrowful over our sin. Like David wrote, give us clean hearts. We love You. Amen.

## Apply

Option 1: Activity pages provided via email or at <http://firstofallon.com/ministries/kids/kids-life-home-resources>

### Option 2: Heart Art

Give each kid a piece of paper. Demonstrate the following:

1. Fold a piece of paper in half and then open it.
2. Draw half a heart on one side of the paper, pressing firmly with a crayon.
3. Draw additional lines inside the heart shape.
4. Close the paper and rub over the drawing.
5. Open the paper to reveal a symmetrical print.

Allow kids to decorate the heart art. Provide Bibles and instruct boys and girls to write the words of Psalm 51:10 around the outside of their heart.

**SAY** • David's words in Psalm 51 show that David was sorry for his sin. **David repented and God forgave him.** *Repentance* is turning away from sin and self and turning to God. To repent, we recognize our sin, confess our sin, are sorry for our sin, ask for forgiveness, and turn away from our sin. God will forgive everyone who repents and trusts in Jesus.

## Midweek Follow-up

Distribute Bibles. Guide boys and girls to open their Bibles to Psalm 51. Point that today's Bible story came from the Book of 2 Samuel, but in response to his sin, David wrote a psalm. We can find his words in Psalm 51. Explain that David wrote nearly half of the psalms in the Bible.

**SAY** • When the Israelites went to war, David stayed in Jerusalem. After David sinned and took Bathsheba as his wife, God sent the prophet Nathan to confront David. Nathan told David a story about a rich man who stole the lamb that belonged to a poor man. The story was meant to show David that he had used his position of power to take what wasn't his. David knew he had sinned. **David repented and God forgave him.**

Choose a volunteer to read aloud Psalm 51:2-3. Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss:

1. In Psalm 51, what did David ask God to do? *Suggest kids find Psalm 51 in their Bibles. Help them identify David's requests: "be gracious," "blot out my rebellion," "wash away my guilt," "cleanse me," "purify me," "create a clean heart," and so forth. Emphasize that God is willing to do all of these things when we repent of our sin and turn to Him!*

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read 1 John 1:9.)

2. Do you ever try to hide your sin? Why? *Lead kids to discuss reasons we try to hide our sin from others or from God. Guide them to recognize that we try to avoid shame, consequences, or embarrassment. We may be able to hide our sin from other people, but God sees our sin. He knows our hearts, and He sent His Son to be our Rescuer.*

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Acts 3:19.)

3. Why can God forgive us? *Assure kids that though we may face consequences for our sin, those who trust in Jesus will never be separated from God. God sent His Son, Jesus, to pay the penalty for our sin. Jesus died on the cross and rose again. ough our bodies may die, we have forgiveness and life with God forever.*

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Heb. 2:14-15.)

## David Sinned and Was Restored

*2 Samuel 11-12; Psalm 51*

**David was the king of Israel. One spring, David sent out the army, but he put another man in charge of them. David stayed in Jerusalem. One evening, David looked out from his palace and saw a beautiful woman named Bathsheba.** Bathsheba was the wife of Uriah, one of the best warriors in David's army.

**David sent his messengers to get Bathsheba, and she came to David's house. Later, Bathsheba told David that she was going to have a baby; the baby would be David's. David knew what he had done was wrong. David should not have a baby with someone who was not his wife. So David made a plan to make sure no one found out that Bathsheba's baby was his. David called Uriah home from the battle and told him to go spend time with his wife. But Uriah** didn't think it was fair for him to relax at home while the other men were at war. He slept on David's doorstep and **refused to visit his wife.**

**So David made up another plan. He instructed Joab, the leader of the army, to send Uriah into the hardest part of the battle so he would be killed. This time, David's plan worked.** Uriah was killed in battle. **David took Bathsheba into his house to be his wife, and she had a baby boy. God knew what David had done, and He was not happy with David. God sent Nathan the prophet to talk to David. Nathan told David a story:** A traveler came to a rich man who had many animals. The rich man did not offer his own animal. Instead, he took a poor man's lamb—the only lamb he had—and gave it to the traveler to eat.

**This story made David feel angry.** "The rich man should die!" David said. **"You are the man!" Nathan said. God had given David a position of great power, and David took what wasn't his. David realized he had sinned against God. David deserved to die.** "You won't die for this," Nathan assured David, "but God will punish you. Your son will die instead." **David confessed his sin and prayed, "God, create a clean heart for me."** David realized he could try to please God with sacrifices, but that wouldn't be enough to pay for his sin. **God wanted David's heart to change so that he would not want to sin again.**

*Christ Connection: When David sinned against God, God forgave him, but sin always comes with a price. God spared David's life, but David's son died. When we sin, we deserve death. But we can receive God's forgiveness because God sent His Son, Jesus, to pay the price for our sin.*