

DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

David and Bathsheba
“Pressure Points” Series
May 20/21, 2017

Main Idea

A moment of sin can lead to a lifetime of consequences.

Discovery Questions

1. What’s the most “death defying” activity you’ve done before—an activity with the most extreme consequences if something goes wrong? (Things like skydiving, bungee jumping, riding in a race car, etc.) What were your feelings before, during, and after the experience?

This weekend we resume the series we started before Easter on the life of David. This week we get a look at one of the most unfortunate events in David’s life—the infamous story of David and Bathsheba, when David commits adultery and, in an attempt to cover up for his crime, ends up making decisions that ultimately leads to the death of Uriah, the husband of Bathsheba.

The story takes place over two chapters in the Bible, 2 Samuel 11-2 Samuel 12. While you may want to read 2 Samuel 11 to get a sense of the entire story, our Discovery Questions will focus on 2 Samuel 12, when David experiences both the consequences for—and the forgiveness of—his sins.

2. Read 2 Samuel 12:1-25.

- a. In this passage, what consequences do you see David experience for his sin?
- b. Where do you see God’s grace and forgiveness for David’s sin?

3. a. Our main idea this week is that a “moment of sin can lead to a lifetime of consequences.” What examples of this have you seen in the lives of others?

- b. Have you seen people who recognize that they are predisposed to a certain sinful tendency wisely take steps to avoid “falling into” sin? What steps did they take?

4. a. Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 12:10, “So if you are standing firm, be careful that you don’t fall.” Is there an area of weakness in your life where you might be more vulnerable to sin and most likely to fall? Examples are lust, envy, pride, stubbornness, anxiety, etc.

- b. When you’ve made mistakes in the past, did you ever think of the consequences before you committed the act of sin? Would first thinking about the consequences of sin have any impact on whether or not you committed the sin? Why or why not?

- c. What can you do to stop sin before it starts? In what ways have you been successful with that in that in the past?

5. How hard do you find it to realize the forgiveness of sin even as you experience its consequences? What things can we do to remember that God forgives us, even if we have to experience consequences for our sin?

Leader Guide Starts on Next Page

DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

Leader Guide

1. What's the most "death defying" activity you've done before—an activity with the most extreme consequences if something goes wrong? (Things like skydiving, bungee jumping, riding in a race car, etc.) What were your feelings before, during, and after the experience?

This is a "lighter" question designed to get the conversation going. Spend about 5-7 minutes on this question.

This weekend we resume the series we started before Easter on the life of David. This week we get a look at one of the most unfortunate events in David's life—the infamous story of David and Bathsheba, when David commits adultery and, in an attempt to cover up for his crime, ends up making decisions that ultimately leads to the death of Uriah, the husband of Bathsheba.

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2. Read 2 Samuel 12:1-25.

- a. In this passage, what consequences do you see David experience for his sin?**
- b. Where do you see God's grace and forgiveness for David's sin?**

For part "a," there are three major consequences that David receives from God because of his sin:

- *For the sin of adultery, God says that David's wives will be unfaithful to him (v. 11). Yet while David did his act of adultery in private, David's wives will cheat on him out in the open (v.12).*
- *For killing Uriah, God says that the "sword" will never leave David's house (v. 10). This means that David's family will experience violence and discord, which it does as we will see in next week's message.*
- *Finally, though David's life is spared (adultery was a capital offense in Israel), the son born because of the affair is killed (v. 14, 18).*

For part "b," we see that God "takes away" David's sin because of his confession (v. 13) and David's life is spared. We also see God give David a new son, "Jedidiah" (which means "loved by the Lord"), also known as Solomon. Further, we recognize that God allowed David to remain married to Bathsheba, despite the illicit origins of their marriage.

Spend 10-12 minutes on this question in its entirety.

- 3. a. Our main idea this week is that a "moment of sin can lead to a lifetime of consequences." What examples of this have you seen in the lives of others?**
- b. Have you seen people who recognize that they are predisposed to a certain sinful tendency wisely take steps to avoid "falling into" sin? What steps did they take?**

DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

Sin almost always carries with it consequences. Affairs lead to divorces and emotional scarring in children. Drunkenness can lead to regretful actions and even drunk driving accidents and deaths. Cheating on tax returns can lead to financial penalties. We often don't think of these consequences when we commit acts of sin; no act of sin is ever worth the consequences that can come from it.

Spend 7-10 minutes on this question in its entirety.

4.
 - a. Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 12:10, "So if you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall." Is there an area of weakness in your life where you might be more vulnerable to sin and most likely to fall? Examples are lust, envy, pride, stubbornness, anxiety, etc.
 - b. When you've made mistakes in the past, did you ever think of the consequences before you committed the act of sin? Would first thinking about the consequences of sin have any impact on whether or not you committed the sin? Why or why not?
 - c. What can you do to stop sin before it starts? In what ways have you been successful with that in that in the past?

As the leader, you may want to open up in part "a" to get the conversation going. For part "c" you may want to remember Jesus' statement in Matthew 18:9, "And if your eye causes you to stumble, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into the fire of hell." Jesus wants us to take radical steps to avoid committing sin in our lives.

Spend about 10-12 minutes on this question in its entirety.

5. **How hard do you find it to realize the forgiveness of sin even as you experience its consequences? What things can we do to remember that God forgives us, even if we have to experience consequences for our sin?**

Just because we have to suffer the earthly consequences of sin does not mean that we aren't also experiencing God's forgiveness—God's forgiveness of sin and earthly consequences for sin are not contradictory. Reminding ourselves of the truth of God's forgiveness—and memorizing and quoting verses like 1 John 1:9 ("If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness") can go a long way in helping us realize the forgiveness that God gives us.

Spend 7-10 minutes on this question in its entirety.