

1. David and Bathsheba—2 Samuel 11-12 (tell the story)
 - a. It is about lust and sin (certainly and easily identified)
 - b. It is about abuse of power (certainly and not so easily identified, but in 2 Samuel 12:12:8-9 Nathan identifies it thru his story)
2. The Aftermath—2 Samuel 13-19
 - a. The cover up became worse than the sin—James 1:13-15 (it all spiraled out of control for David—lust, lying deception, more abuse of power and finally murder. No way David set out to intentionally do any of this—but in covering up his sin it spiraled downward. Someone noted of this: "**Sin will take you further than you intended to go; place you somewhere you didn't intend to be; and keep you there longer than you intended to stay.**" James also noted the pattern of downward spiraling sin—temptation can lead to lust, which then leads to sin, which then can lead to death. David lived in. His cover up made a bad situation worse and.)
 - b. The consequences of sin were disastrous—Numbers 32:23 (David's sin devastated his family in horrific ways—sexual abuse, murder, rebellion, death. David lived out the idea presented in Numbers that your sin will find you out.)
3. Our Takeaways
 - a. Anyone can be a David—Romans 3:10 (there are none of us righteous. All of us are susceptible to letting sin get a foothold and spiraling out of control—taking us further than we ever intended to go)
 - b. We all need a Nathan—James 5:19-20 (We all need to be held accountable if we drift into sin—to be given wake up calls to our actions and behaviors to be brought back to God as James teaches—to David's credit he did not reject this accountability call—neither should we)
 - c. Learn the value of confession—James 5:16 (when we sin we need to own it, not cover it up—in that darkness we give our enemy more opportunities to work. Rather we need to confess our sins—to an accountability partner; someone we trust; to the church. Confession not only brings accountability, but healing and stops the downward spiral of sin. It may be painful, but not nearly as painful as the consequences of the sin and cover-up David's family experienced.)
4. Psalms 51 (conclude with the reading of this Psalm written by David after Nathan exposed his adultery with Bathsheba. Just listen to his words. **READ!** Now listen to the words my friend and preacher John Dobbs wrote about this: ***David is humiliated by the mess he has made of his own life and the lives of others. He doesn't look very much like the heroic David we love. Sometimes we don't look like the Christian we want to be either. We are focusing on being faithful to our faithful God. Faithful people listen when God speaks ... Let us hear the calling to be broken over our sins. Not dismissive of them, not covering them over. Feel the pain of how we displease the God who loves us so much, instead of pretending He doesn't notice. When is the last time we wept tears of bitterness over our own fallenness? Psalm 51:17: My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, you, God, will not despise. Nobody comes to God until they come broken. Nobody lives for God without repentance for sin. Faithfulness to our Faithful God involves loving his law, persevering in commitment, and hearing his voice calling us to confession and repentance.***