



### **REFLECTION / DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

*Pick a few questions from below and reflect this week, or choose 4-5 to discuss in your home group.*

- Of the five characters mentioned in the sermon, who do you think is the most evil? Who do you feel the most sorry for? Who do you find yourself reflecting on the most?
- Why do you think David doesn't act decisively on any of the sin in his household? In what ways are you paralyzed to act? In what ways is the church today sitting idle, when we should be taking action?
- Do you think any sin is beyond God's grace? Why? What kinds of sin are hard for you to forgive?
- Read Hebrews 12:15. How have personal grudges taken hold of you in the past? In what ways has your bitterness affected others? How have you managed to get over it?
- When have you "run away" from your sin as Absalom did? What have you learned from that experience?
- One person not mentioned in the sermon is Joab, David's general. What do you think of his actions in Chapter 14?
- Why do you think David refused Absalom's request to see him?
- Spend some time praying for people you know are imprisoned by their situation and/or sin.



### **THINK ABOUT IT**

#### **2 Samuel 13-14: Family Dysfunction**

##### **OVERVIEW**

Chapter 13 of 2 Samuel marks the beginning of a trajectory change in David's life. Although he is still a "man after God's own heart," he morphs from the man who can do anything, the renaissance man, to – the crumbling king, the man who seems incapable of stopping the unraveling of his life. (We even changed the branding of our series to reflect this dramatic change)

In 2 Samuel 13-14, we find David's household experiencing sexual assault, bitterness, self-serving schemes, family alienation, and even murder. It's painful to watch. It's a reminder of the shrapnel-effect of sin. It's a warning of sin's consequences. It's a reminder of our daily need for God's grace.

##### **INTERPRETIVE & THEOLOGICAL HIGHLIGHTS**

The Apostle Paul's words in Galatians 6:7 warn us that we will reap what we sow. And, Exodus 34:7 warns that the sins of the father can be passed on to future generations in a DNA-like fashion. The consequences of sin are certainly evident in David's case. David's selfish behavior toward Bathsheba, his secret cover-up, the murder of her husband, Uriah – these are all repeated like a bad rerun in David's household through his sons, Amnon and Absalom.

Sin is devastating. And, as James writes, "when sin is full grown, it gives birth to death." (1:15) Only the Cross can overcome sin's power. Only the Gospel can break the chains that keep us and even future generations imprisoned by sin's power. Through the Gospel, we are freed from the generational manifestation of sin. As Paul wrote, we are free because of "the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel." (2 Timothy 1:10). To God be the glory.



### **SERMON OUTLINE & REFERENCES**

- 1. Tamar, a reminder that sin has victims.** 2 Samuel 13:1-4; Romans 6:23; James 1:15
  - 2. Amnon, a reminder of how low one can go.** 2 Samuel 13:14
  - 3. Absalom, a reminder how bitterness can destroy.** 2 Samuel 13:23-29; Hebrews 12:15
  - 4. Jonadab, a reminder that not all advice is wise.** 2 Samuel 13:3-5; Proverbs 27:6
  - 5. David, a reminder that leadership equals responsibility.** 2 Samuel 13:21, 25, 37; 14:24
- \*All remind us of how much we all need God's grace.** Isaiah 1:18; John 8:11; Romans 3:24