



### **REFLECTION / DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

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

- Have you ever had to talk to someone about their choices or point out a besetting sin? How did they respond? What do you think was going through Nathan's mind as he confronted David?
- Who has been a "Nathan" in your life?
- What do we learn from Galatians 6:1 about talking to someone about something like this?
- Why do you think Nathan speaks to David with a parable?
- Why do you think the absence of justice and mercy so enraged David? (2 Samuel 12:5-6)
- Do a mini-study of repentance and confession by making as many observations from either Psalm 32 or 51.
- Read 2 Samuel 12:14 to the end of chapter. Do you think David's repentance is genuine? Why or why not? What advice would you give someone after they've confessed their sin?
- How difficult is it for you to receive the forgiveness of God and grace from others?
- How does David's response to Nathan's rebuke compare with Saul's responses? (1 Samuel 13:11-12; 15:13-26)
- What redemptive purposes may be accomplished by God's severe mercy in 2 Samuel 24-25? (see also Proverbs 3:12, Hebrews 12:6&10) Do you think God is always this severe in his judgment? In what ways have you experienced the discipline of God?



## THINK ABOUT IT & LEADER'S GUIDE

### 2 Samuel 12

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#### OVERVIEW

After David's crash and burn in chapter 11, he is confronted by his spiritual advisor and prophet, Nathan. Nathan brilliantly uses an allegory to capture David's interest and elicit a visceral response from the King. Once the prophet makes the connection for him, David confesses his sin. Although David is instantaneously forgiven and restored, the earthly consequences are come to bear in the remainder of the chapter and in years to come. Biblical scholars have connected the beautifully written Psalms 32 and 51 to this period of David's life and are a worthy read.

#### INTERPRETIVE & THEOLOGICAL HIGHLIGHTS

David's statement in 2 Samuel 12:23 is one passage that indicates that children who die prior to being of an age where they can understand the gospel will be with the Lord forever. Although "the age of accountability" is not specifically identified in any scripture, most scholars believe that God's mercy and justice will not hold a child accountable to responding to the gospel without the capacity to understand it. For more on the age of accountability, go to the following link, <http://www.gotquestions.org/age-of-accountability.html>.

#### SERMON OUTLINE & SCRIPTURES

##### Busted:

**1. Own it**

2 Samuel 12:1-13; Psalm 28:13,

**2. Confess it**

2 Samuel 12:13, Psalm 32 & 51; Mark 2:17; 1 John 1:9

**3. Learn from it**

2 Samuel 12:20-31