



Point of the day: God is merciful and doesn't punish us for all our wrongdoings if we say sorry.

Memory verse: "The Lord is merciful and gracious, abounding in steadfast love." Psalm 103:8

STORY (2 Samuel 11-12)

During springtime when kings often went out to war, David put a man named Joab in charge of the army, but David stayed home. One night, David was standing on the roof of the palace and across the way he noticed a beautiful woman. David asked his servants about her. They said, "Her name is Bathsheba and she is married to Uriah, a strong warrior in your army." David sent messengers to Bathsheba to bring her to the palace and she spent the night there.

Sometime later Bathsheba sent a message to David saying "I am pregnant, and you are the father." David knew that it was wrong for him to have a baby with someone who was married to another man. But instead of confessing his sin, David tried to hide it.

David had Uriah, Bathsheba's husband brought home from the fighting. He told him to go home and spend time with his wife. That way, everyone would think that Bathsheba's baby was Uriah's. But Uriah refused. He said, "It's not right for me to go home and spend time relaxing when the rest of the army is out fighting." So instead of going home, Uriah slept at the entrance to the palace with the other servants.

David's plan wasn't working! Instead of confessing his sin, he came up with another plan, one much worse than the first. David sent a message with Uriah and told him to give it to Joab, the commander of the army. In the message David told Joab to put Uriah at the center of the battle where the fighting was the most dangerous. That way, Uriah would surely be killed. Joab obeyed David's order and sure enough, Uriah died during the battle.

David hid his sin from other people. But do you think he was able to hide it from God?

David knew that he couldn't hide his sin any longer. He realized what a terrible thing he had done. He prayed and confessed his sin to God, saying how sorry he was.

And God forgave him.

**David wrote Psalm 51 as a prayer to God. Let's read it together:**

*Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love.*

*According to you great compassion, blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.*

*Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me.*

*Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.*

**\*\*Can you underline or highlight all the words describing God's merciful character?**

Is there anything we can do that is so bad that God would never ever forgive us?

No way! God knows that we are weak and sinful, and our hearts are naturally far from Him, but He loves us anyway. God created us so He could pour out His love in our lives, and He is eager and willing to do that!

Because of our sin, like David, we know that we deserve to die. The Bible says in the book of Romans that the punishment for sin is death. Someone must die to pay for our sins. God loves us so much that He was willing to die *for us!* Isn't that incredible? We serve such a loving, glorious God who has offered us a wonderful gift—forgiveness for our sin. And there's nothing that we have to do to try to earn it! God forgives us when we turn to Jesus and put our faith in Him. When we follow Jesus and repent of our sin, we find freedom from our sin. And just like David prayed, we can ask God to "*restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.*"

**Pray** and thank God for being so merciful and forgiving.

### CRAFT

Choose some meaningful words from Psalm 51 or from the memory verse, and write them on the coaster. Then decorate it and put it somewhere as a reminder of God's unfailing love and mercy.



