



Story Series – Part 4: Nathan

Pastor Brian Flewelling

May 24, 2026

WORSHIP

Begin your group with a time of worship. If someone in your group can lead worship, invite them to lead two or three songs. Alternatively, consider using one or more of these songs from our Sunday morning worship time:

- **Gates** (*Red Rocks Worship*)
- **None Like You** (*Jesus Culture*)

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

1. 2 Samuel 7:1-5
2. 2 Samuel 12:1-15

OPENING PRAYER

Begin by asking God to open hearts and minds to receive truth, to give courage to speak honestly with one another, and to cultivate faithfulness in your group.

Ice Breaker (5-10 min)

Who is someone in your life who has shown up at just the right moment with encouragement or wise counsel? What made their support so valuable?

Sermon Overview

Nathan the prophet appears at three pivotal moments in David's life: prophesying over David's family, correcting David's misconduct, and endorsing Solomon as heir. Nathan teaches us how to support leaders around us: sacrificially, wisely, and honestly. He models faithfulness to the Lord, generosity of spirit, and trustworthy counsel. Most importantly, Nathan shows us how to speak truth courageously yet tactfully, with the goal of restoration rather than destruction.

Main Points from the Sermon

1. Mary Chose to Believe

- Unlike Zechariah who doubted and was struck mute, Mary responded with faith when given an impossible promise.

2. Mary Was Willing

- "I am the Lord's servant. May everything you have said about me come true." (Luke 1:38)

3. Mary Chose to Praise

- Even facing an uncertain and potentially scandalous situation, Mary's first response was worship and praise.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (35-40 min)

Understanding Nathan's Character

1. Faithfulness: Nathan is introduced as "the prophet," someone who cultivated receptivity to God's voice. What practices help you listen for God's voice in your daily life? What distracts you from hearing Him?
2. Humility: In 2 Samuel 7, Nathan tells David to go ahead with his plans, but God corrects Nathan that same night. How difficult is it for you to admit when you're wrong? What does Nathan's response teach us about humility?
3. The "Just" Trap: Pastor Brian mentioned how we diminish our roles by saying "I'm just a..." (secretary, stay-at-home mom, assistant coach, etc.). Where do you struggle with feeling like you're "just" something? How does Nathan's supporting role challenge that mindset?

Nathan's Confrontation of David

4. Wise Presentation: Nathan used a parable to help David see his own sin. Why was this approach more effective than direct accusation? When have you seen someone present truth in a way that helped you receive it?
5. The Parable's Power: David was a lonely shepherd who found comfort with sheep. Nathan's story about the poor man's lamb was deeply personal. How did Nathan's understanding of David make his message more effective? What does this teach us about knowing the people we're trying to help?

6. Courage vs. People-Pleasing: Nathan risked everything to confront the king. What keeps us from speaking truth to people in authority or those we care about? How do we balance grace and truth?

Personal Application

7. Your Role as Nathan: Who in your life might need you to be a "Nathan" to them? What would it look like to speak truth courageously yet tactfully to them?
8. Receiving Your Nathan: Are you open to having a "Nathan" in your life? Who has permission to speak hard truths to you? If no one does, why not?
9. Don't Fire Your Nathans: Pastor Brian said, "Don't fire your Nathans. They are trying to help you see your blind spots." Have you ever pushed away someone who was trying to help you see the truth? What happened?
10. Restoration, Not Destruction: Nathan's goal was always to restore David, not destroy him. When you correct others (children, friends, coworkers), is your goal punishment or restoration? How can you shift your approach?

KEY TAKEAWAYS

1. Nathan cultivates faithfulness to the Lord - He practices listening for God's voice through Word and Spirit.
2. Nathan is a giver, not a taker - His name means "giver," and he demonstrates selfless generosity.
3. Nathan is a trustworthy counselor - David confides in him because Nathan isn't tempted by control or self-gain.
4. Nathan distinguishes between human wisdom and God's mind - He's humble enough to be corrected by God and admit when he's wrong.
5. Nathan speaks truth courageously but tactfully - He uses wisdom in presenting hard truths so they can be received.
6. Nathan's goal is restoration, not destruction - "Wounds from a friend can be trusted" (Proverbs 27:6).

PRACTICAL APPLICATION (10 Mins)

Choose one of the following to practice this week:

Option 1: Cultivate Listening

Set aside 15 minutes each day this week to quietly listen for God's voice. Read Scripture, pray, and journal what you sense God saying.

Option 2: Be a Giver

Identify someone in your life who needs encouragement or support. Give generously of your time, resources, or wisdom without expecting anything in return.

Option 3: Speak Truth Tactfully

If there's someone you need to have a difficult conversation with, take time to prayerfully plan how to present the truth in a way they can receive it. Ask God for wisdom and courage.

Option 4: Invite a Nathan

Ask someone you trust to speak into your blind spots. Give them specific permission to tell you hard truths, and commit to receiving their words with humility.

Reflection & Prayer Requests

- Am I cultivating faithfulness to the Lord through regular time in His Word and prayer?
- Am I living as a giver or a taker in my relationships?
- Who trusts me enough to confide in me? Am I trustworthy?
- When was the last time I admitted I was wrong?
- Do I speak truth to restore or to punish?

Closing Prayer

Pray together:

- For courage to hear and speak truth
- For humility to receive correction
- For wisdom to present truth effectively
- For faithfulness to the Lord in all circumstances
- For specific situations where group members need to be Nathan or receive a Nathan