



Life Group Sermon Study

God Forgives the Guilty

April 8, 2018



ENGAGE

Break the Ice: (The purpose of these first questions is to help your group open up. Please don't feel like you have to ask each question. You may even have a better question. Once you feel that the group is engaged, move on to the "Inspire" section.)

- What is your favorite spring-time activity?
- Nearly everyone has a mental image of "the girl next door" or "the big man on campus": Describe the one that still sticks in your mind.
- What did God teach you during the message this weekend? Did anything in particular stand out?

Prayer: Take some time to pray for God's Spirit to speak to your group through His Word.

INSPIRE

(Since the group may need time to process each question, don't let silence scare you. Try to avoid filling the space with unnecessary explanation or moving on from the question too quickly.)

Read 2 Samuel 11:1-27.

1. What significance do you see in the timing of David's sin (vv.1-2)?
 - In the timing of Bathsheba's "purification," meaning she was now ceremonially clean from menstruation (v.4; see Lev 15:19, 28)?
2. What progression of thought do you think David entertained (vv.2-5) upon the sight of Bathsheba? Upon desiring her? Sending for her? Seducing her? Sleeping with her? Could Bathsheba have prevented this seduction? Why or why not?
3. Where does this passage record David's first fear of his adulterous act? Why might her fear (see Lev 20:10, Dt 22:22)? How could his attempted cover-up possibly nullify the sin?
4. What superior character qualities does Uriah exhibit in refusing David's overture (vv.11,13; see Dt 23:0-10)? What does this reveal about David? Uriah? Joab?
5. As Joab's messenger, what would you think of the message sent to David (vv.18-24)? And David's response (v.25)?
6. What must Bathsheba be feeling as her identity changes quickly from Uriah's wife, to David's fling, to Uriah's widow, to David's bride?
7. When it was all said and done, which of the Ten Commandments (Ex 20:1-17) had David broken? In what ways does one sin lead to another?
8. Read James 1:14-15. Phil shared that the stages of temptation and sin are: Distraction, Seduction, Conception (in the heart), Action, and Death.
 - At which stage is it best to stand up to temptation?
 - How can idleness get us into trouble?
 - Why is it more difficult to resist temptation the longer we allow ourselves to go down this path?



EQUIP

(These questions will challenge your group members to apply the study to their daily lives. It is highly important that you go over this section with your group each week for the group study to be a success. Set aside 15-20 minutes at the end of your study to go over this section.)

“Now we have this treasure in clay jars, so that this extraordinary power may be from God and not from us.”

~ 2 Corinthians 4:7 (CSB)

We are like clay jars—frail, easily cracked and broken. The problem is that we like to think we are made of cast iron, coated with Teflon. We think we can handle temptation. We even tolerate certain levels of sin in our lives.

What will it take to convince you that you need the Lord’s help? That you have an “extraordinary power” within you?

Read 1 Corinthians 10:13.

Where do you need purification and forgiveness today?

Equip Your Mind:

“God, create a clean heart for me and renew a steadfast spirit within me.” ~ Psalm 51:10 (CSB)