



II Samuel 11:1-5

God gives us positions of power so we will act responsibly to create, protect, and advance life in all settings.

ICE BREAKER

As a child or as an adult what did you want that you thought would make you happy? It could be to have the boyfriend or girlfriend you wanted or to get married or to have an excellent career or financial success. Did any of those fulfilled dreams bring you the happiness or fulfillment you longed for? Explain your thoughts.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is it you are currently asking God to give you to make you happy? Whatever it is it will never be enough. Eventually, you will want more. In our flesh we want to be our own god. This is the truth about all of us.
2. In essence God says to David: I gave you power to bring life to others and you used it on yourself. The story is disturbing. What we learn from David's story is not that he's worse than me so I am good. No, I am him in my flesh.
The truth about where our happiness is found is seen in Isaiah 55:1-2. Here God cries out to us and says, "...why spend money on what is not bread, and your labor on what does not satisfy....listen, listen to Me and eat what is good and you will **delight in the richest of fare.**" Let's talk honestly and practically about this. Share with one another any joy or contentment or satisfaction that you find in Christ. To what level do you really really believe Christ can be a source of contentment and happiness in your life(even when you don't get what you want). Share with one another what has helped you get traction toward finding the richest fare in Christ.

3. David failed to act responsibly with the power God gave him when he sinned. God gives us positions of power so we will act responsibly to create, protect, and advance life in all settings. Advancing life in all settings begins with our own mind and our own heart. As our heart and mind connect in dependence on Christ rather than seeking power apart from Christ then our ability to act responsibly grows. Only then can we create, protect and advance life through how we relate. The first place we look to live this out is in how we relate to one another. How do I treat my spouse, my kids, my small group and my close friends? This question is crucial. Talk about one way you tend to use your power for yourself and share one way you are most excited about in regard to living out advancing life.

4. How often have you found yourself in a mess because of your sin and then you trace your steps and you see a small step of abdicating? In II Samuel 11 we see that David sent Joab to war. What's wrong with this is that David stays behind at ease in the palace in Jerusalem. Most of us don't go back and find that small step. It happens often. Even a fight with a spouse can begin with not doing what I was supposed to be doing in life. Take some time to reflect on a sin mess in your life and ask God to help you trace your steps. Share with the group any awareness you have about the smaller steps.

NOTES AND QUOTES

In II Samuel 11 we see that David sent Joab to war. What's wrong with this is that David stays behind at ease in the palace in Jerusalem.

Bathsheba is introduced by the author of II Samuel in a way that objectifies her: the author describes her as beautiful. This mirrors what David is doing--he is objectifying her. God has given David power and with power comes responsibility. It is clear that his responsibility was not to be looking at Bathsheba.

In II Samuel 11:3 we read the following: "...And David sent..." The author uses the repetition of the word "sent". This word is a word that symbolizes **power**.

In verses 1 through 6 David "sent" 6 times. In verses 12-22 David and Joab together "send" 4 more times. Who is acting like a king here? It is not David.

When we step out of our responsibility we use our power to gratify ourselves. We rationalize and we become more and more blind. David is so blind that he writes a note to kill Uriah and gives it to Uriah himself. This is sick.

His most diabolical move is bringing Bathsheba to his house. When we take what is not ours to have; we become blind and we want more.

What do we grasp for? Porn, an affair, revenge, money? How often do we take power in our hands in a relationship that is not ours to take? We can be manipulative.

Now it's God's move in 12:1. The Lord **sent** Nathan to David.

God sends one time.

What He says happens. Nathan's message from God states that God, "...gave you your masters house and your master wives...and if this were too little, I would add to you much more."

I gave you power to bring life to others and you used it on yourself. The story is disturbing. What we learn is not: he's worse than me so I am good. No, I am him. Think: What would make you happy? What have you asked God to have happen? If this happens then you would be perfectly content?

If we had all that we want it would not be enough. No matter what we get we will still want what we don't have. This is our sin.

David is the story of the fall of Genesis 1 all over again.

We keep wanting to violate God's restrictions. Eventually we invade the womb.

3 key ideas: power, responsibility, life

Power: a baby doesn't have power. We have power from God to serve the powerless. A mom and all of culture has power over that baby in the womb. This comes down to a worldview. It is a way of thinking. The reality that we preserve a thought that we have any right to invade the womb reveals our sin.

We don't exist to eliminate abortion. We exist to love. Love is our weapon. We exist to make Christ known in His fullness. As He is known life follows.