



Mustard Seed Children's Summary for February 8, 2009
Released on Wednesday, February 4, 2009

"Scolding a King"

PRINTED TEXT: 2 Samuel 12:1-7a, 13-15

BACKGROUND SCRIPTURE: 2 Samuel 11:1-12:15

DEVOTIONAL READING: Psalm 51:1-9

MEMORY VERSE: "Nathan said to David, Thou art the man" (2 Samuel 12:7)

2 Samuel 12:1-7a, 13-15

1 And the LORD sent Nathan unto David. And he came unto him, and said unto him, There were two men in one city; the one rich, and the other poor.

2 The rich man had exceeding many flocks and herds:

3 But the poor man had nothing, save one little ewe lamb, which he had bought and nourished up: and it grew up together with him, and with his children; it did eat of his own meat, and drank of his own cup, and lay in his bosom, and was unto him as a daughter.

4 And there came a traveler unto the rich man, and he spared to take of his own flock and of his own herd, to dress for the wayfaring man that was come unto him; but took the poor man's lamb, and dressed it for the man that was come to him.

5 And David's anger was greatly kindled against the man; and he said to Nathan, As the LORD liveth, the man that hath done this thing shall surely die:

6 And he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity.

7a And Nathan said to David, Thou art the man.

.....
13 And David said unto Nathan, I have sinned against the LORD. And Nathan said unto David, The LORD also hath put away thy sin; thou shalt not die.

14 Howbeit, because by this deed thou hast given great occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme, the child also that is born unto thee shall surely die.

15 And Nathan departed unto his house. And the LORD struck the child that Uriah's wife bare unto David, and it was very sick.

THE OBJECT IN VIEW:

Teach that doing what is right can be hard but that God wants to use our obedience to help others.

TRUTHS TO STRESS:

1. Even people who love God can sometimes do wrong things.
2. Because Nathan was brave and obeyed God, the king saw he had done wrong and asked God's forgiveness.
3. When we know we have done wrong, the Lord wants us to tell Him so and ask Him to forgive us.

PLANNING LESSON AIDS:

For Telling the Lesson, find pictures for Bathsheba, Uriah, Nathan, and David (or a crown).

For Helping to Remember, for each student take a 12-by-3-inch strip of yellow paper, crayons, safety scissors, paste and glitter. Have a stapler (for the teacher).

For Lesson Activity, make a copy of the Word Search for each student.

LESSON BACKGROUND:

Time: about 990 B.C.

Place: Jerusalem

The background to this week's lesson takes place in 2 Samuel 11. This chapter describes how King David and his soldiers were at war with another country. While the soldiers were fighting, David stayed behind in Jerusalem. One day, he went for a walk on the roof of the palace and saw a very pretty woman. This woman was named Bathsheba, but she was married to another man, Uriah.

David did not care that Bathsheba was married to someone else; he wanted her to be *his* wife even though he had many other wives (which was allowed during that time). So David forgot about pleasing God and doing the right thing. He had Uriah sent to a very dangerous place where the soldiers were fighting. David knew that Uriah would be killed, but he sent him there anyway and then later married Bathsheba.

David had done wrong, but he was the king. Most people would be afraid to confront the king, but the prophet Nathan knew that someone had to show David that he had done wrong. Though David was a king and a man of war, Nathan was brave enough to tell him he had sinned. The story of the poor man and rich man in this week's lesson is how Nathan got King David to see that he had done wrong.

TEACHER'S NOTES:

When you looked at this week's lesson material, was your first thought, *How am I going to teach this to young children?* Well, there is no need to teach the details of David's sin. Instead, focus on Nathan's obedience and on David's response.

Young children can learn from Nathan. God can help people do very brave things. The prophet took his life in his hands when the Lord sent him to confront a king.

Young children can learn from David too. Even those who truly love God can make bad choices.

They can learn something else. The Lord used Nathan to help David. He may use people to let us know where we have gone wrong so that we, like David, may confess, receive cleansing, thank Him for His kind forgiveness, and not do the thing again. That is something young children can understand.

BEGINNING THE LESSON:

Have you noticed how many kings are in Bible stories? Some were bad kings, like the one who wanted to kill all the baby boys in Egypt. David was one of the good kings. He loved his people, and he loved God. But even people who love God can do very wrong things if they are not careful. One day David was not careful.

TELLING THE LESSON:

David was a soldier king. (Show David or a crown.) His soldiers were at war, and he sent them to attack an enemy city. Off they went to do what the king ordered while David waited back in the palace in Jerusalem.

One night he could not sleep, so he went up to walk around on the flat roof of his house. Now, David's house was built on a high place. He could look down into other people's yards. He saw a pretty woman in one yard. (Show Bathsheba.) He did not know who she was, but he liked her.

"That is Bathsheba. She is Uriah's wife," somebody told him. Uriah was one of David's best soldiers. (Show Uriah.) He was away, fighting in the war. Now David forgot all about God. (Show David or a crown.) He forgot all about doing what was right. Bathsheba was Uriah's wife, but David wanted her for himself. He sent some servants to bring her to him.

Of course, David was the king. (Show David or a crown.) You have to do what the king says, so Bathsheba came to the palace. Uriah did not know because he was out with the other soldiers, but God knew. What David was doing was wrong, very wrong. Bathsheba was married to Uriah. (Show Bathsheba.) David was taking her into his house as though she were married to him.

After a while Bathsheba went back home, but before long she sent some news to David. There would be a baby, and David knew it would be his baby. How could he keep Uriah from finding out? David tried a bad plan to get Uriah to think it was his baby, but when that did not work he decided that he had to have Uriah killed. He sent a letter to the general. It said, "Put Uriah in the most dangerous place. Let the enemy kill him."

The enemy soldiers did kill Uriah. Now Bathsheba could be King David's wife. What a sad and wrong thing to do! Remember, David did love God, but even people who love God can do very wrong things. David made a big mistake when he began thinking just of what *he* wanted and forgot about what God wanted.

Of course, what David did made the Lord very unhappy. He told His prophet Nathan to tell the king that what he had done was wrong. (Show Nathan.)

Well, if what King David did was wrong, what the Lord told Nathan to do was hard. You do not just go to a king and say, "Your majesty, you have done something very bad." Nathan was surely afraid, but God said, "Do it," and Nathan did. He went to the king.

"The Lord made you king and gave you many things," Nathan said, "but you took Uriah's wife for yourself. Then you killed Uriah by putting him where enemy soldiers would do it." David knew Nathan was right. He said, "I *have* sinned. What I did was wrong." We know he really meant what he said too, for the next thing Nathan told him was, "The Lord has taken away your sin."

Was there *anything* to be happy about in this sad story? Yes, God sent Nathan to help David know he had done wrong. That was good. Nathan obeyed, even though what he had to do was hard. That was good. King David saw how wrong he had been. He asked the Lord to wash away his sin. That was good. God did forgive David, and that was good.

TELLING HOW TO LIVE:

When you know you have done something wrong, be sure you do what David did. Tell God you were wrong. Ask Him to forgive you. Then be careful not to do that thing again.

HELPING TO REMEMBER:

To make miniature crowns, have the children cut a zigzag pattern along one side of their paper strips and add crayoned jewels. After they apply smears of paste and sprinkle on glitter, staple the ends together.

EXPLAINING THE MEMORY VERSE:

"Nathan said to David, Thou art the man" (1 Sam. 12:7)

Instead of "thou art" we would just say "you are." God's man Nathan was bravely telling King David that he, the king, was the rich man in the story who had done something very wrong to the poor man (Uriah).

CONCLUSION:

Even people who love God can make mistakes and do the wrong things. King David was an example of this. He loved and tried to please God, but he did make mistakes and sinned. But God, in His goodness, sent a prophet or a messenger to show David his

wrongdoings so that he could repent.

The Prophet Nathan bravely confronted King David about Bathsheba and Uriah, and God used Nathan's commitment to bring about David's confession and restoration. There were, no doubt, many other things that Nathan would have wanted to do than confront the king about his sin. Nathan's focus and commitment, however, was on doing the right thing, not the easy thing.

Nathan did what he was led to do by God, and the result was the repentance of the king!

PRAYER:

Father God, we thank You for Your love and mercy toward us. Forgive us of our sins. Help us to do right and to help others do right. In Jesus' name, amen.

ANTICIPATING NEXT WEEK'S LESSON:

Next week's lesson is "**Courage to Do Right**" and focuses on how God used Queen Esther's courage and obedience to save His people. Study Esther 4:1 - 5:14.

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The KJV Parallel Bible Commentary, by Nelson Books.

LESSON ACTIVITY

“Scolding a King”

(2 Samuel 12:1-7a, 13-15)

Find each of these keywords from the lesson:

SCOLD

KING

REPENT

SINNED

DAVID

BATHSHEBA

NATHAN

POOR

SOLDIERS

URIAH

RICH

WAR

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Solution to Lesson Activity for "Scolding a King" (2 Samuel 12:1-7a, 13-15)

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