

Week Four: Snowballing Sin**June 1 - 7, 2008**

Our God is gracious and often gives us many opportunities to change our direction and avoid falling into sin, yet how often do we not take advantage of them? Is one sin just one sin? Are the consequences of any one sin so minimal that we can just dismiss it as if it never happened? Sometimes we have numerous options along the way where we can alter our course from a path that is leading us deeper and deeper into sin. In this study we will discover how one sin can have a ripple effect leading to other sinful choices, possibly drawing others into this "web" with devastating consequences.

If you wish to receive The Vine via e-mail each week you may register online at www.kentwoodcommunitychurch.com/thevine by following the directions listed there. If you have any questions or comments on The Vine, please let us know at thevine@kcconline.org.

*First Encounter***Read 1 Samuel 11:1-5**

List the things that David did, or failed to do, that led to Bathsheba's pregnancy. Where was David as this all started? Where should he have been?

How many steps can you identify where David had an opportunity to stop his progression of sinful choices?

During these events, what do you think was David's perspective of God's laws?

How many people has David already drawn into this? How many people has he already hurt?

Prayer Reflection: Is there a sin in your life that started seemingly small and is now rolling out of control? Give this to the Lord. Pray for forgiveness. Pray for specific action steps that will help you to stop the momentum this sin may have in your life. Today, this day, take those action steps. Tell a friend to hold you accountable.

Second Encounter

Read 2 Samuel 11:6-17

What steps did David take after he found out Bathsheba was pregnant?

Why does Uriah act as he does when he comes home from battle? What was Uriah's perspective during his leave from the front?

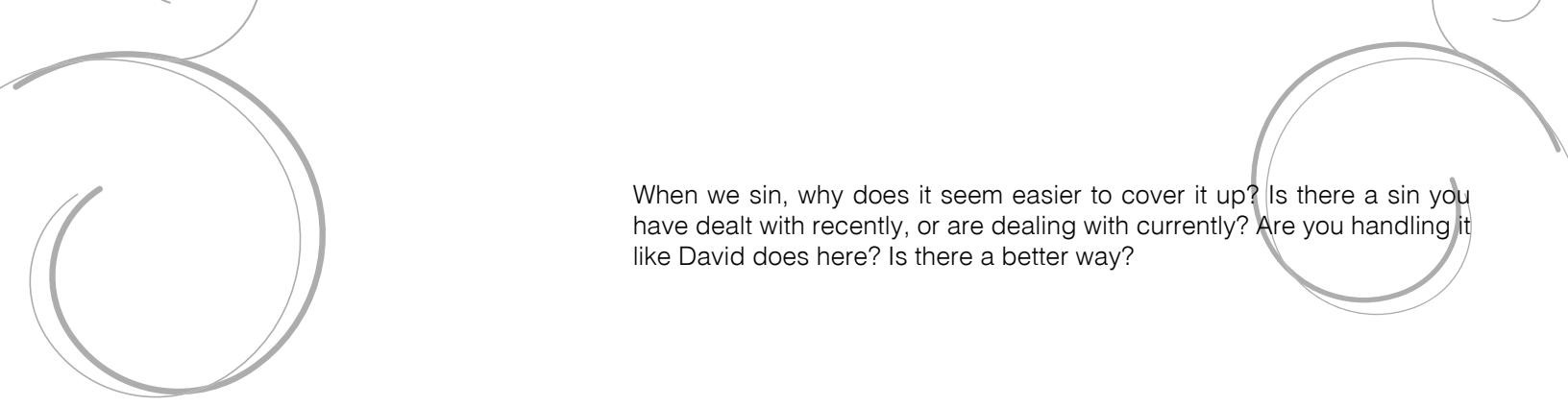
What did David hope to accomplish in his dealings with Uriah? Compare Uriah's attitude to David's.

What do you think David should have done when he found out Bathsheba was pregnant?

The Success of David

David was made King of Israel after the battlefield death of Saul and the murder of Abner (if you wish to read this story, look at 1 Samuel 24 to 31). While King of Israel, David accomplished quite a bit in terms of uniting the nation under his God-ordained rule. He rose to great popularity on a wave of success, especially his military campaigns. He also returned the Ark of the Covenant to the City of David (Jerusalem), bringing to the center of the Israelite nation the dwelling place of God that was established when Moses led the Israelites in the desert. By all appearances, anything David chose to do was blessed by God.





When we sin, why does it seem easier to cover it up? Is there a sin you have dealt with recently, or are dealing with currently? Are you handling it like David does here? Is there a better way?

Prayer Reflection: Pray that you will handle sin with clear repentance and remorse. Pray for a trusted friend with whom to share this.

Third Encounter

Read 2 Samuel 11:14-25

How did David solve his problem with Uriah? What other people became involved or were affected by David's plan?

Can you recall a situation where you were affected by someone else's bad choices? Can you remember a situation where others could not avoid the effects of your choices?

What did Joab do to follow up the successful completion of David's plan regarding Uriah? How should David have responded to the poor battle report? What was David's reaction?

How do you think David justified this to himself? In what ways can our actions be justified in the view of men? In what ways can our actions be justified in the view of God?

Prayer Reflection: Pray that you will see every situation as the Lord sees it.



Fourth Encounter

Read 2 Samuel 11:26-27

What was Bathsheba's response to Uriah's death? What did David do after Uriah was killed?

Do you think the matter of David's sin with Bathsheba was closed? What are the "loose ends" remaining as a result of David's actions?

What was "the thing", or things that David did that displeased the Lord? With what do you think he was most displeased?

Can you think of a poor (sinful) choice that you made that you were able to successfully cover over or dismiss in the eyes of men? If so, was that the end of the matter? Were you completely at ease with your actions? What should your response have been?

Prayer Reflection: Pray through Psalm 51. David wrote this psalm after 2 Samuel 12 which we will dig into next time.





Small Group Guide



NOTE: This is a guide. The following questions are designed for you to choose the ones that best apply to your group. Feel free to add to these questions or reword them as you prayerfully prepare for your small group.

1. Read 2 Samuel 11. How did David get himself into this mess? How many mistakes does he make?
2. It doesn't say much about Bathsheba, but what do we learn about her from this passage?
3. How should Uriah's actions be doubly convicting for David? What does this say about Uriah's character?
4. How responsible is Joab in all of this?
5. Appropriately discuss a situation where you ignored God's law, thinking it was no big deal at the time. Discuss how these choices led you to other poor choices. Have a time of prayer and repentance where fitting.
6. Read or pray through Psalm 51. How is this an appropriate prayer for David?

Written by The Vine Team.
Email thevine@kcconline.org
with comments or questions.
We would love to hear what
you think about it. We are also
looking for people willing to
help create The Vine. If this
interests you, let us know.

