



2 SAMUEL
CHAPTERS 8-12

In Term 4 we will be looking at events in the reign of King David. Our main focus on Sundays and in Growth groups will be 2 Samuel chapters 8-12.

The Old Testament material featuring David runs from 1 Samuel 16 to 1 Kings 2. Scholars date David's reign in Israel from 1010-970 BC.

In 2022, the Groups looked closely at 2 Samuel chapters 1-7. Chapter 7 is an Agenda setter for not only David's reign, but also the rest of the Old Testament, and the Gospels. God promised to establish the throne/kingdom of a son of David, forever. So Study 1 includes a revisit of that chapter.

We read and respond to chapters 8-12 knowing that amongst the Good, the Bad & the Ugly...there is a much greater King and kingdom to come.

Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David.

This is my gospel... (2 Timothy 2:8)

David as King is a forerunner of Jesus as King. Keep that in mind as you read 2 Samuel. With Old Testament stories it can be easy to make the mistake of identifying with one of the characters and draw applications as if we are in their sandals. However, with 2 Samuel that approach is likely to lead you astray. Most of the time, as a Christian, you will need to compare how Jesus has handled a similar situation to David. And the application will lie around how we respond to our King Jesus, not his flawed forbear David. The exception to this general approach will become apparent in chapter 11 when we witness the terrible sin that stems from David's lingering, lustful look at Bathsheeba. There is nothing Kingly about him. In chapter 11, we observe the man of God turning his back on God. Unfortunately we will be able to compare our own temptation to wilfully turn from God, there.

Each study contains three types of questions:

O = Observation questions (or exercises) to help group members look closely at the text.

I = Interpretation questions to help the group discuss the implications of the text. Some of these will also lead to seeing Jesus, David's greater son.

A = Application questions to prompt each member toward applying the truths of the text to church and personal life.

This is how 2 Samuel 8-12 has been broken up to form 6 studies. I hope that by Study 6 you will also see why the insertion of Psalm 51 is very appropriate.

Study 1 – 2 Samuel 8

Study 2 – 2 Samuel 9

Study 3 – 2 Samuel 10

Study 4 – 2 Samuel 11

Study 5 – 2 Samuel 12:1-13

Study 6 – Psalm 51

Study 7 – 2 Samuel 12:14-31

I have enjoyed the insights into the text, and it's application for how we live this side of the death and resurrection of Jesus, provided by Dr John Woodhouse in his commentary "2 Samuel: Your Kingdom Come" (Crossway, 2015). To aid your reading of 2 Samuel...I thought it might be useful to provide the chapter titles selected by John Woodhouse for the relevant chapters of our Growth Group studies.

8:1-6 'I will make the nations your heritage.'

8:7-18 A Kingdom of justice and righteousness

9:1-13 The Kindness of the King

10:1-19 Those who Despise the Kindness of the King

11:1-5 The Disaster

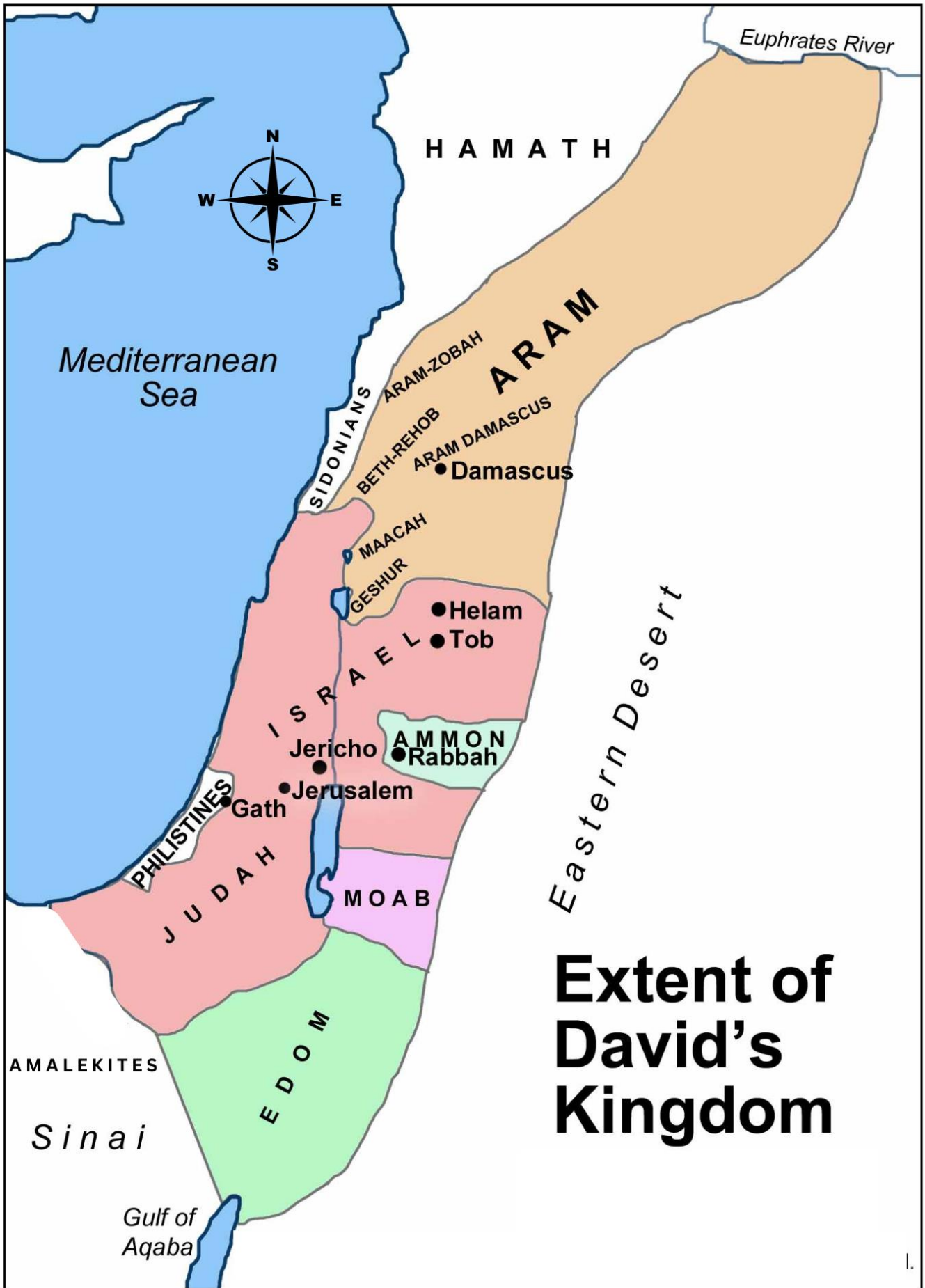
11:6-13 The Deceitful Heart

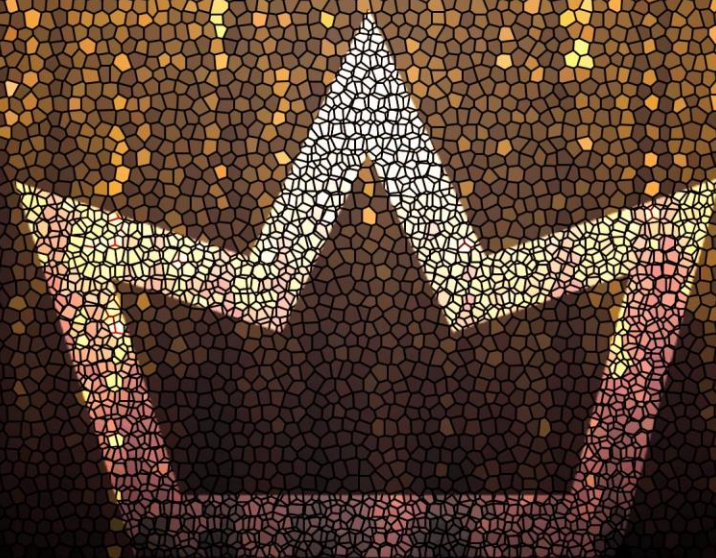
11:14-27 The Murderer

12:1-15 Shattered by the Word of God

12:16-31 Restoration

Terry Bowers (October 2023)





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STUDY 1 – 2 Samuel 8

A. David's Story So Far

Spend a **little** time familiarizing yourself with the background to 2 Samuel chapter 8, by completing the table below.

Passage	Event in David's life	Significance
1 Samuel 16:1, 11-13		
1 Samuel 17:8, 34-37, 45-47		
2 Samuel 5:1-5		
2 Samuel 7:4-5, 8-11a		
2 Samuel 7:11b-17		

B. Read 2 Samuel 8:1-14

Q1. (O) Using a map try and find the regions/people groups mentioned in 8:1-12, and note them in the correct compass position in relation to Israel:

North -

South -

East -

West -

Q2. (O) List the repeated words and phrases of vv1-14.

Q3. (I) Considering your observations from Q1&Q2...what is being signalled about David's Kingdom? (cf. consider the 2 Sam 7:11 promise)

Q4. (I) David is God's King. For God's people, why is defeat of the enemies necessary?

Read 2 Samuel 8:15-18

Q5. (I) Accompanying all the military success, why is v15 an important trait of God's king?

Q6. (I) How is Jesus Christ connected to King David? Matthew 1:1, Romans 1:1-4

Q7. (I) How has God's King Jesus, already had a victory? Acts 2:22-24, 29-33

Why is the victory still to come, necessary? 2 Thess 1:5-10, Phill 2:9-11

Q8. (A) How can you ensure you continue living under the rule of God's King?

Q9. (A) Pause and praise God's King, Jesus, together.

Only if time allows...

"Something is rotten in the state of Denmark" (Marcellus in 'Hamlet', William Shakespeare)

Notice: 8:4 David retains 100 horses amongst the plunder of military victory

(See on Israel having horses: Deuteronomy 17:14-17)

8:18 'and David's sons were priests'

(See on leader's sons who were priests: 1 Samuel 2:12-17, 1 Samuel 8:1-3, 5)

Could the narrator be dropping hints that all that glitters is not gold?



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STUDY 2 – 2 Samuel 9

A. Background to 2 Samuel 9

Q1. (O) Recap 2 Samuel 8:15. What marks David's reign?

- a. for his people?
- b. for his enemies?

Q2. (O) Spend a **little** time familiarising yourself with the relationship between David and Jonathan, by completing the table below.

Passage	Event in David's life	Significance
1 Samuel 19:1-10		
1 Samuel 20:1- 17		
1 Samuel 31:1-6		
2 Samuel 1:11-12, 17-27		

Read 2 Samuel 9:1-13

9:1-5

Q3. (O) What motivation of David initiates this chapter?

Q4. (I) What insight into David's understanding of his role is suggested by his reference to God in v3?

9:6-13

Q5. (O) Read 4:4 for a little background to Mephibosheth.

Q6. (O) Describe how Mephibosheth relates to David:

(i) v6

(ii) v8

Q7. (I) How are each of the postures/words in v6 & v8 appropriate toward David?

Q8. (O) How does David show kindness to Mephibosheth?

Q9. (I) Consider 2 Samuel 2:8-13, 30-3:1. Given who Mephibosheth is, why is David's 'don't be afraid' necessary? What other treatment might Mephibosheth have been expecting?

Q10. (I) The word translated 'kindness' (NIV) in 2 Samuel 9 has been defined as "extraordinary acts of kindness, meeting an extreme need, outside the normal run of perceived duty, and arising from personal affection or pure goodness". (J.Woodhouse, p610 Footnote 5, 2 Samuel: Your Kingdom Come, Crossway 2015)

How is what King David does for Mephibosheth, 'kindness'?

What other Bible words come to mind when you read this definition?

Q11. (I) How has King Jesus shown kindness to his enemies?

Develop your answer from Romans 5:8, Colossians 1:21-23, 1 Timothy 1:15-17, Titus 3:3-6

Q12. (A) Mephibosheth's response to the King's kindness isn't provided.

Suggest appropriate responses to your King's kindness.

Q13. (A) How can you ensure such responses will characterise you, this week?

Commit your ideas and desires to God's help.



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STUDY 3 – 2 Samuel 10

The events narrated in chapter 10, almost certainly occurred before chapter 8:3-12. Chapter 10:15-19 is probably 8:3-6 from a different perspective. It is thought that the narrator has arranged the material in this order because chapters 10-12 are a new section in 2 Samuel. David's dealing with the Ammonites continues through to the end of chapter 12, and crucially, provides the setting for the pivotal events of chapter 11.

A. Background to 2 Samuel 10

Q1. (0) Recap 2 Samuel 9. What marks David's treatment of Mephibosheth?

Read 2 Samuel 10:1-19

Q2. (0) Two people groups feature in chapter 10: the Ammonites and the Arameans. The Ammonites recruit the Arameans to increase their military strength when they decide to challenge David and Israel. Reading the chapter can get a little confusing as the narration swaps between the two people groups. Summarise the chapter into the categories below:

Passage	Ammonites	Arameans
10:1-2		
10:3-5		
10:6		
10:8		
10:7, 9-10		
10:13-14		
10:15-18		
10:19		

Q3. (O) What motivation of David triggers the events of this chapter?

Q4. (I) What attitudes and beliefs seem to lie behind the Ammonite response to David's initiative? (Note a bit of the history between the two nations: Deuteronomy 23:3-6, Judges 3:13, 10:7-9,17,18, 1 Samuel 11:1-11)

Q5. (I) The Ammonite's insult to David's kind initiative need not have led to war. Instead of raising an army, what could the Ammonites have done? Cf. Romans 2:4.

Q6. (I) In vv9-12, what attitudes toward God does Joab, the commander of Israel's army, display?

Q7. (A) How is Joab an example to you, as one of God's people? Cf. Romans 8:28, 31-32.

Q8. (O) Hadadezer (v19) is the King of Zobah. We met him in 8:3. He seems to be a leader among the kings of the Aramean city states. How do the other Aramean kings respond to their defeat by David and Israel?

Q9. (I) Across the whole chapter, list the different responses to God's King David.

Q10. (A) What is the best response to God's King Jesus? God's 'kind' king.

Mark 1:14-15, Luke 24:45-47, Romans 2:4, 1 Thessalonians 1:8-10.

Q11. (A) Pray with each other concerning how your 'best response' will impact your behaviour this week.



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STUDY 4 – 2 Samuel 11

11:1 suggests that about 12 months have elapsed since the end of chapter 10. The Ammonite problem hasn't been decisively dealt with (10:14). That battlefield story is briefly narrated in 11:1. It is back in Jerusalem from v2 that the main action of chapter 11 occurs.

A. Background to 2 Samuel 11

Q1. (O) By the end of chapter 10 what impression of King David do you have?

Consider 8:15, 9:3, 10:2, 10:5, 10:19.

B. Read 2 Samuel 11:1-27

Q2. (O) Plot the steps in David's calamitous fall & his motivations at each step.

Passage	What David Did (O)	David's apparent motivation (I)
11:2-3		
11:4		
11:5-8		
11:9-13		
11:14-24		
11:25		
11:26-27		

Q3. (I) Consider the actions and words of Uriah the Hittite. How is he more noble than King David? What are Uriah's motivations?

Q4. (I) Consider the actions and words of commander Joab. Joab recognised the flaws in David's hastily devised plan. The other soldiers would know they were ordered to suddenly leave Uriah exposed amongst the fiercest enemy fighters. For a conspiracy that needs to remain concealed, how does Joab improve on David's plan?

Q5. (I) Consider the actions of Bathsheba (v2, v4-5, 26-27). In what ways is she a victim of David's abuse of power?

Q6. (I) If David had been a member of God's new covenant people, how might these scriptures have guided his choices:

Proverbs 3:5-8

1 Corinthians 6:18

1 Corinthians 10:11-13

James 1:14-15

Q7. (A) When chapter 11 ends ominously in v27, it is the first time the Lord has been mentioned ('But the thing David had done displeased the Lord.' NIV). Unlike David, when we are tempted by sin, what would we do well to consider?

Ecclesiastes 12:14

Romans 14:10-12

Q8. (I) How does Jeremiah 17:9 speak to David's actions in chapter 11?

Q9. (A) Given Jeremiah 17:9, how might we protect ourselves from a similar fall, be it by sexual sin or otherwise?

Q10. (I) Remind yourself of 2 Samuel 7:12, 16. After chapter 11, we are left wondering how this promise can ever come true. How do the following scriptures provide the answer?

Matthew 1:1&6 2 Timothy 2:8 Hebrews 4:15

Q11. (A) Let Hebrews 4:14-16 inspire a prayer of both thanksgiving and request.



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STUDY 5 – 2 Samuel 12:1-13

11:27 suggests that when 2 Samuel chapter 12 opens, it is a year (or almost) since Uriah's murder. David is probably thinking he has successfully covered up his sin.

A. Background to 2 Samuel 12

Q1. (O) Compare David's self delusion (11:25) with the Lord God's clear view (11:27).

Q2. (O) The Lord sends Nathan to David in 12:1. When was the last time Nathan went to David? What momentous message did he convey on that occasion?

B. Read 2 Samuel 12

Q3. (O) Compare the two men in Nathan's story & complete the table below.

Passage	Rich man	Poor man
12:2-3		
12:4		

Q4. (I) By bringing this apparently true case to David, Nathan has led David to assume the role the King has to act as Judge, and 'doing what was just and right for all his people' (8:15). How is David's verdict on the one hand 'just', and on the other 'unbalanced'? See Exodus 22:1.

Q5. (I) How has Nathan set David up for a shattering word from God?

Q6. (O) From v7b-8, list the benefits the Lord 'gave' (or similar language) to David.

Q7. (I) David is guilty of two things in relation to the Lord. What are they:

a. vv7b-8 -

b. vv9-10 (notice that Nathan begins with the heart problem not the crime) -

Q8. (A) When it comes to obedience or trust, how might we 'despise' the Lord?

Q9. (O) What is the punishment imposed on David? Vv11-12. Compare 'took' and 'take'. Note that 'the one who is close to you' will turn out to be David's son Absalom (16:21-22).

Q10. (O) What is David's long overdue realisation? What penalty had David unwittingly pronounced on himself (12:5)? What is the Lord's astounding response (cf. 7:15)?

Q11. (I) How is the Lord's pronouncement in v13b possible? Do you feel it is right?

Q12. (A) When have you ever eagerly accepted grace for yourself, but struggled with it being extended to someone else? How can you help yourself at such times? (cf. Matthew 20:8-16, 1 Timothy 1:12-17)

Q13. (A) Let Ephesians 2:1-10 inspire a prayer of thanksgiving for God's amazing grace.



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Study 6 (2 Samuel 8-12)- Psalm 51

A. Background to Psalm 51

Q1. (O) How does the Direction for the music leader help you as you prepare to read Psalm 51?

Q2. (I) As you switch from the narratives of 2 Samuel to the poetry of Psalm 51, what things about the two types of literature might it be good to bear in mind?

B. Read Psalm 51

Q3. (O) Re-read the Psalm and complete the table.

Verse	David's Plea	Something about God's character that David relies on
v1		
v1		
v2		
v2		
v7		
v7		
v8		
v9		
v9		
v10		
v11		
v12		
v14		
v15		
	<i>Cf. on hyssop v7 - Num 19:17-19</i>	

Q4. (I) Review the table. What truths about David himself and about God are vital to a healthy relationship between them?

Q5. (I) In Samuel 11 we were appalled by David's actions against Bathsheeba and Uriah. How then do you explain the opening of v4? (cf Gen 4:6a-9)

Q6. (I) Verses 10-12 once formed the lyrics of a popular Christian song. Being an Old Testament King, why might David have a very real fear that the Holy Spirit might be removed from him, v11? Cf. 1 Samuel 16:13-14.

(I) Why do Christians, living after the Day of Pentecost, not have this fear? Cf. Ephesians 1:13-14, Romans 8:12-16.

(A) In what areas of your life do you need joy & a steadfast, willing obedient spirit?

Q7. (I) In vv13-15, what response to God's favour does David vow? (A) How might he be an example to you?

Q8. (I) Consider vv16-19. Why having said that God's doesn't enjoy animal sacrifices, does David conclude the Psalm by saying God will delight in them? Cf. Hosea 6:4-7 & Psalm 51:17.

Q9. (I) Consider Psalm51 and also Psalm 32. What do we learn about the necessity and benefits of confessing our sins?

Q10. (I) How does the New Testament understanding, summarised by 1 John 1:5-2:2, encourage us to be people who Confess our sins?

Q11. (A) Using some of the phrases you listed in Q3 & from 1 John 1:5-2:2, construct a short confession prayer. Why not use it now or at home?



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STUDY 7 – 2 Samuel 12:14-31

A. Background to 2 Samuel 12:14ff

Q1. (O) Revisit 2 Samuel 12:10-14. List instances of God's judgement and God's grace.

Q2. (I) How has David shown contempt for the Lord? How does the death of the child, judge and rebuke that attitude?

B. Read 2 Samuel 12:14-23

Q3. (O) In vv15-21 David behaves in the reverse way to what is normal custom for mourners (eg. 1 Sam 31:13, 2 Sam 1:11-12). List what he does.

Q4. (I) What is David's aim, vv22-23? How is the David in chapter 12, different to the David of chapter 11? How might the experience of grace in v13, be inspiring David's behaviour?

Q5. (A) What might David's example & experience teach us about prayer?

Q6. Read 2 Samuel 12:24-31. Nathan reassured David that 'The Lord has taken away your sin. You are not going to die.' (v13). Note the ways in which the Lord now blesses David.

Passage	Blessing(s)
12:24-25	
12:26-31	

Q7. (I) Does the birth of Solomon mean David benefitted from his wrongdoing?

Q8. (I) 'Jedidiah' means 'loved by the Lord.' How does God's sending of the prophet Nathan, with a baby name, confirm God's approval of the marriage to Bathsheeba? What is it about God's character that means it is consistent for Him to do that?

Q9. (A) What things about God and yourself does the grace of God teach you?

Maybe consider Colossians 1:13-14, 19-20, 2:13-14, 3:13; Titus 2:11-14

Q10. (A) Turn the thoughts of Q9 into prayers.