

Small Group Material - David 4
David: coming through failure
2 Samuel 11.1-17, 2 Samuel 11.26-12.14

Short zooms can use the first two questions in section one and all of section two (first two questions help to give context and they are quick scene setters!) All in italics as usual. Or use the reflection suggestion in the email.

Welcome: (10 mins) Can you think of a time where you have learnt from a mistake or failure in some way?

Worship: (10 mins) sing or listen to Amazing Grace
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jbe7OruLk8I>

Word: 2 Samuel 11: 1-17 and 2 Samuel 11:26-12:14

20 minutes: *Read the passage and then identify the key moments where things went wrong for David (specifically verses 1-4, 8 and 13-17).*

How did sin lead to sin for David? (short zoomers move to passage 2 after this question)

Were there points where he could have repented and prevented disaster? Why didn't he?

How easily do we recognise when we are living in sin and repent? What makes it so difficult?

Look at verse 25 – are you surprised at how flippant David is about Uriah's death? What does this tell us about the state of his heart and mind, or even his relationship with God, at that time? How can we become desensitized to our own sin?

David was alone in Jerusalem, how easy is it to sin when others are present and watching? What can we learn from this about the value of Christian friendship and accountability?

20 minutes: the second passage (2 Sam 11:26 -12:14)

As a reader we can see how obvious it is that Nathan is drawing a parallel to David in verse 1-4 . Why couldn't David see this?

V5-6 – does David's reaction surprise you? Why is righteousness (in this sense) and condemning others something to be wary of?

How do we sense God persevering with and shaping David in this prophecy from Nathan? What could God have done when David's actions displeased him? Why do you think he didn't take away David's kingship?

How do we think David might have felt having to confront his sin so acutely?

How do we see God being both righteous and forgiving in this passage?

What do we learn about God's grace? How might this encourage us?

Reflection: coming through failure is hard, especially when it involves seeking forgiveness from others and forgiving ourselves. Take time to reflect on the way David came through his failings, faced up to his sin and turned to God. Is there ways we can apply this in our own lives? Read Psalm 32 together either together or quietly alone. If you have time you could pray into this.

Witness: (15 mins)

Pray for our mission partner Great Lakes Outreach, Burundi. Pray specially for:

Young people – that they wouldn't be caught up in violence.

For the GLO leaders and projects – specifically for Grace and Onephore running the Burundi office. For the network of people working to transform the nation.

For the media – for a voice of peace and calm. For the work of GLO partner Heritage TV which broadcasts good quality Christian programmes to reach thousands of households.

Continue to pray for vaccination roll out here and across the country and world. Pray for the government as they plan their announcements regarding next steps after lockdown on 22nd February.