



## BIG STORIES OF THE BIBLE 28

### DAVID AND NATHAN (2 SAMUEL 12)

**Scripture:** 2 Samuel 12:1-14, Psalm 51:1-12

**Open:** Greet, Praises, Requests, Pray

**Supplies:** Target, paper for making paper airplanes

#### Ask:

- Can anyone remember any of the obstacles that David faced while on the run? (Spears, Goliath, battles, cave of Adullam)
- Why was Saul trying to kill David? (Jealousy)
- Did David repay back evil for evil? (No, he spared Saul's life)

#### Explain:

David seems like a really good guy, doesn't he?

Well, after 13 years on the run, he finally became king. He defeated many enemies, and all was going well. David is often called a man after God's own heart, which is a pretty incredible compliment. But it doesn't mean David was perfect. Today, we're going to talk about how David sinned and how he was rebuked.

#### Summarize:

David was supposed to be out at war, but he decided to stay at home. While there, he saw a woman and wanted to make her his wife. The problem was, she was married. And she was married to one of his best warriors and friends. But David made several poor choices and eventually decided to let Uriah the Hittite (the woman's husband) be killed in battle. He ordered to put Uriah where the fighting was fiercest and then to have all the army pull back, leaving him alone, where he was killed in battle. Then, he took the woman, Bathsheba, to be his wife.

God was not pleased with this. If you remember our ten finger commandments, number six is not to murder and number seven is when you're married, you shouldn't be looking at anyone else. So God sends a prophet named Nathan to tell David of the wrong he has done.

**Read:** 2 Samuel 12:1-14

**Explain:**

If you have access to the VeggieTales video of King George and the Ducky, the song by Pa Grape covering this story is quite good. Rather than a wife, King George takes a rubber ducky that doesn't belong to him.

**Apply:**

David did evil in the eyes of the Lord and that caused a horrible consequence for him and his new wife. It also caused strife throughout his family for the rest of his life. But notice how David repented and asked God for forgiveness, and God forgave him. Even though he broke two of the ten commandments (and likely a third commandment because he probably lied), God still forgave him when he asked.

We will make lots of mistakes in our life. Thankfully, we serve a God who forgives us. It doesn't mean we won't face consequences for our actions-- David faced consequences the rest of his life. But it does mean that we can come before God, confess our sins, and trust that he is faithful to forgive us. Maybe we don't have a prophet like Nathan come to us and tell us a story of our sin. Maybe we just have a bad feeling in our stomachs. Or a nagging thought that says, "I shouldn't have done that."

So what do we do in those situations?

- How do we ask God to forgive us?
- How do we ask others to forgive us?
- Is that hard or scary?
- How do you feel when someone apologizes to you after they've done wrong?

**Play a Game:**

Have the kids create paper airplanes and write down good things they have done in life on the airplanes.

Next, have them throw them at a target (standing far enough away that they all miss).

**Explain:**

One definition of sin is “missing the mark of perfection.” Our good works can’t get us to God. We always fall short and land in a valley of sin. We mess up. Maybe we don’t kill anyone like David did (I hope not), but we still make mistakes and miss the target.

But that is why God sent Jesus. Every sin should cause us to die. The punishment for sin and missing the target is death. We’ve all sinned so we all deserve death and eternal separation from God. But the whole point of Christmas and Easter is this: God sent his only son into this world so that he could die in our place. When Jesus walked the earth, he never sinned– he didn’t miss the target–yet he died on the cross. He took our sin upon himself, and died for us. Then, he rose from the dead, showing that his love and power is stronger than the power of death. Because he died and rose again, we no longer need to face eternal punishment and eternal separation from God. Instead, if we confess our sins (like David did), repent (which means to change our hearts, minds, and actions), God forgives us and we no longer have to face an eternal death, but get an eternal life with Jesus.

**Play Again:**

This time, have the kids throw the airplane, but have the teacher catch it and carry it to the target.

**Explain:**

Jesus is the only way to hit the target. Only by relying on him, can we be made right with God. Then, in the same way Jesus rose from the dead, we will also rise to be with him in heaven after we die, if we give our lives to him as our Lord and Master. That is the good news of Jesus. That is why we celebrate Christmas. Because Jesus came and died for us so that we can live. Maybe you’ve never decided to give your life to Jesus. Maybe you feel the weight of all the things you’ve done wrong. Maybe you want to ask for forgiveness but you don’t know how. I’m not going to ask for a show of hands. And there is no perfect prayer to pray or special word to say. It’s simply a matter of your heart. If you realize that you have sinned in your life and want God to forgive you, you simply decide and ask. There is nothing you can do to make yourself right with God on your own. You need Jesus to do that for you. And then you need his help every day to live for him. I still fail. Ms. Danielle still fails. But each time we do, we ask God to forgive us and turn us back to him. David did this too. He even wrote a prayer/song about it. I’m going to read it and then we are going to take some time in prayer. If God brings a sin to your heart, ask him to forgive you. Ask him to help you.

**Continued:**

Then, remember that when we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us of our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. It says in Isaiah 1:18 Come now, let us settle the matter," says the Lord. "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool.

**Pray:**

This was a Psalm David wrote after his mistake. Let's listen and spend time in prayer.

Explain that if they have talked to Jesus about their sins and decided they want to live their life for him, to tell someone. Either tell a teacher or a parent or somebody, so they can help you with what to do next.

**Read:** Psalm 51:1-12

**Comic Book Bibles:**

Have the kids draw the story of David, Bathsheba, and Nathan. Save it to add to their Comic Book Bibles.

**Memorize:** Psalm 51:1-2

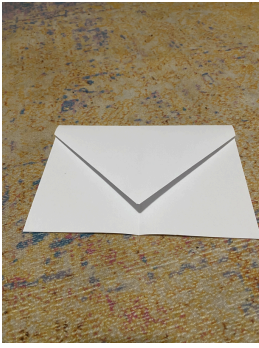
**Close in Prayer**



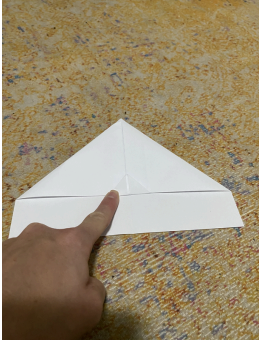
1. Fold the paper in half



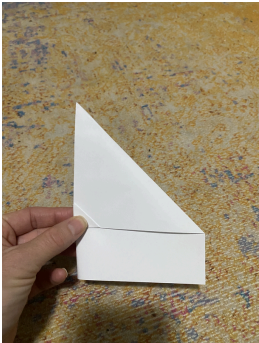
2. Open the paper and fold the top corners down to the center line



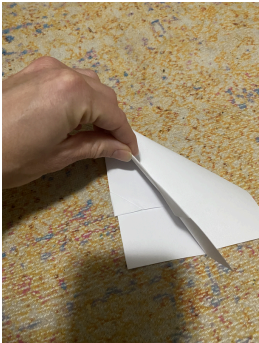
3. Fold the top half down, but not all the way to the bottom of the paper.



4. Fold the corners into the middle and fold the center flap up over the corners you just folded down.



5. Reverse your center fold. (The place where my finger was in 4 will fold back, leaving the center flap visible)



6. Fold your wings down to the center crease.