

THE YEAR OF THE BIBLE



Loyalty

Icebreaker: What is your favorite flavor of Ice Cream?

Loyalty defined: Merriam Webster: Unswerving in allegiance, faithful, steadfast, true, obedient

David's life may be reviewed in two seasons, Pre Bathsheba and Post Bathsheba.

Read Together: 2 Samuel 11:1-2 (NKJV)

Discuss:

- Each of us has Free Will as a gift from God.
 - Why do you think this gift from God could be frightening?
 - How have you used your free will in a life-giving way?
 - How have you used your free will in a way that wasn't life-giving?

- Free Will Choices have consequences:
 - The consequences of David's free will choice were devastating.
 - Name some of the consequences David faced.

Read Together: 2 Samuel 11:3-4 (NKJV), 2 Samuel 11:5 (NKJV)

Discuss:

- Sometimes we look at the devastating choices David made and gloss over the reality of what happened. David may have committed Rape. What penalty would you wish for that sin?
 - David and Bathsheba had a child out of wedlock. What happened to that child?

Read Together: 2 Samuel 11:6-13 (NKJV), 2 Samuel 11:14-15 (NKJV), 2 Samuel 11:16-18, 22- (NKJV), 2 Samuel 11:26-27 (NKJV)

Discuss:

- **Deceit, Conspiracy, Murder, Cover-up**

- In this account. how many actions were driven by Deceit?
- Have you ever used deceit to cover up a sin?
- Have you ever conspired to try to make something right without repenting?
- Describe your aggravation level at the fact that Urriah the Hittite did not go home to lay with Bathsheba when David sent him. Would you have done the same thing?

Read Together: 2 Samuel 12:1-6 (ESV), 2 Samuel 12:7-12 (ESV), 2 Samuel 12:13-14 (ESV)

Discuss:

- The greater the influence we have in people's lives, the higher the standards of right actions are required of us. What are some ways you know this statement to be true?
- Nathan called David out by using a parable. How do you think you would have responded?

Read Together: 1 Samuel 16:7 (ESV), Psalm 51:1-19 (ESV)

This is what Loyalty looks like:

- This is what makes David a "man after God's own heart".
- (Psalm 51) This Psalm and David's humble response to his failure confirm David's standing as "a man after God's own heart." His actions were not as important as His response to God.
- What did David do?

Read Together: 2 Samuel 12:10-12 (ESV)

Discuss:

- **Despite repentance, David still lived through the consequences of His actions.**

- What are the consequences David faced?
- What are some of the lifelong conflicts David had?
- Who died that David would have mourned?
- Talk about some of the Family Trauma David faced?
- Discuss the Public Humiliation David faced?

Read Together: Psalm 23:4 (ESV) , Ephesians 2:8-9 (NKJV) , Exodus 34:14 (NKJV)

Discuss:

- Loyalty is what God is looking for from each of us.
- Our God is Jealous for us. Discuss the definitions of Envy and jealousy and identify a couple of areas where each is present in your life.

• • **Envy: a feeling of discontented or resentful longing aroused by someone else's possessions, qualities, or luck.**

• • **Jealousy: hostile toward a rival or one believed to enjoy an advantage, intolerant of rivalry or unfaithfulness.**

Pray together: Father, please help me to lead a life that is humble toward you. Give me a heart that seeks you when I mess up. Please show me how to walk in your ways. When I suffer the consequences of my own actions, please give me the grace to lean on your for the strength to stay close to you. I need you so deeply. Meet me in those depths and help me know you more closely!!
Thank you for wanting me!!
In the name of Jesus! Amen.