

Community Group Discussion Questions

“Four, three letter words” 2 Samuel 12 Aug 26/27

Getting Started

The essence of love is found in the character of God put on full display not only in His demonstration of sacrifice, but in the devotion in which His Love always confronts! The mission of God is to confront us ALL in the space where we think we can live without Him.

That space where we feel like we can live without Him is invaded by three simple words... “AND THE LORD”.

Share with us about a time the Lord invaded a private space in your heart and confronted you in love...

Going Deeper

- I. The Confrontation of Nathan: 2 Samuel 12: 1-4
 - A. Divine Intervention: “sent” (vs.1)
 - 1) Expose His Sin: Psalm 32:3: “When I kept silent...”
 - 2) Exchange His Sorrow: Psalm 32:5: “You forgave the iniquity of my sin”

READ Psalm 32:1-5.

What are the consequences of unacknowledged sin?

What are the advantages of confessing sin?

Would anyone like to share about a time when you went through this process and felt the freedom forgiveness brings?

- B. Direct Illustration: “he came to him and said to him” (v. 1)
 - 1) Connected to His Background: “flocks, herds, ewe lamb” (vs. 2-3)
 - 2) Connected to His Betrayal: “took the poor man’s lamb” (v. 4)

How many times have you seen a movie or heard a story about a situation that was something you were guilty of at that exact same time?

How did you hear the voice of God trying to talk to you in your sin and call you to repentance?

II. The Confession of David: 2 Samuel 12:5-13

- A. Revealed Vengeance: "David's anger was greatly kindled" (v.5)
- B. Rendered a Verdict: "... deserves to die" (v. 5)
- C. Requested Vindication: "restore the lamb fourfold" (v.6)

Special Note: The sentiment coming forth from David's mouth would be the very charges that would incite and indict David as Guilty. The four, three letter words stating "**YOU ARE THE MAN**" would bring David to a place of conviction.

Why do you think we tend to be merciful and lenient toward ourselves when we sin, but we demand immediate justice and punishment when others sin against us?

D. Responded Valiantly:

- 1) Public Consequences: "before the sun" (v. 12)
- 2) Public Confession: "I have sinned against the Lord" (v. 13)

If you sin against someone in private, you can go to them in private and ask forgiveness. If you sin against someone in public (where many others see or hear it), you need to make your reconciliation public. Why is this a wise principle? (*possible answer:* a public sin can be repeated as gossip to many more people than just those initially involved, thus it requires a large audience of people who can hear the truth, repentance, and forgiveness when they occur to try to set the record straight and restore the offended person's reputation.)

III. The Compassion of God:

- A. Salvation by Grace: “the Lord has put away your sin” (v.13)
- B. Scandal of Grace: “you shall not die” (v. 13)
- C. Strength in Grace: Psalm 51
 - 1) Cleans Me: “hyssop” (v.7)
 - 2) Creates in Me: “clean heart” (v. 10)
 - 3) Cause Me: “joy of your salvation” (v. 12)

Read Psalm 51:1-17 quietly to yourself. How do these verses show you the compassion of God?

In verse 13, how does our confession of sin and restoration of relationship with God make a difference to those who know us but don't know Jesus?

Which verse in Psalm 51:1-17 do you like the most and why?

Take Away:

Choose not to run **from** His love that confronts, but instead choose to run **to** His love that chases, and what you will discover is that **His love is relentless.**

Prayer Requests

Pray for everyone who hears this message to do business with God, to confess whatever sins are holding them back from experiencing the abundant life Christ offers those who are His.