

# A Convicted Heart

## 2 SAMUEL 12

### Lean In

1. Which of the following is easiest for you? Which is the hardest?
  - o Seeing sin in myself
  - o Seeing sin in others
  - o Admitting my fault to others (and apologize)
  - o Confronting others in love
  - o Receiving an apology
  - o Loving those who expose my sin

### Look Down

Read 2 Samuel 12

2. Why does Nathan speak to David with a parable? What risks were involved in Nathan confronting King David? What happened when John the Baptist confronted King Herod (Matthew 14:1-11) ?
3. Why does the absence of justice and mercy, in Nathan's account, so enrage David (vv.5-6)? How could have David cultivated contentment and thus avoided coveting? What is Nathan's perspective on gratitude (vv.7-9)?
4. Why is the Lord amazed that David despised both him and his word (vv. 7-10)?
5. How is God's justice and mercy revealed in his decision about David's sin (vv. 10-14)?
6. Why does David say he sinned against The LORD in verse 13a? (See Gen 39:9; Ps 51:1; Is 59:2) How does David's response to Nathan's rebuke (v.13; see Psalms 51) compare with Saul's response in similar situations ( see 1 Sam 13:11-12; 15:13-26)?
7. We normally assume that God disciplines us for our benefit (see Heb 12:5-13). Is God's treatment of David an example of beneficial discipline, or is God merely demanding a penalty for David's sin? Explain.
8. What strikes you the most in this story? Why?
  - o The story about the lamb
  - o The fact that Nathan confronts David
  - o The way Nathan gets David to condemn himself
  - o David's reaction to the story
  - o David's reaction to Nathan
  - o Nathan's decree of punishment to David

### Look Out

9. Who do you admire because they were willing to tell you what you needed to hear?

### Look In

10. Who do you identify with the most in this story? David? Bathsheeba? Uriah? Nathan? Why?
11. When someone else sees something wrong in your life, how would you want them to respond?
12. When was the last time you had this kind of painful encounter with your sinfulness? Are you holding somebody responsible for your own sin? Share as you feel comfortable.
13. Reflect on the fact that "doing evil" is equivalent to "despising word of the Lord" and the Lord himself (vv. 9 -10). To what extent do I appreciate that when I sin, I am sinning against God?
14. How did David come to this point in his life where he despised God's word and even committed adultery and murder? How can you guard yourself against going down such a tragic path?