

# Running with the Big Dogs

## The Slippery Slope

Introduction to II Samuel 11-13

In the field of ethics, there is a phenomenon known as “the slippery slope”. It occurs when a person makes one wrong decision which leads to a multitude of wrong decisions. Due to this one bad decision, the slide down the slippery slope seems irreversible, with impending disaster straight ahead. David experienced this in 2 Samuel 11-13 with what began as a seemingly minor choice. Instead of going out with his army, as was customary in the spring, he decided to stay at home in the palace. This allowed him to have too much idle time on his hands, and led him to make another poor decision, which was to look around at the rooftops where women might be bathing. He spotted a very beautiful woman, Bathsheba, and committed a third error by inquiring about

her. He then invited her over, even after finding out that she was married to one of his warriors, Uriah, and engaged her in adultery. When she became pregnant, he then tried to cover it up by having Uriah murdered in battle. Incredibly, he had no outward remorse over this, and unless God had confronted him through the prophet, Nathan, he might never have admitted his sin. To David’s credit, though, he confessed his sin, and accepted the consequences. With a “thud” he hit bottom, as the child that had been born to him died; but he understood that God could not allow his sin to go unpunished for the sake of His glory. Although God graciously blessed David with another child, Solomon, and allowed his vic-



**When you run with God and follow His lead, you will have success in life.**

ries to resume, the consequences of his sin would be seen in his family. A little later his first-born, Amnon, raped his sister, Tamar, and Absalom, Tamar’s brother killed Amnon for this act of violence. This led to great grief in Israel, and the banishment of Absalom, David’s third-born son, from Israel for a period of time. Indeed, that first wrong choice by David had led him down a slippery slope to disaster.

### The 5 Purposes of the Purpose Driven Life

- **Worship**—You were planned for God’s pleasure
- **Fellowship**—You were formed for God’s family
- **Discipleship**—You were created to become like Christ
- **Ministry**—You were shaped for serving God
- **Evangelism**—You were made for a mission

## Study/Discussion Questions for II Samuel 11-13

*(For answers to questions attend an ABF or go to [www.celebrationnet.com/resources/leader](http://www.celebrationnet.com/resources/leader) resources)*

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| <p>1. Look at 11:1-4. What sin did David commit (v4)? Trace the steps that led to this sin (v1, 2, 3, 4)? Where could he have stopped this sin? Apply this to our lives.</p>                  |  |
| <p>2. In 11:5-17 what problem occurred (v5), how did David try to deal with it (v6-8, 10-13), what was the result (v9, 13), and why (v10-11)? What was David’s “final” solution (v14-16)?</p> |  |
| <p>3. From 11:18-27 how did David react to Uriah’s death (v22-25, 26-27), and what does this indicate about his heart? How did God evaluate David’s actions (v27)?</p>                        |  |

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## II Samuel 11-13 Study Questions (cont)

4. Using 12:1-6 summarize the story Nathan told David (v1-4). What did the rich man do to the poor man (v4), and what made this so wrong (v2, 3)? How did David react to the story (v5), and what was his judgment (v5-6)?

5. Read 12:7-14. Like the rich man in the story, what wrongs did David commit (v7-8, 9), and what was God's judgment (v10-12)? How did David react (v13), what was God's twofold response (v13, 14), and what does this teach us?

6. From 12:14-23 what occurred (v18), and why (v14)? How did David react at first (v16), and later (v19-20), and what was the reason for each reaction (v21-22, 23)? How can we follow David's example in both cases?

7. Based on 12:24-31 what 2 blessings did David receive (v24-25, 26-29), and how did God underscore each blessing (v25, 30-31)? How does this reveal God's grace?

8. Looking at 13:1-14 what shameful event occurred (v1-2, 12-14), and how was it accomplished (v5, 8-11)? How does this relate to David's previous sin with Bathsheba?

9. In 13:15-29 how did Amnon treat Tamar (v15-17), and how did Tamar react (v16, 18-19)? How did Tamar's brother, Absalom, deal with it (v20, 22, 23-29)? What does this reveal about Absalom, both good and bad?

10. From 13:30-39 what news reached David (v30), and how did he, and Amnon's other brothers react (v31, 36)? What did Absalom do (v34, 37-38), and how did David feel about this (v39)?

11. Review David's progression into sin (11), God's judgment and blessings (12), and the later consequences (13). What are some of the lessons we can gain from this story?

### Scripture to Remember

***"Why have you despised  
the Word of the Lord by  
doing evil in His sight?"  
2 Samuel 12:9***

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### Life Group Questions

*(Using questions based on today's message, Life Groups meet in homes to build supportive relationships with others at Celebration Fellowship that enable us to grow in Christ.)*

1. Share with the group your definition of spiritual maturity. How has that changed over the years?
2. Talk about why we tend to rely on ourselves, and our ability to manipulate, to get what we want. Why is it so easy to be deceptive in this whole process?
3. Discuss some of the patterns that keep "kicking you" as you do life. What kind of relational damage do these most often cause for you?
4. As you look back on God's guidance and support in your life, what are some of the things that stand out most to you? Tell the group about these.
5. Describe what your old "nickname" could have been, and how God is giving you a new name. Why is it good to remember that it's about progress, and not perfection, in this transition?
6. Discuss anything else that impressed you from the message today if you have time.