

Church of God Sunday School

DAVID'S GREAT SIN

2 Samuel 11:1 — 12:24

God had greatly blessed King David. Over and over, God gave him victory over his enemies. The kingdom was united, and the Ark of the Covenant had been brought to Jerusalem. However, right when everything seemed to be going so well, David committed a great sin. This sin brought terrible consequences, as we will learn.

It was the time of year when kings and their soldiers went to battle. For some reason, King David decided not to go. He stayed home instead. As was customary for kings in that day, David had many wives. (This was not what God wanted; Deuteronomy 17:17.) David should have been satisfied with his many wives, but he was not.

David had seen a beautiful woman named Bathsheba, but she was already married to a man named Uriah (*yoo-RI-uh*). This should have stopped David from becoming involved with her, but it did not!

Soon David and Bathsheba were expecting a child together. To hide his sin, David wrote a letter to Joab, the captain of the army. He told Joab to place Uriah in the most dangerous part of the battle. Then Joab was to pull his men back from Uriah so that he would be killed!

David gave this letter to Uriah, who did not know what it said, and had him deliver the letter to Joab. (What must Joab have thought of his king after reading that letter?) Joab did as David commanded, and Uriah was killed in the battle.

When David heard the news, he waited until Bathsheba had mourned for her husband. Then, he sent for her and made her his wife. Soon, they had a son together. David might have thought that everything was fine. "But the thing that David had done displeased the LORD."

God spoke to Nathan the prophet and told him to speak to King David. When Nathan came to David, instead of telling him what a terrible sinner he was, Nathan told a story. This was the story:

There were two men who lived in a city—one was rich and one was poor. The rich man had many, many sheep and oxen, but the poor man only had one little lamb that he loved very much. This lamb had been brought up with the man's children. It ate and drank the same food the poor man did. It was his pet.

When a visitor came to see the rich man, he did not kill one of his own sheep for a meal. Instead, he took the poor man's only lamb, killed it, and served it to his guest.

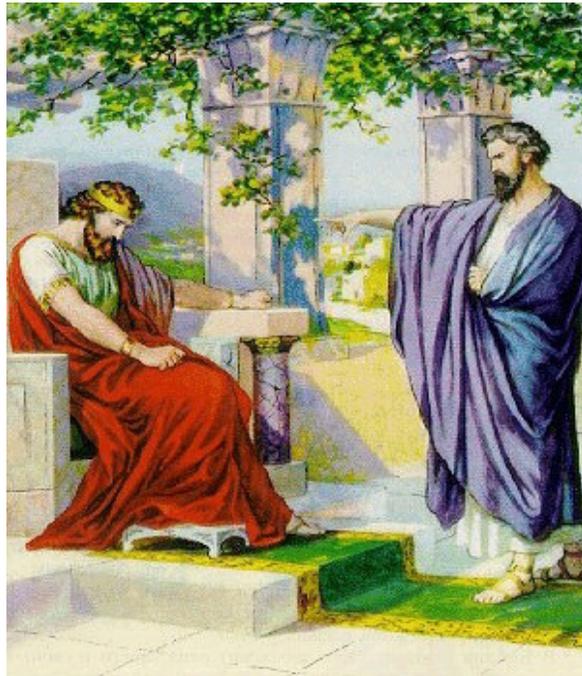
When David heard this story, he was angry. How dare the rich man be so selfish and uncaring! David told Nathan that "the man that hath done this thing shall surely die." David also said the rich man would have to repay the poor man four times what he had taken.

Then Nathan told David, "Thou art the man." What did Nathan mean? David had not

taken someone's sheep, had he? Nathan reminded David that God had made him king and had given him much. If David had needed more, God would have given it to him.

Nathan, speaking for God, exposed David's sin of killing Uriah and taking his wife as his own. For this terrible sin, "the sword shall never depart from thine house." In other words, trouble would always be with David and his family. Now David knew that his great sin was not a secret from God!

David confessed his sin before God, and God forgave him. But there is a reaping that comes with sin. As soon as Nathan left David, the baby of David



and Bathsheba became very sick. David prayed and fasted and laid on the ground all night. His servants tried to get him to eat, but he would not.

After seven days, the baby died. David got up, washed himself, changed his clothes, and went to "the house of the LORD." There he worshiped God. God forgave David, and in time He gave David and Bathsheba another son. His name was Solomon.

David wrote many psalms during his life. Psalm 51 is thought to have been written during this time of sorrow and repentance. David pleaded with God to

forgive him, to give him a clean heart and a right spirit. David begged God to not cast him away from God's presence. David was truly sorry for his great sin!

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**MEMORY VERSE:**

*"Have mercy upon me, O God . . . For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me."*  
—Psalm 51:1, 3

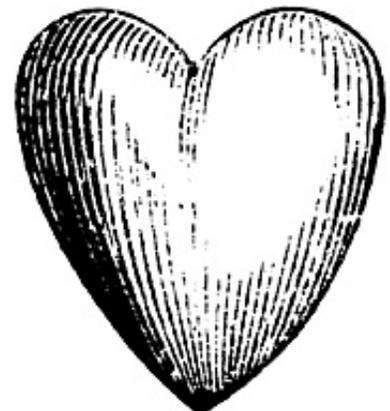
# Steps to Sin

(Match each step to the correct picture)

**I SAW**



**I  
COVETED**  
(WANTED)



**I TOOK**

# Nathan's Story

There were two men in one city. One was \_\_\_\_\_



and one was poor. The rich man had many \_\_\_\_\_



and herds. The poor man had only one little \_\_\_\_\_ .



But the poor man \_\_\_\_\_  his little lamb.

When a visitor came to see the rich man, he took the poor man's

\_\_\_\_\_  instead of using one from his \_\_\_\_\_ .



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Use These Words to Fill in the Blanks

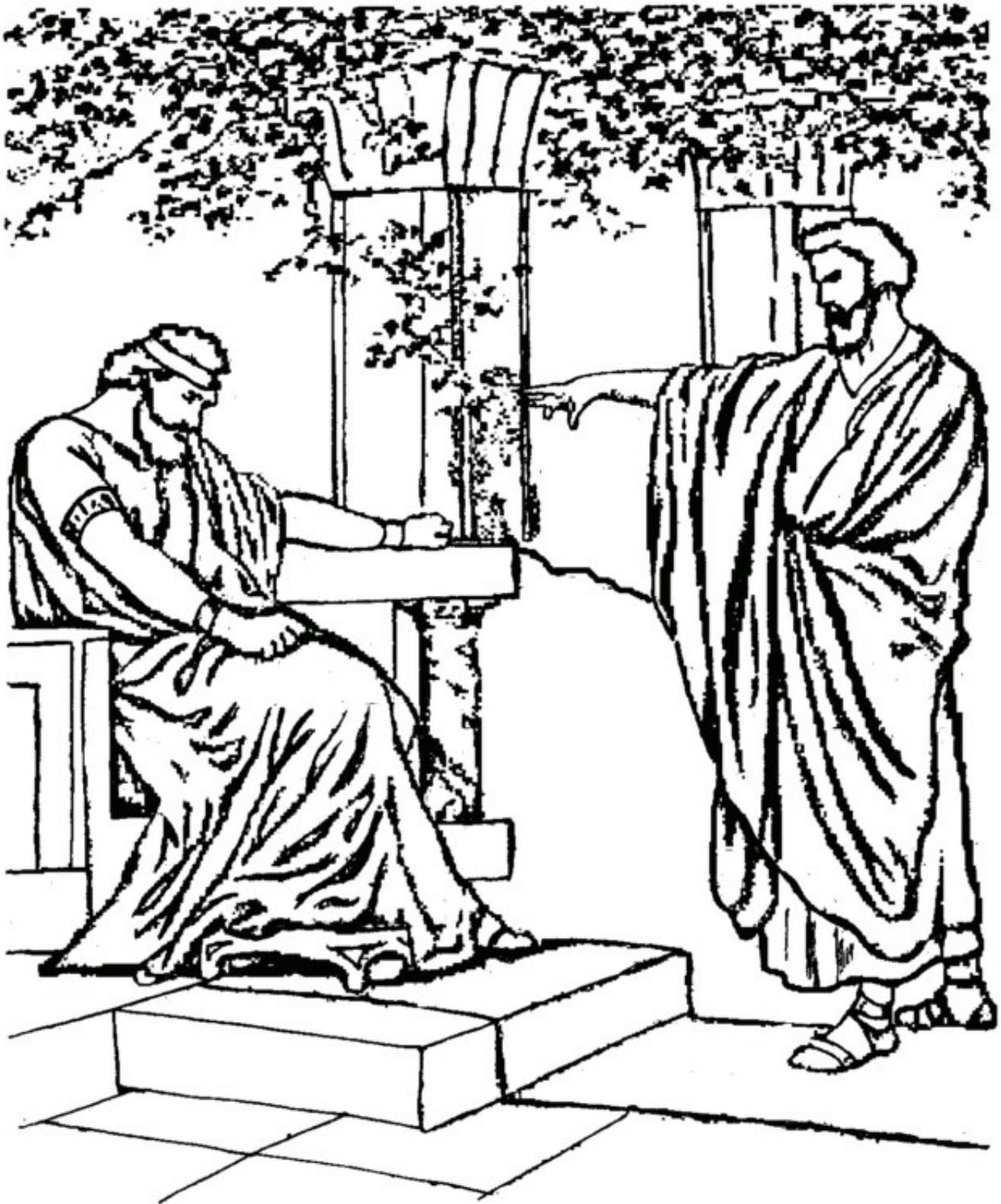
LAMB

RICH

FLOCKS

LOVED

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**"Thou art the man."**