

IT'S COMPLICATED

SIMPLIFYING EVERYDAY
RELATIONSHIPS

WEEK 4 | LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

CONNECT

- This weekend's sermon was about commitment. Have you ever committed to do something or go somewhere that was just a little bit crazy and in hindsight, wasn't the best idea? Have some fun discussing this!

CONSIDER

- **What encouraged or challenged you from the sermon and/or daily devotions this week?**

CHRIST

Read 2 Samuel 11:1-17 as a group.

- David committed a grievous sin by having an adulterous affair with Bathsheba, in which she became pregnant. David then tried to cover this up by bringing Bathsheba's husband, Uriah, back from battle so he might sleep with her and consequently think the child was his. However, this plan did not work, so David orchestrated another plan; this time to order Uriah back to the frontlines of the battlefield so he would die in battle. This scheme worked as David planned. We've heard the expression "two wrongs don't make a right." In this story, there are two obvious "wrongs" David committed; the affair with Bathsheba and orchestrating her husband's death. However, there are other subtle wrongs David committed; trying to cover up his sin and even looking at Bathsheba with lust in the first place. **Are one of these sins more grievous than the other or would you consider each equal in the sight of God?**
- David may have thought his plan was successful, but God had other plans. **Read 2 Samuel 12:1-14.** God sent the prophet Nathan to confront David after he committed adultery. In this portion of scripture, we see that David's secret sin and his consequences are exposed. **Do you think God's way of dealing with David was appropriate?**
- **Character** - The story of David and Bathsheba reminds us of how great men, who are called by God are still humans and struggle with sin; the same can be said of great women called by God. This story shows David's lack of character, but also shows the great character of Uriah; he would not enjoy the comforts of home and his wife while his men were in battle. **How can we apply what we've learned from this story to protect our character? What are some good "rules of life" to live by in order to avoid the temptations of sin?**

IT'S COMPLICATED

SIMPLIFYING EVERYDAY
RELATIONSHIPS

- **Lack of Commitment** is another theme displayed in 2 Samuel 11. David first displayed a lack of commitment to his army by staying home while he sent his men into battle. Then, in his idleness, while “walking around on the roof” (v. 2), he looked upon Bathsheba. It then seemed very easy for David to show a lack of commitment to his wife and family. **Do you think one had anything to do with the other? What role did idleness play in this?**
- **Overcommitment** can create problems in our lives as well. Most people would describe their lives as busy and in our busyness, it's easy to “Edge God Out” or EGO for short. This is explained in the book *Lead Like Jesus - Revisited* by Blanchard, Hodges, and Hendry. Overcommitment can leave little time for God. It may be easy to see how overcommitment to wasteful or sinful things can be harmful, but **what about our overcommitment to good things or the “urgent” things that seem to happen so often?** This is known as the “Tyranny of the Urgent” described in the book *Tyranny of the Urgent* by Charles Hummel. It explains how we often are so busy putting out fires, that we never get to what is important (putting God first, spending time with our families, etc.). Have you found yourself saying; “I don't have time to pray or read the Bible” or “Life is too busy to join a small group or serve at the church?” **How can you re-arrange or eliminate some things, even good things, to focus on what's important? Do you have an “EGO” problem? Are you Edging God Out of your life?**
- **Unity** or a lack thereof, is another theme we see in the story of David and Bathsheba. We see their lack of unity with their spouses, Uriah's unity with his brothers-in-arms, and David's lack of unity with his army. The dictionary defines unity as “the state of being one, having the same disposition and aims.” We are called to be united with God and our spouses. **What are some practical things we can do to be more united with God? Our spouses? Others?**

CALLING

- Understanding how God has wired us can help us understand how we can easily find ourselves overcommitted to the wrong things. The Enneagram assessment is a great tool for this (<https://www.enneagraminstitute.com>). Here you can see how Enneagram 2s (The Helpers) can say yes too often to things they shouldn't or how Enneagram 7s (The Enthusiasts) can get distracted and lose focus on what's important. Use this tool to help you understand how God has wired you and to help you step into your calling in Christ.
- **Daily Devotions:** Spend 15 minutes each day with Northside devotions. Text JOINGOD to 81411 or use the Study tab in Northside's App for Daily Devotions.
- **Memorize:** “How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity.” - Psalm 133:1
- **Further Study:** Read Psalm 51 - A Psalm of David when Nathan the prophet confronted David.