

## Activities and Extra Credit

1. Just as King David showed his commitment to building a temple for God by pledging give all his gold and silver to the project, find something this week that you can show support for by giving something of yours. It could be showing your support for the food pantry by giving can goods. It could be showing support for a family member going through a hard time by offering your time or service to them. It could be showing support for the new church building project by beginning to set aside money to give toward it. Big or small, find something to tangibly support this week.
2. Try your hand at writing a psalm. If you are comfortable writing a song, try writing a praise song to God. If you want to just write the poetry, give that a try. If it would help you to take a song you already know and rewrite some of the lyrics, that works too. Free yourself up to express yourself openly to God and to worship Him in a different way.
3. Spend some time as a family talking about what makes each other special. What things did God bless each person with? What special talents did God give each person? Why did He make you all so different? As a family, make a list for each person of the special traits you see in them.
4. Almost every teenager and adult deals with lust or sexual sin in some way, even if it is just thoughts. Take some quiet time and ask God to show you any sexual sin in your life. Then find a trusted Christian to confess your sin to and begin to work on it. Expose your sin to the light and let Jesus heal you, no matter how big or small the sin may be.

### Question without an easy answer:

The Holy Spirit is mentioned a number of times in the Old Testament. Yet, in John 14, Jesus said that when He left, a new advocate would come to them, the Holy Spirit. Is the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament the same as the Holy Spirit in the New Testament? Did the apostles not have the Holy Spirit until they received it at Pentecost? If people in the Old Testament did have the Holy Spirit come one them, then can people who aren't Christians be led by the Holy Spirit?

## **The Trials of a King Family Devotions for Week 12**

### Day One:

1. It has been a few weeks since we left off with David. Go back over week 11's reading and review what we've learned about David so far. If it helps, think of his life as a timeline. Then think of the characteristics we've seen of David show so far. Remind yourselves what it was about David that caused God to choose him.
2. We have all had times when we have done something wrong and made the problem worse by trying to cover it up. Think of a time when you have done something wrong and did more things wrong trying to cover it up. How did it feel as you scrambled to hide your wrong? As you covered it up, did you feel relief or anxiety? Why? How did trying to cover up one sin cause David to sin many more times against God? If David was such a righteous man, what caused him to sin in the first place? What should David have done instead of trying to cover up the initial sin? How can we apply that to our lives?
3. (Discuss this if age appropriate for your children...perhaps middle school and older) What is lust? What kinds of things are lustful? What is the difference between noticing an attractive person and lusting after them? What is pornography? How is David watching Bathsheba bathe similar to pornography today? Why is pornography destructive to God's gift of sexuality? What does Jesus say about lust in Matthew 5:28? Why is simply lusting after someone in your heart the same as actually acting out on those thoughts and feelings? How did David serve as an example to how thoughts and actions are tied together?
4. Nathan confronted David about his sin. Who sent Nathan? How did Nathan go about confronting David? Have you ever been in Nathan's shoes? Have you ever been in David's shoes? How can you be a good Nathan when you need to confront someone? How can you be a good David? Why is it important for people in a church to hold each other accountable?

## Day Two:

1. One of the reasons God created us all uniquely is so we could each worship Him in our own unique way. For David, worshipping God seemed to come easily by writing songs and dancing. In what ways do you worship God? If the only worshipping you do is singing in praise songs on Sunday morning, what can you do to worship God the rest of the week? When God made you, what characteristics do you think He gave you to use in worship? How can you specifically use those characteristics to worship God?
2. It is generally considered that David wrote many of the psalms in the book of Psalms. God gifted David with the gift of songwriting and music. The psalms he wrote were one of the unique ways God created David to worship Him. Have each person in your family pick a psalm and read it out loud. Did any of them express joy? Did any express sadness? Did any express anger? Are you surprised by any of the things David said to God? Are you surprised by how extreme some of his feelings are? Think back on the life of David. What from David's life do you think influenced Psalm 23? What about Psalm 32? Psalm 20? Psalm 41? What in your life story influences how you worship God? How are the psalms David wrote similar to or different from the praise songs we sing today? Are they more or less emotional? Are they more or less honest?
3. Spend the rest of your devotion time browsing through the book of psalms. Remember that these were songs of the time. Are there any that really resonate with you? Have you ever felt the same way David, or another author of psalms, felt? Do any of the psalms express thoughts that don't seem like something someone who loves God would think? As you find psalms you like, write the psalm number down and discuss them as a family. Why do you think a book like psalms was included in the Bible?

## Day Three:

1. Nathan told David that even though his sins were forgiven, God was still going to have the son born to David and Bathsheba die. David prayed and pleaded with God not to let his son die. He fasted and humbled himself by sleeping on sackcloth on the ground. After doing this for seven days, his son still died. Have you ever had a time when you prayed hard, fasted, felt like you did everything right, and God still didn't answer your prayer the way you wanted? Why do you think God does that? Can we really know the best way for a prayer to be answered? After he found out his son was dead, why do you think David got up, washed, put on lotion, changed his clothes and went to worship God? Why is it important to still worship God even when it feels like He hasn't answered our prayers?
2. Have you ever known a child that has completely rebelled against their parents, possibly even to the point of hating their parents and wishing them ill? Is it always the parents fault or are there situations where the parents did nothing wrong? Do you know any parents who feel the same way about their kids that David feels toward Absalom?
3. In the previous week's readings, we saw where David got a vision for building a temple that would be the house of the Lord. God told David that he would not be the one to build the temple, but his son would. How would you feel if you had a dream, but were told instead of you fulfilling it, your son would? Based on David's feelings toward his sons, do you think he was glad to help prepare for the building of the temple, even though Solomon would be the one building it? Where else have we seen the last half of 1 Chronicles 22:13 spoken? If this is something that was spoken over many generations, do you think it applies to us today?
4. David announces to Solomon and to his people that he was showing his devotion to God by giving his personal treasures of gold and silver to be used for the temple. After hearing that, many of the leaders followed suit. What is it about Solomon pledging his wealth that caused the others to follow him? What can we learn from his example?