

Sermon Discussion Questions: September 14, 2025

How God Handles Sin

Small Group Sunday

1. Bonnie reviewed five benefits of small groups. State at least two of them.
2. If a small group has ever supported you through a crises, share your story.

Call to Worship: Psalm 32:1-5

3. Verse 4 mentions a physical ailment caused by unconfessed sin. Do you believe this was metaphorical or literal?
4. If there are other references in scripture to causality between sin and disease, share them.

Sermon: 2 Samuel 11-12

I. Desire, Danger, Deceit – Verses 1-5

5. Pastor Paul cautioned us against two unproductive perspectives on the story in this chapter:
 - a. 'Oh well, we are all sinners.'
 - b. Discussing sin generically, without looking at the specific consequences in David's life.

What did he say was the better way to understand this story?

6. Pastor Paul itemized three things that, in the first 3 verses, David already did sinfully or at least unwisely. What were they?
7. You are mentally and physically tired, and emotionally drained. You know you should go to bed, but instead you (take a walk/watch TV/open up your tablet.) You see something (through a window/on a screen) that offers an opportunity for ungodly pleasure. How do you overcome temptation?
8. Surely, David did not, in verse 2, foresee adultery and multiple murders of loyal soldiers. What lesson can we learn here about sin?

II. Deception's Deepening Pit – Verses 6-13

9. Pastor Paul emphasized that desires are not inherently evil. Some theologians posit that all evil desires are corruptions of good desires. What makes a desire evil?
10. What opportunity to confess and repent did Uriah give to David?
11. What lesson can we derive by David's two unsuccessful attempts to deceive Uriah into believing Uriah had impregnated Bathsheba?
12. What are the temporal and spiritual benefits of confessing an embarrassing sin to a trusted friend?

III. The Transformative Power of Forgiveness – Verses 14-25

13. What does verse 23 convey about the practice of necromancy (communicating with the dead)?
14. What Godly wisdom did David portray when he stopped fasting?
15. What is the symbolism, in verse 24, of Bathsheba being called by name again, instead of as "Uriah's wife".
16. Pastor Paul said that when God allows us to suffer consequences for sin, he is not showing a lack of mercy.
 - a. List all the consequences of David's sin.
 - b. How did God manifest mercy?

Prayer Points:

- Ask God to reveal any unchecked desires in your heart and depend on Him to overcome temptation.
- Confess any hidden sin, trusting that God's confrontation is an act of grace meant to restore you, not to condemn you.
- Ask God to help you fully accept the power of His forgiveness and live in the hope He offers through sincere repentance.