

- Recap of last week: A man from the Amalekites plunders Saul and Jonathan's bodies and David kills him for it. (2 Samuel 1) After Saul's death David becomes king but is challenged by a son of Saul named Ish-boseth that Abner declares King instead. Civil war breaks out. (2 Samuel 2) David is winning and Abner goes over to his side. (2 Samuel 3) David finally wins and is made king over a reunified Israel, and begins to build up his capital city of Jerusalem. (2 Samuel 4 and 5) David brings the Ark of the Covenant back to Jerusalem and a man named Uzzah touches the Ark along the way to steady it and is struck down by God.
- God tells a prophet named Nathan to go and give David a message for Him. God tells Nathan exactly what to communicate. He tells Nathan to tell David 1) He will give Israel a peaceful place to live so that they are not at constant war with their neighbors like they had been and 2) your descendants will continue to reign over Israel after you are gone.
- David is very grateful to God and His prayer reflect this. He confirms to God that God is Lord over Israel. (2 Samuel 7:18-29)
- God's gives David victories wherever he goes. He beats back the Philistines, Moabites, Edomites, and Syrians. He accumulates a lot of bronze, silver, and gold. David also establishes outposts throughout the land and appoints officials in his administration to help him govern. (2 Samuel 8:1-13)
- David goes out of his way to try to find someone surviving from King Saul's family that he can show kindness. He finds out that a crippled man named Mephibosheth who was Jonathan's son had escaped. (remember we read about that back in 2 Samuel 4) and sends for him. (2 Samuel 9:1-5)
- Mephibosheth says he is not worthy to be in the king's presence and compares himself to a dead dog in front of David. (2 Samuel 9:6-8)
- David reiterates that Mephibosheth will live there and eat there for the rest of his life, and David makes good on this promise. (2 Samuel 9:10-13)
- In showing kindness to someone who was helpless, David was embracing a fundamental principle which applies in our lives today. Remember to always show kindness to those who cannot repay you. You never know who you are helping. (Hebrews 13:1-2) There will come a time when God will recognize how you conducted yourself. (Matthew 25:31-45)
- David sends men as emissaries to comfort a grieving local king of the Ammonites named Hanun whose father had died. The king's advisors don't trust them, so he has their beards half cut off and their robes cutoff at their hips. David hears about it and goes to meet those men and tells them to wait in the local city until their beards grow back before returning. (2 Samuel 10:1-5)
- This starts a war between Israel and the Ammonites. The Ammonites hire the Syrians to help them and Israel beats them both. This makes the Syrians afraid to help the Ammonites again. (2 Samuel 10:6-19)
- While the army is away fighting the Ammonites, David is walking on his roof and he sees a married woman named Bathsheba bathing on a rooftop nearby. She and her husband were Hittites, one of the nearby nations Israel had conquered. David sends for her and they have sexual intercourse and she gets pregnant as a result. (2 Samuel 11:1-6)
- David sends for Uriah, husband of Bathsheba, from his current deployment with the army, and gets chummy with him... twice. The second time he even gets Uriah drunk. Uriah stays at the royal palace and refuses to go home to sleep because he tells David he can't go home while the army is still out in the field. (2 Samuel 11:7-13)

- David sends Uriah back to the army with a (presumably sealed) message for Joab the commander of the army. The message instructs Joab to make sure that Uriah is killed in battle. Joab follows his instructions and confirms to David he has done that. (2 Samuel 11:14-26)
- When Bathsheba hears her husband is dead, she mourns him. David sends for her and makes her one of his wives. But God is not pleased with David over the way he has acted. (2 Samuel 11:26-28)
- God sends the prophet Nathan again to David. Nathan tells David a story about a rich man who had lots of lambs but instead of getting one of them to feed his guests he takes the only lamb from the man next door to eat instead. David is incensed and says that the rich man should be made to repay his neighbor four fold. (2 Samuel 12:1-6)
- Nathan tells David that the story is actually about him. He tells him that God had blessed him with many wives and would have given him even more if he had wanted but that he chose to sin instead. David acknowledges his sin. Nathan says that because of this sin: 1) violence will always be in his house in some form 2) his neighbors will have his wives and everyone will know about it; and 3) the child Bathsheba is carrying will die. (2 Samuel 12:1-15)
- The lesson here is that we can and should repent of our sins, but that does not mean that our sins will go unpunished or that we will not suffer consequences of our sin.
- Bathsheba bears a child. The child is sick for seven days. During this time David is fasting and sleeping on the ground. Finally, the child dies and people are afraid to tell David. When David finds out, he finally cleans up and goes to worship God because “he can’t bring him back again.” (2 Samuel 12:16-23)
- Bathsheba bears a son to David whose name is Solomon. David captures a city called Rabbah. (2 Samuel 12:24-31)

Questions

1. Who was Nathan?
2. What did God tell Nathan to tell David that God has promised David?
3. What was David’s response to God when Nathan delivered the message of God’s promise?
4. Who is giving David military victories?
5. What precious metals does David accumulate?
6. What two things does David do in order to help him govern?
7. Who was Mephibosheth?
8. Why was David’s kindness to Mephibosheth so important?
9. What did the Ammonites do to the men David sent to comfort them?
10. Who did the Ammonites hire to help them against Israel?
11. Who were Bathsheba and Uriah?
12. What does David do with Bathsheba?
13. What does David do with Uriah?
14. After the incident with David and Bathsheba, what story does Nathan tell David?
15. What three things does Nathan say will happen to David because of his sin with Bathsheba?
16. What is David’s attitude toward his sin?
17. What does David do when the first child he had with Bathsheba dies?