

**BIBLE STUDY: FACING LIFE’S ISSUES  
WITH A BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE –  
GOD’S STRATEGY WITH OUR “ISSUES” IN LIFE  
(DAVID)  
LESSON 4**

**David**

The author of the Epistle to the Hebrews assures us that our God is “able to sympathize with our weaknesses.” That’s because “we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are” (Hebrews 4:15). That’s both instructive and comforting. But Scripture reveals that God does much more than just sympathize with us. He has a strategy. He takes positive action on our behalf, just as He did repeatedly with His saints of old. In Lessons 3-5 we want to recall incidents from the lives of saints of God who faced serious issues in their lives, just as we do. From the experiences in the lives of God’s saints of old, we want to learn something about ourselves when we face similar difficulties, but more importantly, we want to discover what’s in the heart of God when life’s problems put a strain on our faith – leaving us with feelings of fear, shame and guilt.

*When the time came for the prophet Samuel to anoint someone to take the place of King Saul, the LORD said to Samuel, “The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart” (1 Samuel 16:7). The selection process finally led to David, Jesse’s youngest son.*

**David’s Rise:**

- 1 Samuel 16:13: *“From that day on the Spirit of the Lord came upon David in power”*
  - David enters the king’s service: 1 Samuel 16:21-22
  - David and Goliath: 1 Samuel 17
  - David and Jonathan: 1 Samuel 20
  - David saves Keilah, a Philistine fortress: 1 Samuel 23
  - David spares Saul’s life (twice): 1 Samuel 24 and 26
  - David anointed King: 2 Samuel 2
  - David brings the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem: 2 Samuel 6

What temptations often accompany success and the acclaim that accompanies it?

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How does a person’s perspective on life sometimes change with success and acclaim? (Cf. Deuteronomy 6:10-12 and 8:10-17)

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**David’s Downfall:**

*Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall* (Proverbs 16:12)

- David and Bathsheba: 2 Samuel 11:1-5
- David and Uriah: 2 Samuel 11:6-26

Which Commandments did David violate in this sordid affair?

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What was David’s primary concern after Bathsheba told him, “I am pregnant”?

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To what lengths did David go to cover up his sin? (verses 14 and 25)

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Why are we so intent on covering up when we do wrong?

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What emotions are inevitably involved in attempts to cover up?

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**David’s Rescue and Restoration:**

- The LORD sends the prophet Nathan to David: 2 Samuel 12
- Nathan to David, “You are the man”
- David to Nathan, “I have sinned against the LORD.”
- Nathan to David, “The LORD has taken away your sin.”

Explain LORD’s purpose in telling David: *“I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you from the hand of Saul. I gave your master’s house to you, and your master’s wives into your arms. I gave you the house of Israel and Judah. And if all this had been too little, I would have given you even more.”*

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What two basic scriptural truths are interwoven in Nathan’s confrontation with David?

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How did the Lord bring closure to David for this tragic episode in his life?

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What does David's experience teach us about God's strategy for dealing with us when we face serious problems?

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Following this episode in David's life, he wrote two penitential Psalms, 32 and 51. The essential, biblical teachings of repentance, justification and forgiveness are prominent in both Psalms. In both of them David lays bare his heart. Graphically and vividly he gives voice to the **agony** that accompanies fear and guilt together with the **ecstasy** that comes from experiencing the forgiving grace and mercy of God. The Holy Spirit inspired David to write these two Psalms as much for our sake as for his own. The story of David reveals to us that there is no sin so serious or so contemptible that it has not already been wiped off the slate by the blood of Christ, the Lamb of God who has taken away the sin of the world.

Psalm 32:1-6:

*Blessed is he  
whose transgressions are forgiven,  
whose sins are covered.  
2 Blessed is the man  
whose sin the Lord does not count against him  
and in whose spirit is no deceit.  
3 When I kept silent,  
my bones wasted away  
through my groaning all day long.  
4 For day and night  
your hand was heavy upon me;  
my strength was sapped  
as in the heat of summer. Selah  
5 Then I acknowledged my sin to you  
and did not cover up my iniquity.  
I said, "I will confess  
my transgressions to the Lord"—  
and you forgave  
the guilt of my sin. Selah  
6 Therefore let everyone who is godly pray to you  
while you may be found.*

With what words does David express the feelings of guilt and the terrors of conscience he experienced before the LORD sent Nathan to him?

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With what word/words does David express the comfort of the gospel?

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David experienced a whole gamut of human emotions during this episode in his life.

Which ones are most evident?

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Which ones have been part of your experience, leaving you with a limp and empty feeling of worthlessness?

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Which ones do you experience when the Holy Spirit shifts your focus away from self to God's limitless love?

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If you (or someone you know) were tempted to cover up something for which you are ashamed, how would David's experience help you to cover yourself in a different way?

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What does the Holy Spirit teach us in this Psalm about God's strategy for helping us face life's issues with a biblical perspective?

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After David's affair with Bathsheba, he had difficulty forgiving himself ("My sin is always before me" – Psalm 51:3). If someone were to say to you, "I know that God forgives me, but I can't forgive myself," what in the story of David would help you to offer a response? (For an insight into answering this question, read all of Psalm 51, a Psalm David wrote following his affair with Bathsheba).

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*"Love covers over a multitude of sins"* (1 Peter 4:8)

**What God's law uncovers, God's love covers.**

**NEXT LESSON: God's Strategy with Our "Issues" in Life - The Samaritan Woman at Jacob's Well**