Sin and Grace

2 Samuel 11:1-12:13 July 30, 2017

- 1. Have you ever been in a situation (either funny or more serious) that started out appealing, but turned south and ended up rotten? Explain the situation. What did you learn?
- 2. Would you agree or disagree that our culture often portrays sin as appealing? Why?
- 3. Work as a group to construct a short definition of sin. Share any key Bible verses you can think of that help with this definition.
- ** Read through 2 Samuel 11:1-12:13 together as a group, then answer the following questions.
- 4. In your own words, summarize how 2 Samuel 11 drives home the point that sin is serious.
- 5. Make a list of all the ways David's sin "snowballs" in chapter 11. What does this teach us about the nature and progression of sin in our lives? (Want to dig a little deeper into this point? Read James 1:14-16 and discuss what it adds to your understanding of the "seriousness of sin.")
- 6. Identify key points in chapter 11 where David could have responded differently than he did. What would a right response by David have looked like at each of these key points?
- 7. Why do you think David didn't respond rightly? What was motivating his decisions?
- 8. When David first saw Bathsheba from his rooftop, he surely didn't think his lust would end up in murder. How is this situation a warning against "toying" with sin in our lives?
- 9. Now summarize how 2 Samuel 12:1-13 drives home the point that, though sin is serious, grace is superior.
- 10. What do we learn about David's response to Nathan in 2 Samuel 12 that should shape our own response to sin?
- 11. Are there ways you've experienced the power of God's grace in your own life? How is this grace transforming? Share with the group.
- We know that Psalm 51 was written shortly after Nathan confronts David in 2 Samuel 12. Read through Psalm 51. Create a list of 5-8 observations from this psalm and share how they shed light on what you're learning about sin and grace.
- 13. Identify 1-2 direct take-aways from 2 Samuel 11-12. How will you apply this to your life?
- 14. **Challenge:** Memorize 1 John 1:9: "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."