



Out On a Limb Week 2 – Hypocritical David Spiritual Formation & Discussion Guide

We hope you'll use this guide to take the teaching from Sunday's service and reflect on it with a few friends or a group. If you have questions or want to talk more about how to take your next spiritual step, contact us at info@wschurch.org.

Scripture:

Obed was the father of Jesse. Jesse was the father of King David. David was the father of Solomon (whose mother was Bathsheba, the widow of Uriah).

Matthew 1:5-6

Have mercy on me, O God, because of your unfailing love.
Because of your great compassion, blot out the stain of my sins.
Wash me clean from my guilt. Purify me from my sin.
For I recognize my rebellion; it haunts me day and night.
Against you, and you alone, have I sinned; I have done what is evil in your sight.
You will be proved right in what you say, and your judgment against me is just.
For I was born a sinner—yes, from the moment my mother conceived me.
But you desire honesty from the womb, teaching me wisdom even there.
Purify me from my sins, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.
Oh, give me back my joy again; you have broken me—now let me rejoice.
Don't keep looking at my sins. Remove the stain of my guilt.
Create in me a clean heart, O God. Renew a loyal spirit within me.

Psalms 51:1-10

Reflection Questions:

- What were some of the key shaping forces and factors of the family you grew up in? How have those shaped you into who and how you are today?
- How well do you know your family history? Are there ingredients in your family history that you're particularly proud of or embarrassed by that you're willing to share?

- What stood out to you from Sunday’s service? How did you sense God encouraging and challenging you through the songs, the message, and being with others as part of the church? (The message's main points and scripture are listed below if it helps you think back.)
- Jesus’ genealogy mentions three non-Israelite women (Gentiles). How do you respond to the fact that Jesus’ lineage included foreigners—outsiders? Why might this have been relevant to Matthew? How might this be relevant to you?
- There was a notable amount of dysfunction and scandal in Jesus’ ancestral line. How do you respond to that? Is that more comforting or troubling to you?
- What’s your initial reaction to the mention of Bathsheba/Uriah being mentioned in Jesus’ genealogy in Mt 1:6?
- What does it mean to repent? How do you personally do it?
- Read through Psalm 51. What do you notice about this prayer? Which lines of this prayer are easiest for you to pray as your own? Which lines are the most difficult?
- Nathan courageously held David accountable to God, and David welcomed him to do so. Is it easier for you to play the role of Nathan (when someone you know has sinned) or the role of David (when you’ve sinned)?
- Would the people who are closest to you say that you’re an easy person to confront about your sin?
- It’s usually easier for people to confess to God privately than it is to confess to other people. What’s the value of confessing to other people?
- Read Mt 5:3 in a few different translations. One of the things it teaches is that we’re blessed not by our self-sufficiency but by realizing our dependence on Jesus. How do you respond to this? Do you believe you’re blessed when you’re “poor in spirit”?
- David was the king of Israel, but when he repented, his contrite, repentant behavior demonstrated God’s ultimate reign over his life. Who (or what) are some of the lesser kings in your life? What area of your life might another king be reigning?
- Is there anything else from this teaching that you want to explore more?
- Spend some time in silent prayer. Put into practice a contrite and repentant spirit, confessing to God any areas of your life you’ve not yet surrendered to Jesus’ reign. Consider discussing the experience.
- As you close your reflection or discussion, pray, asking God to help you act on what he has asked you to do.

Advent - How can you stay connected to God in the midst of this season?

We have put together a list of Advent and Christmas resources, including Bible reading plans, devotionals, books, and video devotionals for families. Let this season be grounded in Jesus and his story by choosing one tool to use either on your own or with friends or family. Learn more at www.wschurch.org/advent.

Visit www.wschurch.org/resources to see additional tools and resources.

Message Main Points and Scripture:

- Matthew 1:1-6 – This is a record of the ancestors of Jesus the Messiah, a descendant of David and of Abraham: Abraham was the father of Isaac. Isaac was the father of Jacob. Jacob was the father of Judah and his brothers. Judah was the father of Perez and Zerah (whose mother was Tamar). Perez was the father of Hezron. Hezron was the father of Ram. Ram was the father of Amminadab. Amminadab was the father of Nahshon. Nahshon was the father of Salmon. Salmon was the father of Boaz (whose mother was Rahab). Boaz was the father of Obed (whose mother was Ruth). Obed was the father of Jesse. Jesse was the father of King David. David was the father of Solomon (whose mother was Bathsheba, the widow of Uriah).
- The Bible reveals where Jesus came from to reveal who he came for.
- *“Christ is not ashamed of sinners. He even puts them in his family tree.”* (Martin Luther)
- Judges 21:25 – In those days Israel had no king; all the people did whatever seemed right in their own eyes.
- The story isn’t over.
- Jesus came from a long line of broken people to rescue broken people.
- Psalm 51:1-10 – Have mercy on me, O God, because of your unfailing love. Because of your great compassion, blot out the stain of my sins. Wash me clean from my guilt. Purify me from my sin. For I recognize my rebellion; it haunts me day and night. Against you, and you alone, have I sinned; I have done what is evil in your sight. You will be proved right in what you say, and your judgment against me is just. For I was born a sinner—yes, from the moment my mother conceived me. But you desire honesty from the womb, teaching me wisdom even there. Purify me from my sins, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. Oh, give me back my joy again; you have broken me—now let me rejoice. Don’t keep looking at my sins. Remove the stain of my guilt. Create in me a clean heart, O God. Renew a loyal spirit within me.
- Matthew 5:3 – “God blesses those who are poor and realize their need for him, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs.” (NLT) “You’re blessed when you’re at the end of your rope. With less of you there is more of God and his rule.” (MSG)
- Acts 13:22 – But God removed Saul and replaced him with David, a man about whom God said, ‘I have found David son of Jesse, a man after my own heart. He will do everything I want him to do.’
- Who is your king?