

Bathsheba – A Study of Forgiveness

Widows of the Old Testament

Student Study Guide

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Review of Abigail

Choose one (or more) from the following list, that was the most helpful to you in the study of Abigail and write (below) how it helped you. Consider sharing this in class.

- a. Eli's sons Hophni and Phinehas depended on the Ark to save them in battle and died. Some people depend on church membership or baptism to save them. Only faith and trust in the true God and His Son, Jesus Christ, will save a person's soul.
- b. Abigail learned from her father that David said "The battle is the LORD's" and slew Goliath with a slingshot and the giant's own sword. Her faith grew.
- c. Abigail's father chose a wealthy husband for her. He was a mean spirited, selfish man. We must advise our children to prayerfully choose godly mates with good character.
- d. Nabal chose to ignore David's request for food and David chose to wipe out Nabal and his household. It is important for us to consider long-range consequences before acting.
- e. Abigail's ancestor Caleb conquered a mountain held by giants. It gave her courage to conquer giants of fear, pain and discouragement. God's Spirit empowers us to conquer.
- f. In Psalm 32:8, God says, "I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go." Abigail consulted God for wisdom, not her drunken husband. Whom do we seek for wise counsel?
- g. Abigail brought a peace offering to David and Nabal's household was spared from death. Jesus Christ, God's gift to us, gave himself as our peace offering.
- h. Abigail would run to the Lord with her hurts and struggles. God brought her out of all her struggles, but used them to train her in wisdom. He will keep you from yielding to temptation and give you the right response to hardship.
- i. God gave Abigail insight to confront David wisely. He sends people to confront us if needed and will send us to someone in need of godly confrontation for His glory.
- j. Nabal faced God's judgment for his cruelty to the people in his life. Pray for those who bring you pain and suffering, to have a transformed heart or be removed from your life by God's power. Ask God for wisdom in confronting that person.

- k. God gave strength to Abigail throughout Nabal’s marriage to her. If you are caring for someone in a difficult situation, God will strengthen you and help you.
- l. If God does not provide another husband for a widow, He promises to be her husband (Isaiah 54:5). He provides fellowship, joy, communication, and all that is needed.

Share prayer needs.

Personal things discussed here are to be kept strictly confidential. Do not share it with anyone else unless you obtain permission from the person who shared it here.

Prayer

Bathsheba – A Study of Forgiveness

“Praise the LORD O my soul, and forget not all his benefits – who forgives (Salach) all your sins . . . who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion . . . as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us” (Psalm 103:2-3a, 4, 12).

Salach (saw-lakh’) – Hebrew word means to forgive or pardon

Historical and Cultural Background

1. As our last study closed, David was hiding from _____ at _____ and sent men to bring _____ there to be his wife.
2. As we begin this study, approximately _____ years have passed (pg. 89) since David was anointed by Samuel to follow _____ as _____.
3. King Saul faced a battle with the _____. He was terrified and went through the motions of seeking _____, but not from a heart of _____. Then he approached the witch at Endor. Why did she hesitate to do as he asked? _____

- Saul promised her she would not _____.
4. Saul asked her to bring up the _____. She was shocked when Samuel’s spirit appeared.

5. The following day Saul was wounded and deliberately fell on his sword. His sons died during the battle with the Philistines (1 Chronicles 10:13-14). Saul _____ because he was _____; he did not keep the _____ of the LORD. He even consulted a _____ for _____ and he did not _____ of the _____. So the LORD _____ and turned the kingdom over to _____, son of _____.

6. Our faith can be eroded and our relationship with God distanced by _____. A lack of desire to please the LORD or seek Him in faith, may make us open to follow our own _____ or seek advice from _____.

Discuss: What are some ungodly sources which people use today, to gain knowledge of the future or to find assistance in decision making?

Is it pleasing to God for us to be involved in any way with the occult: to read or see the Harry Potter or Twilight series books and/or movies or other popular occult-related media in our culture?

God forbids sorcery, witchcraft, mediums and spiritists (occult activities). Read Leviticus 19:31 and 2 Chronicles 33:6. The occult has a pull that can trap people who may get involved out of curiosity.

7. David was king over _____ for seven and a half years in Hebron and then over all _____ for thirty three years. David captured _____ and built _____ there. Jerusalem became known as the _____ (pg. 91).

8. David brought the _____ to Jerusalem and placed it in a _____. He desired to build a _____ for God and for the _____. God gave him a promise that he would have a son who would be _____ after him, and through that son, the _____ and _____ of David would be established for ever (2 Samuel 7:15-16).

9. God promised David _____ would _____ a house for _____, where the _____ would be placed.

10. Eliam (*e li' am*) and his wife had a baby girl, _____, about the time David was first anointed by Samuel. When grown, Bathsheba became the wife of _____, one of David's most _____. Uriah's name means _____ (pg. 92).

Eliam and Uriah were both "mighty men" – part of David's 37 bravest soldier guard (2 Samuel 23:34, 39). Eliam's father, Bathsheba's grandfather, was Ahithophel whom later betrayed David. Another name in the Bible for Eliam is Ammiel; another name for Bathsheba is Bathshua.

11. The LORD gave David _____ wherever he went. David _____ over all _____ doing what was _____ and _____ for all his people (2 Samuel 8:14-15).

Read 2 Samuel 11:1-5

12. David reached a point one year in the spring, when he did not go out to battle, but sent his men to war without him. Why do you think he chose not to go? _____

Consider: Are there times when you feel confident of your abilities and don't ask God to help with a task? Perhaps you get busy and don't take time to pray. When this happens, be careful. Temptation may be at your door.

13. David was not _____ or _____ for the _____ that threatened and overtook him (pg. 92). He was walking in the roof garden of _____ and saw a beautiful _____. "David sent someone to find out about her. The man said, 'Is not this _____, the daughter of _____, and wife of _____'" (v. 3)?

14. How did David know her father and her husband? _____

Discuss: This should have set off a warning bell for David. Do we ever receive warnings that we ignore?

15. David sent messengers for her. What did Bathsheba do? _____

Discuss: Do you think she could have refused David?

“It is better to obey God than man” (Acts 5:29). “If only you had paid attention to my commands, your peace would have been like a river, and your righteousness like the waves of the sea” (Isaiah 48:18).

16. The Bible clearly teaches that _____ (a sexual union between a married man or woman with someone he or she is not married to) is _____. “You shall not commit adultery. You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife” (Exodus 20:14 & 17b).

17. Sexual union between _____ people is also considered sinful (pg. 94). Morality or right and wrong is not determined by the voice of _____ but by the voice of _____. “Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man [or woman] commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually, sins against his own body . . . Therefore honor God with your body” (1 Corinthians 6:18, 20b).

18. Bathsheba sent word to David that she _____ and was _____.
“And you may be sure that your sin will find you out” (Numbers 32:23).

Read 2 Samuel 11:6-13

19. Who was dishonorable and who was honorable in this passage of Scripture and why?
Dishonorable – _____

Honorable – _____

“Woe to the obstinate children,’ declares the LORD, ‘to those who carry out plans that are not mine, forming an alliance, but not by my Spirit, heaping sin upon sin” (Isaiah 30:1).

Read 2 Samuel 11:14-27

20. How did David get rid of Uriah? _____

Discuss: David now had to give account to God for the sins of adultery, deceit and murder. Why do you think God inspired the writer (possibly Nathan or Gad) to include this story in 2 Samuel?

21. How did Bathsheba respond to the news of Uriah's death? _____

Do we know what David told her about Uriah's death or David's part in it? _____

At the end of her mourning, what did David do? _____

Read 2 Samuel 12: 1-14

22. By telling David a simple parable, the prophet Nathan confronted him with his _____. He was brought face to face with God's commands for holy living and was found _____. "You shall not murder" (Exodus 20:13). "But if a man schemes and kills another man deliberately . . . put him to death" (Exodus 21:14). God stayed the death penalty. David would not die, but their baby would.

Discuss: In verse 9, God says, "Why did you despise the word of the LORD by doing what was evil in his eyes?" Are we aware that when we disobey God's word and sin, we actually despise the command to obey? As we sin, we rebel against God and His command. Can anyone think of an example of that?

23. The consequences of David's and Bathsheba's sin were devastating and they had to live with them. Can you list them?

v. 10 – _____

v. 11 – _____

v. 14 – _____

24. If we could _____ our mind to think of the _____ before we act, we might not be so quick to make a _____. God's _____ desires to engage our mind and give us _____ that will _____ us to take a _____ path (pg. 99).

25. What was Nathan's response when David confessed his sin (v. 13)? _____

Discuss: Some, who claim to be Christians, think lightly of sin. They may say "God won't care if I do that. The Bible says that if I confess it, God will forgive it." What is there in verse 14 they are overlooking?

“If you love me, you will obey what I command. Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my father, and I too will love him and show myself to him” (John 14:15, 21).

Read 2 Samuel 12:15-23

26. How long did David fast and pray? _____ Why? _____
_____. Why did he stop? _____
_____. Where was the first place he went after the child died? David
went _____ and worshiped.
Psalm 51 was written by David in connection with the Prophet Nathan’s visit and David’s
repentance.

27. David exclaimed in v. 23, “Can I bring him back again? I will go to him, but he will
not return to me.” What do you think he meant by that? _____

Discuss: Do you have any children in heaven? Have you had any miscarriages?

28. Bathsheba experienced three crises in about two years. What were they?
a) _____
b) _____
c) _____

She found comfort, forgiveness and courage to go on with her life.

29. David had four sons with Bathsheba after the baby died. They were _____
_____ (1 Chronicles 3:5).
_____ is the son who would follow David as king and build the temple as
a house for _____ and for _____ (1 Samuel 7:15-16).

30. David was a musician and one can picture him, sitting with Bathsheba and their sons
in a quiet place, singing Psalm 32:1-7, 10-11. Write your favorite portion from this
passage of scripture.

31. When David was old and feeble, _____ reminded him of the
promise that _____ was to be king after him. That day David made
Solomon the _____ (pg. 102).

32. Bathsheba is mentioned in the “_____” genealogy of Christ (pg. 102): David was the father of _____ whose mother had been _____ (Matthew 1:6). David’s and Bathsheba’s son _____ is listed in the “_____” genealogy of Christ through _____: “Nathan, the son of David” (Luke 3:31). Joseph came through _____ line and Mary came through _____ line.

Personal Application

33. The book lists three issues that arise from this study. Name them and give a brief summary.

- a) _____ - _____

- b) _____ - _____

- c) _____ - _____

34. Each one must make sure his/her armor is in place (pg. 104-105).

Our spiritual armor consists of:

_____ – I am to speak and live the truth.

_____ – My heart is covered with Christ’s righteousness and He strengthens me to live a life that pleases God.

_____ – I am at peace with God and other believers because I stand firmly in Jesus Christ, my peace giver. I carry the Gospel (good news) of hope and peace to a needy world.

_____ – My faith in God and His deliverance shields me from Satan’s fiery darts.

_____ – When my mind is controlled by the Word of God, I am saved (or kept) from holding on to evil thoughts.

The armor includes two offensive weapons:

_____ – the Word of God, spoken or written; an armory filled with swords for spiritual battle, and

_____ – Communicate with God in praise and about troubles and temptations. He gives us power to resist the enemy and our own lusts and selfishness.

We bring pleasure to God when we need Him and trust Him. If we, as individuals, trust Him with our whole being and confess our sins and failures to Him as soon as we become aware of them, we will experience a beautiful relationship with Him.

Exercise: If there are practices in your life that are not pleasing to God, confess them now, experience God's forgiveness and be washed clean in your soul by Jesus' precious blood.

Prayer