

LEADER GUIDE



THE
CONVERGENCE

TWO PATHS. CHOOSE ONE.

CONTENTS

Intro	2
Leader Tips	3
SESSION 1	
Point of Inception	5
SESSION 2	
Point of Truth	8
SESSION 3	
Point of Reconciliation	11
SESSION 4	
Point of Connection	14
Sermon Notes	17
Plan of Salvation	21

INTRO

We are all on a journey, often finding ourselves standing at the convergence of truth and its imitation. These convergent moments have the power to alter our lives and impact God’s kingdom for eternity. But, how do we decide in which direction to move? Studying the journey of David, students will be challenged to apply godly discernment by trusting God completely, to recognize the difference between God’s truth and men’s advice, to realize the impact of their decisions, and to surround themselves with people who reinforce the need for godly wisdom.

This Leader Guide was created to prepare you for the small group sessions. This Leader Guide is designed to be just that—a guide. It’s something you can customize to fit your group and your own teaching style. The best way to prepare is to study the Scripture and use the lessons as your personal Bible study. As you interact with Scripture and the material in the Guide, take notes and answer the questions yourself. Learn from the lessons before you attempt to teach them. Allow the Holy Spirit to teach you through this study and then use you to teach your students!

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We believe that the Bible has God for its author; salvation for its end; and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter and that all Scripture is totally true and trustworthy. To review LifeWay’s doctrinal guideline, please visit www.lifeway.com/doctrinalguideline.

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LEADER TIPS

KEY POINTS

KEY VERSES

This is the verse of the session that you want your students to really focus in on during your time together.

TEACHING AIM

This defines your goal and purpose of each session.

GETTING STARTED

The beginning of each lesson is an activity that will help get you started and encourage interaction between the students.

THINK

This is the Bible Study portion of the session. You will find text helpful for you to know as you study and share, but there is also italicized text that you can speak directly to your students. Read the Scripture as a group and encourage the students to write down notes and answers to questions in their Student Book.

DIAGNOSE

The Diagnose section allows students to take a step back and look at their own life in light of the material that was just covered.

MOVE

Every lesson has a “Move” action that the students can put into place after the weekend is over. Motivate the students to follow through.

PRAY

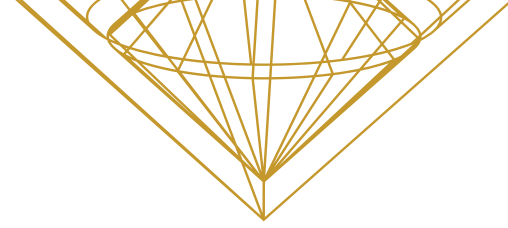
Always pray as a group at the end of each session. Lead the students in completing the pray exercise described in their book.

DEVOS

The Devos found in the back of the student books can be completed during the course of the event or they can be saved for students to do on their own as a follow-up to the event.

GENERAL TIPS

1. Learn names. Find a way that works for you and do it. This doesn't sound like much, but when you know their names, students feel you are interested in them.
2. Do your best to hang out and talk with students during meals and free time. Granted, sometimes they will be preoccupied with others, but find times to talk with them.
3. Be yourself. Allow the Bible study materials to take on your personality and teach it the way that is best suited to you.
4. Love students, but also lead them. You will have times when you will want them to think you are the coolest, but make sure you lead them. Being a small group leader is not a popularity contest.
5. Do not compare yourself or your group to others. Anytime we compare, we will always come out the loser. Focus on your students and your call to the job.
6. Don't focus on negatives, but believe you have a great group—because you do.
7. Don't give up when you have a tough group or when they don't meet your expectations. They can and will be a great group if you lead them the way they need to be led. Study your group and meet them where they are.
8. Pray, pray, and pray some more for your students. Pray over the seats before the first session. Pray over chairs in your Bible study room daily. Pray with students. Pray!
9. Don't just hang out with the “fun kids,” “popular kids,” or “pretty kids” in your group. Try to build relationships with all of them. Some may not be responsive, but you may just be surprised if you try.
10. When you need help, ask for it. Your student pastor or staff are there to help you with anything.
11. Allow the Holy Spirit to speak and teach through you. Pray for this each day.
12. See Bible study as a time of worship and lead out that way.
13. Keep personal time with the Lord a priority throughout the event.
14. If you have many active students, allow them to be active through lively activities. Try to plan activities that will encompass all students—active, artistic, thinking, and so on.
15. Be forgiving.
16. Look for students who need encouragement and encourage them.
17. Build them up as a group.
18. Challenge students to minister to one another.



SMALL GROUP MANAGEMENT TIPS

1. Set expectations from the beginning (and hold students to that) to make the rest of the event easier. Be consistent from day to day.
2. Tell students on opening night that Bible study is God's time. Ask them to respect that and be prepared to listen to what He is saying.
3. Allow rowdy/active students to be active. Forcing an active student to sit alone in silence will most likely cause a larger distraction.
4. Be prepared! Do not procrastinate setting up for Bible study. If you are prepared, you will have confidence and in turn, Bible study will run smoother.
5. Set the tone the first night and watch your own attitude and enthusiasm. Students will feed off of you.
6. Do not allow down time. In other words, know where you are going and move from one thing to the next with easy, smooth, and quick transitions.
7. Know your material backward and forward so you are able to keep a flow throughout Bible study regardless of time, tangents, and so on.
8. Do not yell over your students. Silence is your friend.
9. Address disruptive behavior immediately. Pull students aside, make expectations clear.
10. If your group is sleepy, lead them to stand and stretch or take a move break.
11. Walk around during Bible study. Do not sit during group discussion time. Keep moving around from group to group.
12. Give all students a note card to hold throughout Bible study if they are too nervous to ask questions out loud or if it is not pertinent at the time.
13. Establish a healthy learning environment from the beginning. Students must feel safe. They must feel comfortable to participate and ask questions. Students must feel like what you are teaching is relevant.
14. Keep calm at all times. Do not panic. Keep your frustrations to yourself. Never let them see you sweat.

COUNSELING TIPS

1. There is a plan of salvation at the end of every leader and student guide you can use when you talk to students about salvation.
2. While counseling a student is a private moment, it is important to not be alone with a student. Always keep yourself in a place where you can be seen.
3. If more than one student approaches you for counseling, ask to meet with each student one at a time to prevent pressure for other students making decisions.
4. Ask open-ended questions such as "Why do you want to talk me?" "What is God doing in your heart?" "Why do you want to make this decision?"
5. Avoid questions that only prompt a *yes* or *no* response such as "Do you want to be saved?" and "Do you want to go to heaven?"
6. When using Scripture in your conversation, use your Bible and encourage the student to read the verse.
7. If the student begins sharing something with you and says, "Please don't tell anyone," you cannot promise them that. They may share with you an experience or situation that you need to report to church staff or a parent as soon as possible.
8. It is easy for a student to be overly emotional during a big event. Help them realize that a salvation or baptism decision cannot be just based on how they feel, but needs to be because they WANT to turn toward God.
9. Follow up. Make sure whatever decision a student makes is not just kept to the two of you. Encourage the student to share with someone on staff or with a parent. Follow up with the student after the event to encourage them in their walk with Christ. If they made a salvation decision, follow up with them about what it means to be baptized and disciplined.
10. Celebrate! Whatever decision the student makes in their walk with Christ should be celebrated. We want them to know that while following Jesus may not be easy at times, it is the BEST decision they could ever make!

POINT OF INCEPTION

KEY VERSE

Psalm 62:1-2

SCRIPTURE

1 Samuel 17:26-52; Ephesians 2:1-10

NOTES **TEACHING AIM**

Students will learn that in order to have holy discernment, you must first have a relationship with God through Christ. This relationship was the foundation for David's trust and reliance on the Lord.

GETTING STARTED

Invite students to find a partner. Invite one of the two to stand on one foot and hold the pose. Now, instruct the other partner in each pair to attempt to push over the partner standing on one foot. (The person will easily lose his or her balance.) Next, direct the partner just pushed over to stand on both feet and spread them at least shoulder-length apart. Now, lead the other partner to attempt to push again and notice the difference. As time permits, repeat the two scenarios with the partners switching roles.

Why was it so hard for you to stand on one foot? Without the right foundation of two feet on the floor, it was so easy for you to lose your balance or to get knocked over.

Today our session is 'Point of Inception.' In order to have holy discernment and to make godly decisions, we must first have a relationship with God, through Christ. This relationship is the foundation for our trust and reliance on the Lord.

THINK

1. We must take initiative on our part, step forward, and acknowledge our need for Christ.

READ 1 SAMUEL 17:26-37.

Read aloud the following true/false statements and have your group of students answer them based on the text.

- David was the oldest son of Jesse. (False—youngest)
- David worked as a tent maker. (False—shepherd)
- David was a good-looking young man and known as a warrior. (True)
- In today's verses, David was a teen, about the age of some of you. (True)
- David would become the king of Israel. (True)
- David was father to Absalom and Solomon. (True)
- David was allowed to build God's temple. (False—Solomon built the temple)

Saul was king of Israel. Unfortunately, he was not a reliable leader. He was afraid to fight the Philistines. So he offered a reward to anyone who was willing to fight the giant. David stepped up to the challenge of facing Goliath.

Why did David accept the challenge to fight against Goliath?

In what ways did the odds seem to be stacked against David?

Discuss with students about why David didn't seem like the right fit for the battle. David was a young shepherd boy and he did not have any experience when it came to fighting. Not only that, but David was so small compared to the giant, Goliath. However, David knew he had to stand in the gap and fight for God to defend Israel. He didn't wear armor and he didn't take any weapons because he knew God would be on his side and that God would be enough.

Describe a time in your life when you didn't feel good enough to do what God was calling you to do. List the ways God was sufficient despite your weaknesses.

2. We must realize that Jesus defeated death, hell, and the grave so that we could live in victory through Him.

READ 1 SAMUEL 17:38-52.

How did David approach Goliath in battle?

What did David use to defeat Goliath?

What amazes you the most when it comes to David's victory over Goliath?

David was the victor of this battle. But, he was only foreshadowing the real "hero" that was yet to come. Often times, as Christians, we want to believe that we are the heroes of this story. We want to believe that we can fight any "Goliath" that we may encounter in life. However, we are not David.

READ EPHESIANS 2:1-10.

Are we able to save ourselves from our sin? Why or why not?

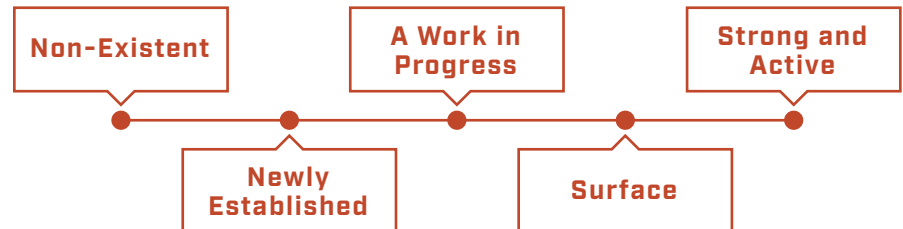
Use this question and passage of Scripture to help your students recognize that the story of David and Goliath ultimately points to Jesus. We cannot defeat our sin. We cannot conquer death. There is only One who can and He is not just a shepherd boy. He is the Good Shepherd.



Until we recognize Jesus as the giant-slayer in our life and admit our need for Him and His saving power, we will never be able to live free from our sin and follow after God.

DIAGNOSE

On the scale below, mark where you are at in your relationship with Christ.



MOVE

The ultimate decision that we all must make is whether or not to accept Christ as Savior and Lord of our lives. Acknowledging Christ as Savior saves us from sin and eternal damnation. Accepting Christ as Lord is where the relationship comes in. We are to live our lives allowing Him to lead us, guide us, direct us, and to be a part of every aspect of who we are. Once we have made that decision and formed that relationship, we have guidance and confidence as we make future, daily decisions. We simply have to trust and rely fully on Him.

PRAY

Read the verse below and include it in your prayer as a way to acknowledge Jesus as Lord in your life.

I am at rest in God alone; my salvation comes from him. He alone is my rock and my salvation, my stronghold; I will never be shaken" —PSALM 62:1-2

POINT OF TRUTH

KEY VERSE

Psalm 111:10

SCRIPTURE

1 Samuel 24:1-15; Romans 1:1-1; 6:23

NOTES TEACHING AIM

Students will be challenged to discern what is justifiable and what is God's truth. Students will learn how to make lasting Christ-like decisions concerning what is right and what is easy.

GETTING STARTED

Play a game of Real Truth or Fake News with your students. Split the group into two and read the following ten news headlines. When you finish reading the headline, they will guess whether or not that headline was actually published by shouting "Real Truth" or "Fake News" to answer. The first group to answer correctly gets the point. The team with the most points at the end wins!

- Forecasters call for weather on Monday (Real Truth)
- Cows lose their jobs as milk prices drop (Real Truth)
- Miracle cure kills fifth patient (Real Truth)
- Most tornado damage is caused by wind (Fake News)
- Farmer uses cannon to protect watermelons (Real Truth)
- Justin Bieber adopts endangered pet turtle (Fake News)
- MLB announces new team addition to league from Alaska (Fake News)
- Chick-fil-A® employees pray in kitchen for the chickens (Fake News)
- Cranberries discovered as secret weapon for foot fungus (Fake News)
- Man arrested for alleged aggressive mopping (Real Truth)

Today's session is 'Point of Truth.' The main idea is to discern between what is justifiable and what is God's truth. You will learn how to make lasting Christ-like decisions concerning what is right and not necessarily what is easy.

THINK

1. We must submit to the authority and lordship of Christ in our lives.

After his victory over Goliath, the people respected David and loved him for his bravery. God blessed David with the victory. Because of this, King Saul became envious and jealous of him. Samuel had already let Saul know that because of his disobedience, the kingdom of Israel would be taken from him. When Saul saw God bless David, he became afraid and wanted to get rid of him.

READ 1 SAMUEL 24:1-7.

When Saul arrived at the cave, what were David's options of responding? Which of the options was the one that God desired for David to choose?

Ask students to share a time when they have had to face a hard decision and were given different ways to respond. For instance, a friend may have asked to copy their homework and they had to decide how to respond.

READ ROMANS 1:1-11.

What does this passage reveal about the internal battle between the Spirit and our flesh?

How do we discern what God wants for us versus what the world around us wants us to do?

The Holy Spirit guides us to truth and convicts us of sin, which is possible because of our relationship with Jesus. The Bible also guides us as we face decisions every day. The Holy Spirit will never lead us to do something which conflicts with Scripture.

When we make decisions, based on our desires and our "needs," we are attempting to gain control/power over our lives. God is the only one with ultimate power over the world and in our lives. Therefore, making decisions that glorify God and that magnify His name is echoing truth!

2. We must do what is right, not what is easy or easily justified.

READ 1 SAMUEL 24:8-15.

Why would David have been justified for killing Saul in the cave?

How did David respond to Saul in this text? Why was he able to respond in such a way?

Many times in life we are faced with a decision between what we believe we "deserve" and what pleases the Lord. Sometimes you might be mistreated or misjudged by a teacher, parent, coach, peer, or someone else, but the Christ-like thing to do is to show respect and use your life as an example of the gospel. It's not the easy route, but it is a mature picture of Jesus. It might be one way in which that authority figure or peer comes to know Jesus.

Ask the students to share examples of when they may feel justified in doing something that isn't right.

How does instant gratification often play into our decisions? Should it?

Why does right (God's truth) always trump what is easy or justifiable?

DIAGNOSE

READ ROMANS 6:23.

What does the Bible say that we deserve? What did God do for us instead?

How does this motivate us to extend grace and mercy to others?

We deserve death and destruction, but in God's grace He gave us life and eternity with Him. In return, we can extend that grace and mercy to others as a way to bring Him glory.

MOVE

Give each student a small piece of fabric and a sharpie marker. Instruct the students to write the words TRUTH on the fabric in order to use it as a reminder to always base their decisions on God's truth and not just what is easy.

PRAY

Looking back at your answers in the Diagnose section, take some time to reflect on what Jesus did for you. Pray and ask God to remind you of His truth and to give you His strength to live out that truth in every decision that you make.

POINT OF RECONCILIATION

KEY VERSE

Psalm 31:4-5

SCRIPTURE

2 Samuel 11 & 12

NOTES TEACHING AIM

Students will see how David's poor decision led to God's discipline, which developed character. Students will be reminded of the hope for reconciliation in spite of bad decisions.

GETTING STARTED

Distribute a domino and a sharpie to each student. Show your group the domino labeled "CHOICES." Explain that we have choices in our lives and that every choice has consequences, no matter how big or small, bad or good. Challenge the group to share as many consequences as they can think of for telling a lie (guilt, often leads to other lies, other people find out, lose trust of people, and so on.).

Invite students to think of a consequence to any sin, to write it on their dominos, and to stand up their "CONSEQUENCE" domino at a designated spot in the middle of the floor. NOTE: If the floor is carpeted, you may need to find a different spot. Tell students to place the dominoes closely together in a row and to be extra careful not to knock over the placed dominoes. Place the "CHOICE" domino at the beginning of the row and point out again that our choices have consequences. Push the "CHOICE" domino over, toppling the line of dominoes.

Today's session is 'Point of Reconciliation.' We will see how David's bad decisions led to discipline, which led to the building of David's character. We will discover that even when we mess up, there is hope for reconciliation through Christ.

THINK

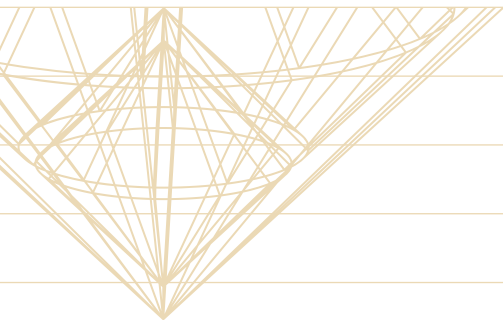
READ 2 SAMUEL 11:1-5,14-15,26-27.

1. One Bad Decision Leads to Others

Why was David a prime target for temptation from the enemy in this situation?

What are some situations we put ourselves in where we become Satan's target?

Since David was home, away from the battle, he was able to relax and let his guard down. He could leisurely stroll on his rooftop and let his mind wander. David was a prime target for the enemy. He was away from his mission, isolated, and distracted. It only took one quick glance and David was hooked.



The enemy's tactics haven't changed. He uses the same methods with us. If we are idle, bored, alone, or tired, he is ready to strike.

What are some ways you can be on guard and fight against temptation?

Talk to the students about how David didn't start sinning when he committed adultery and murder. His sin began the moment he lusted after Bathsheba. This is why the little things matter. Small things unchecked will grow to become big issues. Fighting sin from the beginning of the temptation is so vital and important.

As Christians, we are constantly struggling against the sin in our lives. Like David, we make a godly decision one day and a poor decision the next. We can choose to beat ourselves up and remain defeated by sin or we can get up, dust ourselves off, and keep walking toward God's vision for our lives. We fight sin because we've tasted God's grace and we've been loved, not because we're trying to earn anything. We are to live in habitual repentance, not habitual sin.

2. Judgment and Consequences

READ 2 SAMUEL 12:1-10,13-14,20.

What were the consequences of David's sin?

What are some consequences of sin that you have personally experienced?

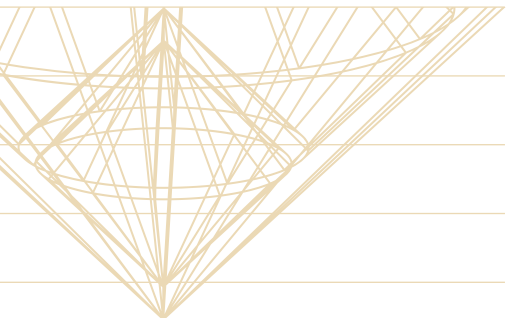
Just like the fall of one domino resulted in the collapse of the whole group; David's choice resulted in many consequences. His decision not only affected him, but also his entire community. The main consequence of David's sin was death. But the story does not end there. Where there is sin, there are consequences, but where there is grace, there is restoration and healing.

How did David respond in verse 20?

When you are confronted with sin, how do you respond? Why?

Take some time to discuss the concept of reconciliation with your students. Just like David needed to be reconciled back to God, we need reconciliation with Him. The word 'reconcile' means 'to restore.' David's relationship with the Lord needed to be restored. His response is the key to that reconciliation.

Our only hope is Christ. We have no hope apart from Him. And without Christ, this would have been the end of the story—David sinned against the Lord, so he deserved death. We have all sinned against the Lord and deserve death. But the mercy and grace of the cross and the empty tomb bridges the gap between the Father and us. Jesus took the death penalty we deserved so that we can be reconciled to the Lord and have a relationship with Him.



DIAGNOSE

We are all broken pieces, but together we make a beautiful picture. Even though we make mistakes, we are still a part of the body of Christ and are valuable pieces in the expansion of His kingdom. Brokenness and mistakes reveal our need for Jesus and reconciliation.

What past mistakes do you need to let go of and allow God to redeem?

How have you grown from past bad decisions?

MOVE

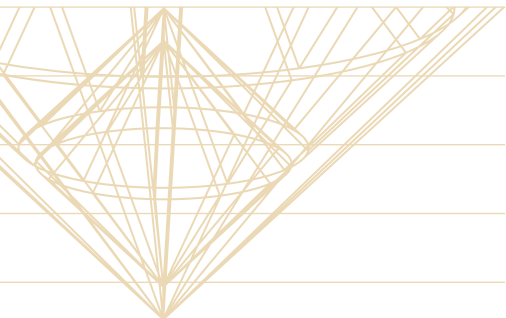
Read the verse below. Read it through ten times and commit this to memory. Let this verse be a reminder of what Jesus wants to do in your life.

You will free me from the net that is secretly set for me, for you are my refuge. Into your hand I entrust my spirit; you have redeemed me, LORD, God of truth. —PSALM 31:4-5

PRAY

Use this Scripture as you pray for your group to end this session. Encourage your students to still make the prayer their own even though you will be the one praying.

For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his faithful love toward those who fear him. As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us. As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear Him. For He knows what we are made of, remembering that we are dust. —PSALM 103:11-14



NOTES **TEACHING AIM**

Students will discover the role of community and the importance of accountability and mentorship in holy discernment. Students will see this by looking at David's relationships with Jonathan and Nathan.

GETTING STARTED

Play a game of Back to Back. Ask two students to sit on the floor back to back. Their goal is to stand up straight without using their hands. Add one person every time they stand up successfully.

We all want and need someone we can lean on. We want to be connected to others. We long for relationships, for friendships—for community. And the community we surround ourselves with will have a direct impact on our life, either positive or negative. Today we are going to look at David's relationships with Jonathan and Nathan and how those had an impact on his life.

THINK

1. A True Friend's Character

READ 1 SAMUEL 18:1,3-4.

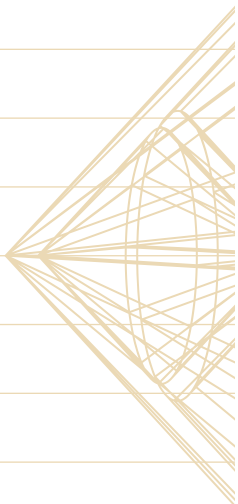
Jonathan honored David by giving to him the princely garments reserved for the heir to Saul's throne. This was significant because these garments should have been his as heir apparent to the throne. Perhaps he instinctively knew David would eventually be king.

What is an equivalent of Jonathan and David's relationship or act of devotion that you have seen or experienced in your own life?

Jonathan made a covenant with David. Talk to your students about what a covenant is. A covenant is an agreement between two or more parties who agree on promises, responsibilities, privileges, and so forth. The agreement made between Jonathan and David solidified their friendship and would prove to be very important in the future when Jonathan convinced his dad, Saul, not to harm David.

2. A True Friend's Influence

READ 1 SAMUEL 19:1-7.



Looking back at our Point of Truth Session, we learned that David was on the run from Saul, because Saul was trying to kill him. Jonathan stepped on the scene and interceded on behalf of his friend, David.

What was Jonathan's advice to David? What did Jonathan tell Saul?

Discuss with your students how Jonathan interceded on behalf of David. He stood up for him and ultimately saved his life. Because of his intervention, it opened the door for David to serve with Saul's army again. Jonathan was a person of high character and this rubbed off on others, on David, and even on his dad. Jonathan was a peacemaker. He wanted everyone to get along and love one another.

How does Jonathan portray a picture of Jesus in your life?

Jesus does these things for us: He stands up for us; He is a person of high character; and He is a peacemaker. Jonathan was a great example of Christ.

READ 2 SAMUEL 12:1-15.

What was Nathan's influence on David's life?

Share that Nathan rebuked David for his actions with Bathsheba and all the ones that followed. He was accountability for David. He would not let it go. Nathan gave David bad news from God of the consequences of his actions, but he helped him to pick himself up, turn to God, repent, and worship.

Both Nathan and Jonathan were key influences in David's life. The people we allow into our lives have influence over us and impact who we are. In turn, we have influence over others with whom we come into contact.

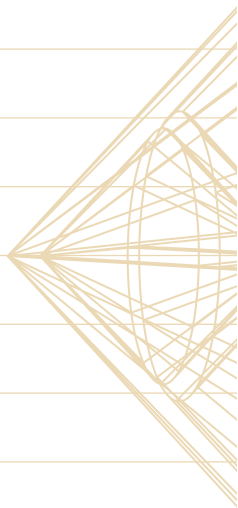
Why is it important to have friends like Nathan and Jonathan in your life? What does this kind of community look like?

Community is sacrificial. You have to be willing to step out of your comfort zone and have difficult conversations with your friends, encouraging them to step away from the sinful areas in their lives. You also have to be willing to receive those conversations about sinful areas of your life as well. We should always be pointing one another to Christ so that our lives reflect Him in the brightest way.

Living in community with other believers is God's intent. We are not meant to live life in isolation.

DIAGNOSE

**Who would you consider to be a Nathan or Jonathan in your life?
How has their influence pointed you to Jesus?**



How are you using your influence and speaking into the lives of others today? How can you be more intentional in pointing others to Christ?

MOVE

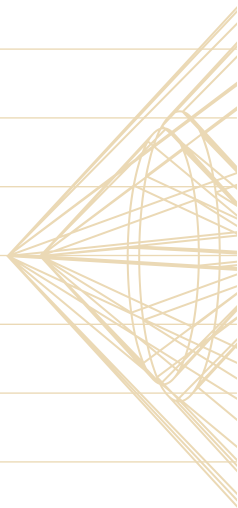
What are you willing to do to create community and accountability in your life? Are you willing to allow people to speak into your life and help you live the life that Jesus wants you to live?

Write under each label the names of people who can help you in those areas.

Accountability	Community

PRAY

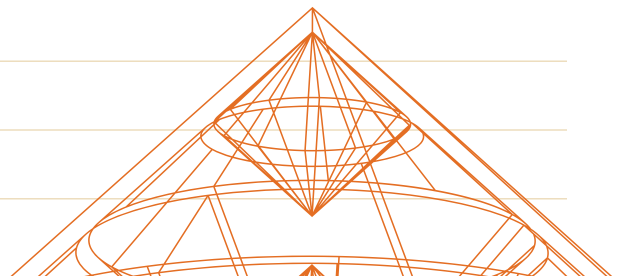
As you pray today, ask God to give you the courage and the strength to be accountable and a person who lives in community with other believers. Ask the Lord to lead you to the people who will help you become a person and someone people will look up to and want to follow.



SERMON NOTES

DATE

SPEAKER



PLAN OF SALVATION



We live in a broken world. All around us there is violence, suffering, poverty, and pain. There are broken lives, systems, and relationships, but there is one broken relationship in our lives that is more important than all others. This plan of salvation shares about our broken relationship with God and how that relationship can be restored.

GOD'S DESIGN

Although there is brokenness in our world, there is also beauty. When we take time to look around, we can see purpose and evidence of God's design all around us (Ps. 19:1). In the Bible, we are told that God originally designed and planned a world that worked perfectly. He created man and woman to worship Him and walk with Him (Gen. 1:31).

SIN

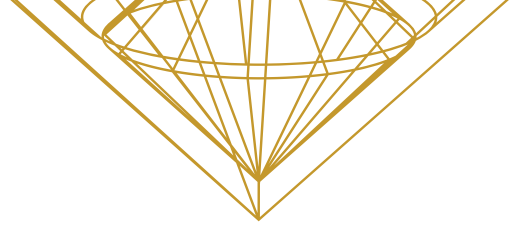
Man did not follow God's design. There was an angel of God who was very beautiful and smart. He wanted to be like God and to have the angels worship him instead of God. God is the one who deserves worship and praise. Therefore, God cast out this bad angel, now called Satan, and all of the other angels who listened to him out of Heaven. After the first man and woman were created, Satan tempted the woman to eat fruit from a tree that was forbidden. The woman fell into Satan's temptation and then gave some of the fruit to her husband (Gen. 3:1-7). Because the man and woman ate the fruit, they disobeyed God, which is also known as sin. Life does not work when we do disobey God and don't follow His original design for our lives. When we sin, we focus more on our selfish desires rather than God's desires for our lives. Romans 3:23 says that all have sinned and fallen short. The consequence of sin is separation from God forever.

BROKENNESS

Sin leads us to a place of brokenness and separation. Sin is why the world is a broken place. When we realize we are broken, we begin to try to go so many different directions and figure out things on our own (Prov. 14:12). When we are led to a place of brokenness, we begin to realize we have a need for something greater, something that can fix us because we cannot fix ourselves.

GOSPEL

Things seem hopeless at this point. We are broken and need a way to be fixed. There is good news though! Because of God's love for us, He does not leave us in our brokenness. In our brokenness, we cannot have a relationship with God so He sent His son Jesus. Jesus was God in human flesh and came to live a perfect life according to God's design. Jesus came as our rescuer. He came so that we could be restored to God because we could not do it ourselves. Jesus paid for our sins and brokenness by dying on a cross (2 Cor. 5:21; John 3:16; Col. 2:14). The story does not end there, though! Jesus rose from the grave and defeated sin and death once and for all (1 Cor. 15:3-4). Because Jesus did this, our brokenness can be restored and we can enter into a relationship with God.



REPENT AND BELIEVE

This is good news for us, but just hearing this good news of the gospel is not enough. Satan also knows the story of Jesus. In James 2, Scripture tells us that even the demons believe in God. In addition to believing that Jesus is God's Son, we must also admit that we have sinned against God and that we are broken people. We have to tell God that we do not have the ability to fix our brokenness on our own and that we need to be rescued. We can ask God for forgiveness of our sins. We then must turn away, or repent, from our sin and trust only in Jesus. By doing these things, we repent and believe that Jesus is our Savior (Mark 1:15). Believing in Jesus gives us new life, and we begin to follow God (Rom. 10:9).

RECOVER AND PURSUE

Once we have admitted that we need Jesus and our relationship with God has been restored, we begin to see that we have a new purpose in the broken world that we live in. We can now pursue God's design for our lives (Phil. 2:13). We will still sin, but we know the path to be restored is through Jesus. Once we are followers of Jesus, His Spirit gives us the ability to pursue His design for our lives (Eph. 2:10). We are assured to have a relationship with Him for the rest of our lives and all of eternity.

