Defeating Entitlement | Week 2
DISCUSSION GUIDE

OVERVIEW

In this message of the series, *Defeating Enemies of Success*, we studied the Old Testament king, David, and learned how God can use anyone despite their challenges and weaknesses.

DISCUSSION

After years of remarkable success as King of Judah and Israel, David reached an all-time high in power, fame, and authority. However, his prosperity left him vulnerable to pride and entitlement. While he had been humble and dependent on God during tough times, his victories led him to believe he deserved whatever he desired, even if it was not his. This mindset set the stage for his significant moral failure involving Bathsheba. David's entitlement eroded his humility, leading him away from his once-servant heart.

- How can success and prosperity make someone vulnerable to pride and a sense of entitlement?

- What can we learn from David's failure to maintain humility, even during times of outstanding achievement?

Three Lessons in Defeating Entitlement:
2 Samuel 11:1-2: *It happened in the spring of the year, at the time when kings go out to battle, that David sent Joab and his servants with him, and all Israel; and they destroyed the people of Ammon and besieged Rabbah. But David remained at Jerusalem. Then it happened one evening that David arose from his bed and walked on the roof of the king's house. And from the roof he saw a woman bathing, and the woman was very beautiful to behold.*

1. **Entitlement opens the door for temptation.**
   David's sense of entitlement and spiritual complacency opened the door to temptation, leading him to commit adultery with Bathsheba. Instead of going to battle as he should have, David remained idle, making him vulnerable to sin. As **James 1:14-15** explains, *each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed,* and David's unchecked desires led him into sin. Like Eve

in Genesis 3:6, David lingered on temptation, allowing it to grow into action.

- How does James 1:14-15 highlight the progression from temptation to sin in David's life?

- In what ways can spiritual complacency make us more vulnerable to temptation, and how can we guard against it?

2. **Sin never shares <u>consequences</u> up front.**
David's sin with Bathsheba began with unchecked temptation and escalated into a series of cover-ups, including the murder of her husband, Uriah. Temptation hid the consequences from David, and his actions caused immense suffering for himself, Bathsheba, and others. This tragic story illustrates how sin often starts small but grows into devastating consequences, affecting more than just the perpetrator.

- In what ways can we remind ourselves of the unseen consequences of sin when faced with temptation?

3. **Learn to <u>repent</u> quickly.**
id's fall into sin began with adultery and led to manipulation and murder, but his refusal to repent left him in a dangerous spiritual cycle. **Proverbs 28:13** reminds us, ***He who covers his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy.*** Instead of confessing, David had to be confronted by the prophet Nathan, who exposed his sin and led him to repentance. Through God's mercy, David was forgiven, and God blessed him and Bathsheba with a son, Solomon, showing that no sin is beyond God's forgiveness when we repent. He sends Nathan to David this time with a word, not of accusation, but of encouragement. **2 Samuel 12:25** says: ***And He sent word by the hand of Nathan the prophet: So he called his name Jedidiah, because of the Lord.***

- How does Proverbs 28:13 highlight the importance of confession and repentance in receiving God's mercy?

- Do you have a "Nathan" in your life that will challenge you and encourage you? Can you give an example of how this person has helped you?

- What qualities should we have or grow in to become a "Nathan" for others?

LIFE CHALLENGE
Reflect on areas in your life where success or prosperity may have caused you to rely less on God. What steps can you take to remain humble and spiritually vigilant, especially during times of achievement?