

WORD

¹In the spring of the year, the time when kings go out to battle, David sent Joab, and his servants with him, and all Israel. And they ravaged the Ammonites and besieged Rabbah. But David remained at Jerusalem. ²It happened, late one afternoon, when David arose from his couch and was walking on the roof of the king's house, that he saw from the roof a woman bathing; and the woman was very beautiful. ³And David sent and inquired about the woman. . . . **2 SAMUEL 11:1-3**

(Read also **2 SAMUEL 11**.)

David is known as the greatest king of Israel. He loved God and he led God's people with an upright heart and a skillful hand (Psalm 78:72). However, one of David's greatest mistakes was his sin of adultery. In this passage, we see how David should have been at battle, but he was in Jerusalem instead. This led to temptation and sin. In the same way, our seemingly insignificant choices and decisions—if not honoring to God—can lead to sin and downfall. In this lesson, we will look at three truths about temptation and how we can escape from it.

1 Temptation is real.

But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. **JAMES 1:14**

Just as David was tempted when he saw Bathsheba, we will all be tempted. Temptation is real, usually looks good, and can lure us into the trap of sin. According to this verse, what lures and entices us into temptation?

2 Temptation can lead to sin.

Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death. JAMES 1:15

David's desire led him to inquire about Bathsheba, and he sent for her. This desire then led to sin: an immoral relationship, a cover-up of adultery, and a murder that was commanded by David. Though temptation is not sin, it can lead to sin, which displeases the Lord (2 Samuel 11:27). What does sin lead to? What were the consequences of David's sin (2 Samuel 12:10-14)?

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3 We have a way out of temptation.

No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it. 1 CORINTHIANS 10:13

Temptation does not have to lead to sin. As Christians, when we are tempted, we can overcome temptation. This is not because of our own strength or strategy. Rather, it is because of God's faithfulness and grace, because He provides *the way of escape* for us. Recall a time when you fled temptation. What happened?

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APPLICATION

- In what area do you usually experience temptation? What are the ways God provides an escape for you? How do you think you will overcome temptation this week?
- Is there a sin that you need to expose and repent of? Are you willing to turn away from it? Do you believe God can forgive you? Spend time meditating on and studying Psalm 51 this week.
- Think of a family member or friend who is experiencing temptation and challenges. How can you encourage him or her? Ask God to provide a way out for him or her.

PRAYER

- Thank God for His faithfulness and grace in your life. Thank Him for forgiving your sins and not holding this against you because of Jesus' finished work on the cross.
- Ask God for a way of escape when you are tempted. Pray that you will not give in to temptation and you will flee instead.
- Pray that your life will be a testimony of God's grace. Pray that you would encourage others to flee from temptation as well.



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