

Catholic Family Connections Bible – FAMILY ACTIVITY

Confirmation 1 ~ Complete By: February 3rd | Confirmation 2 ~ Complete By: February 10th

- Materials Needed:**
- Catholic Family Connections Bible
 - Summary of King David’s Mistakes (attached)
 - “A Family Prayer Based on Psalm 51” (attached)
 - A paper and pencil
 - A camera – to email a photo of the family activity to crystal@sjeparish.com Photos will be gathered for a slide show at the end of the year but names will not be used.

1. **Read** *Psalm 51*.
2. **Go** around the group and discuss a time where you disobeyed mom and dad.
 - a. **PARENTS** recall a time when you were younger.
 - b. Ask each person the following:
 - i. What happened when you disobeyed your parents?
3. **PARENTS EXPLAIN** the following in your own words:
 - a. When we disobey our parents, they want us to say we are sorry.
 - b. When we do something God doesn’t want, we have to tell Him we are sorry too.
4. **Have** the youngest family member draw one stick figure on the left side of the paper and one on the right, then draw a wall (line) down the middle to separate them.
 - a. **PARENTS EXPLAIN** the following in your own words:
 - i. Sin separates us from God and from one another.
 - b. **CONFIRMATION STUDENT:** erase the wall.
 - c. **PARENTS EXPLAIN** the following in your own words:
 - i. Asking God for forgiveness brings us back in union with him.
 - ii. Asking for forgiveness erases the wall.
5. **Read** the summary of David and Bathsheba.
 - a. **PARENTS** discuss David’s sin with Bathsheba. If the younger children are old enough, discuss it in terms of adultery and the 9th Commandment. If they are too young, simply say that David disobeyed God’s law and because of that sin, a good man was killed. Explain the following:
 - i. David thought he could get away with the sin but God knew better. He had the prophet Nathaniel go to David and remind him he needed to ask God for forgiveness. David did and God forgave – even kings have to ask for forgiveness.
 - ii. David wrote some of the Psalms found in the Bible including Psalm 51 asking God to forgive his sin.
6. **Pray** “A Family Prayer Based on Psalm 51” and discuss what it means to you.

KING DAVID'S MISTAKES

David's First Mistake

King David was the greatest of Israel's kings. The kingdom prospered in his time like it did in no other. It is said that right after great successes comes the greatest risk for a great fall and that is exactly what happened to David. David's fall from grace started even before he had seen Bathsheba on a rooftop. His first mistake was that he shouldn't have even been in Jerusalem to see Bathsheba for as king, he should have been in battle with his army. That was mistake number one. All that would follow may have never happened if David had been where he was supposed to be.

David's Second Mistake

Bathsheba's husband was fighting in King David's army when David saw her on the rooftop. He saw how beautiful Bathsheba was and didn't look away when he should have.

David's Third Mistake

David wanted to know more about Bathsheba, so he asked around and was told that she was married to Uriah the Hittite. The man who told David about Bathsheba's marriage to Uriah, tried to tell him that he was making a mistake if he pursued Bathsheba. In 2 Samuel 11:3 **“David sent and inquired about the woman. And one said, “Is not this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?”** The man was trying to tell David that Bathsheba was already married, indicating that the king was about to commit a huge mistake but David ignored him and “sent messengers and took her, and she came to him, and he lay with her. (Now she had been purifying herself from her uncleanness.) Then she returned to her house. And the woman conceived, and she sent and told David, “I am pregnant” (1 Sam 11:4-5). Something else here to note is that she was still not fully done “purifying herself from her uncleanness” so this was sin too. By the way, there is no indication that Bathsheba tried to resist or tell David that she was

married but this may not be her fault because this may have simply been missing in the Scriptures. She may have done this but we can only guess as to whether she did or didn't, but the fact is that David knew better and perhaps Bathsheba felt she had to obey the king. We will never know.

David's Fourth Mistake

David should have confessed this sin right away and told Uriah what had happened. Instead he sent word to Joab to have Uriah come to Jerusalem and have him be with his wife to think that he got her pregnant instead of David. The problem for David was that Uriah was a loyal man and instead slept on his own front porch since he knew that the rest of the army was out in the fields and didn't feel it was right to have the comfort and conveniences of his own home while his comrades slept in the open fields (1 Sam 11:9-11). When this didn't work, he force Uriah to get drunk in the hopes that he would sleep with his wife but again, Uriah was an honorable man and slept outside of his home (1 Sam 11:13).

David's Fifth Mistake

When this didn't work, David finally conspired to have Uriah killed by sending a letter to Joab, the commander of the forces, to have Uriah placed in the forefront of the battle and then have the forces drawn back to ensure Uriah would be killed (1 Sam 11:14-15). Imagine the gall of David sending by Uriah's hand orders to have him be killed. Naturally, Uriah was a loyal soldier and never opened the letter to Joab. This seems incomprehensible for the king of Israel but that is how sin is...one sin leads to another greater sin in an effort to cover up the first sin. The plan worked perfectly and Uriah died but it was really by David's own hand (1 Sam 11:14-17). David had committed adultery, conspiracy to commit murder, and then finally and essentially, premeditated murder. What is even more tragic, **“some of the servants of David among the people fell”** which resulted in more innocent men dying (1 Sam 11:17) and not just Uriah. This shows that when someone

sins, more people suffer than just the one who has sinned. Now David was not only responsible for Uriah's death but several other men's death too. How many? We don't know but it is likely there were at least several dozen. Listen to David's cold-blooded response to Joab about the death of these men when he replied, "Do not let this matter displease you, for the sword devours now one and now another" (1 Sam 11:25a). How callous can a man be?

Conclusion

All of this murderous sin came out of David not being where he should have been, with the army in battle during the spring. Then it was David seeing Bathsheba bathing and not immediately looking away. Next it was David inquiring about her and then ignoring the fact that she was married. After this he sent for her and committed adultery with her. He then committed conspiracy to commit murder and then had Uriah and several others killed, all of whom were innocent. Then callously saying to Joab in effect, "Oh well, that's war for you. Don't worry about it." Sin has a paralyzing effect on our common sense. When we sin, we try to cover it up with yet another sin. The result was that David and Bathsheba's baby died. So there is yet another innocent victim...the baby.

God does not hesitate to show us how even the heroes of the faith make huge mistakes and then reveal the consequences of these mistakes so that we might learn that sin comes at great cost...the

blood of innocent people. Jesus too was innocent and had to die for the guilty. If you haven't repented and trusted in Him, then you will have to pay for your own sins. Without Christ, that payment will be for time without end (Luke 3:17; Matt 3:12; Jude 1:6-7, 13; Heb 6:2; **Rev 14:11**).

A FAMILY PRAYER BASED ON PSALM 51

Please forgive me, God.

Erase all traces of my sin.

I know that I disobeyed you.

I know that you want me to be good.

I am so sorry that I disobeyed.

Make me as clean as new snow.

Let me sing happy songs.

Please forgive me for what I have done.

Help me never to disobey your law again and let me tell everyone I meet what a loving God you are.

Amen.