



DISCUSSION GUIDE

UNCHAINED FROM WHAT WE WRONGLY CRAVE

GETTING STARTED

What is one thing you are thankful for this week and what is one thing we can pray for you this week?

What is the difference between desire and temptation?

What is one thing you crave, that you know isn't "good for you"?

QUICK REACTIONS FROM THE MESSAGE

How would you summarize/paraphrase the message in your own words?

What point/idea resonated most with you? Why?

In the story of David and Bathsheba, Dave gave us four lessons in how we can cave to what we wrongly crave...

1. It starts with apathy (spiritual)
2. Then caters to what we crave
3. Then our catering has consequences
4. Which then, in turn our consequences eventually confront us

How do you see this play out in this story?

How do you reconcile David, "a man after God's heart" with a man who can be so selfish?

What lessons in this story should we take from it in our day and age?

Dave suggested that David had lost a sense mission, of surrounding himself with his men and when confronted with consequences of his actions instead of admitting, he covered them up.

1. How can we begin to cater to our cravings when we lose our mission, isolate ourselves from others?
2. Why is confession and transparency with others so vital in our walk with God?

EXPLORE THE PASSAGE [2 Samuel 11]

(Yes, these questions can seem silly, however, good discussion and interpretation of the Bible begins with having a proper understanding of the basic facts; who, what, when, and where in the text.) Work through this quickly, the answers are fairly obvious.

Where was David while the Israelite army was engaged in battle against the Ammonites? (11:1)

What did David observe one night from the roof of the palace? (11:2)

How did David misuse his authority as king in relation to the woman he observed? (11:3-5)

After David found out Bathsheba was pregnant, what did he do next? (11:6)

What was David's pretext for sending for Uriah from the battlefield? (11:7)

Where did David send Uriah after he spoke with him? (11:8)

Why didn't Uriah take David up on the invitation to go to his own home? (11:9-11)

What ploy did David try to get Uriah to go home to his wife? (11:13)

When Uriah did not go home, what message did David send back with him to Joab? (11:14-15)

What steps did Joab take to fulfill the king's wishes? (11:16-17)

What special instructions did Joab give to the messenger in case David grew angry at the losses taken by the Israelites? (11:18-21)

How did David receive the news of the battle when he realized that his purposes had been accomplished with regard to Uriah? (11:25)

How did Bathsheba react to the death of Uriah the Hittite? (11:26)

How did David treat Bathsheba once her husband was out of the way? (11:27)

How did God feel about what David had done? (11:27)

QUESTIONS THAT HELP US UNDERSTAND THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE TEXT

Why did David try everything within his power to get Uriah to sleep with his wife while he was home from the wars?

How did one sin lead to another and another in David's case?

What was the immediate human cost of David wrongly pursuing what he craved?

Why do you suppose Joab put a whole group of men in peril instead of following David's suggestion about abandoning Uriah?

If David walking with God and others, how should David have reacted to the losses Joab reported from the battle?

Why does one sin often lead to other sins?

How does a position of authority exaggerate the human tendency to take what we want?

APPLY THE PASSAGE

What do we learn about God and about ourselves in this passage?

What do you need to stop, start or do differently as a result of reading this passage?

How can we pray for each other?