





raised it, and it grew up with him and his children. It shared his food, drank from his cup and even slept in his arms. It was like a daughter to him. **4** "Now a traveler came to the rich man, but the rich man refrained from taking one of his own sheep or cattle to prepare a meal for the traveler who had come to him. Instead, he took the ewe lamb that belonged to the poor man and prepared it for the one who had come to him." **5** David burned with anger against the man and said to Nathan, "As surely as the LORD lives, the man who did this must die! **6** He must pay for that lamb four times over, because he did such a thing and had no pity." **7** Then Nathan said to David, "You are the man! This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: 'I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you from the hand of Saul. **8** I gave your master's house to you, and your master's wives into your arms. I gave you all Israel and Judah. And if all this had been too little, I would have given you even more. **9** Why did you despise the word of the LORD by doing what is evil in his eyes? You struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and took his wife to be your own. You killed him with the sword of the Ammonites.

[Vv. 1–9 *How did the events in Nathan's story describe David?*]

**13** Then David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD." Nathan replied, "The LORD has taken away your sin. You are not going to die. **14** But because by doing this you have shown utter contempt for the LORD, the son born to you will die." **15** After Nathan had gone home, the LORD struck the child that Uriah's wife had borne to David, and he became ill.

[Vv. 13–15 *David repented of his sin, yet there were still consequences.*]

## What I Have Learned

Use today's Scripture. In your own words, describe David and his feelings.

1. While listening to Nathan's parable in verses 1–5:

2. What did David learn from Nathan in verses 6–9?

3. How did David feel when Nathan repeated his sin to him in verse 13?

4. What would *not* happen to David, but what would happen to the baby in verses 13–14?

## Keep In Mind

**"Then Nathan said to David, 'You are the man!'"**  
(from 2 Samuel 12:7, NIV).

## Choosing What's Best

There's a saying, "Just because everyone else is doing something, that doesn't make it right." People make excuses for sin. They say other people are doing something. They compare sins and say theirs aren't as bad as someone else's. They justify sin by blaming people for hurting them first. God calls each of us to confess our sins and ask for forgiveness.

It's easy to point out other people's sins. Turn the spotlight on yourself. In the space below, write down what you need to do about an ongoing sin in your life. Will you confess it to God (and the person you offended)? Will you ask for forgiveness?

How do you feel after confessing your sin?

## Doing My Part

Are you more like Nathan or David? Nathan needed to help someone who sinned. And David needed to admit his sins and ask for forgiveness. If you are holding a grudge against someone, forgive them. If you have hurt someone, confess your sin, and ask their forgiveness. Your challenge is to follow through with what you learned this week.