

## GOD IS FOR ME: Week 9 (For Men) 11.10.13

# STUDY GUIDE

*Note: Because of gender themes, this week we encourage men and women to meet separately. This LifeGroup study is for men only.*

### [warm up]

Share a time when you made a wrong turn on a road trip and the results created a real hardship.

Describe a time in your life when you were lazy and your laziness caused you or someone else some trouble.

Recent church history includes several newsworthy moral failures. Which ones do you recall? Which one has impacted your life in some way?

### [digging deeper]

Lots of stories in the Old Testament include Israel's battles against neighboring people groups. This story starts with the people of God at war with the Ammonites. When someone says they discount the Bible because of all the unnecessary and indiscriminate bloodshed (especially in the OT) how would you respond?

Have someone read II Samuel 11:1-4 and make a list of the bad decisions that David made which led to his fall into the sin with Bathsheba. Compare David's steps leading to sin with Eve's progression in Genesis 3:1-7. (Also note the connection with I John 2:15-17.)

Read James 1:14-15. Discuss how David's fall in II Samuel 11 illustrates the truths found in James. Someone said, "Sin will take you further than you want to go, teach you more than you want to know, cost you more than you want to pay, and keep you longer than you want to stay." What observations like this can we make from David's life about the progressive nature of sin?

Read II Samuel 11:5-27 and make a list of the sins and negative consequences that occurred in David's life as a result of his sin with Bathsheba.

Read Exodus 20:1-17. Which of the Ten Commandments did David break in his sin with Bathsheba and Uriah? Discuss what you think may have been the root issue, the main sin that caused these effects.

John Eldridge, author of *Wild at Heart*, has said that men need an adventure to live, a battle to fight, and a beauty to win. Discuss how David did not adhere to these principles.

Robert Lewis defines authentic manhood this way: 1) reject passivity, 2) accept responsibility, 3) lead courageously and 4) invest eternally. Now, grade David at this point in his life in each area and talk about why you would give him that grade.

David was called a “man after God’s own heart” (1 Sam. 13:14) and yet he fell into this horrible sin. What lessons can we apply to ourselves?

Ask individual members of your LifeGroup to silently read one of the following passages:

Job 31:1-4

Proverbs 5:15-22

Proverbs 6:23-35

Matthew 5:27-30

Romans 6:12-14

Romans 8:6-13

Romans 12:1-2

I Corinthians 6:12-20

I Thessalonians 4:2-8 II Timothy 2:20-22

Now ask the person who read each passage above to answer this question: “What are some safeguards scripture says we can build into our lives to live sexually pure in an impure world?”

As a group discuss which safeguards will make the biggest difference in your lives. Note: Keep your discussion focused not on sheer willpower, but on the gospel - on the pardon and the power for purity provided by Christ Jesus.

## **[living new]**

David fell when he should have been fighting. What happens in a man’s life if he has no compelling adventure to live and no battle to fight? Ask each man to describe his mission, his purpose, his mandate, his global Goliath - something that will keep him engaged for the rest of his life.

As a LifeGroup, make a list of the negative consequences of sexual sin. Assign someone in the group to record the list and make it available to everyone. (Attached is a link to Rick’s blog where he lists many negative consequences:

<http://cuyahogavalleychurch.blogspot.com/2012/03/negative-consequences-of-sexual-sin.html>

What might happen in your life if you were to read this list every day for 21 days?

Now, do the reverse. Make a list of the positive results for sexual purity. Assign someone in the group to record the list and make it available to everyone. What might happen in your life if you were to read this list every day for 21 days?

Remember that Robert Lewis defines authentic manhood this way: 1) reject passivity, 2) accept responsibility, 3) lead courageously and 4) invest eternally. Now, grade yourself at this point in your own life in each area and talk about why you would give yourself that grade. What plans can you make to grow in each area?

Many men who have struggled with pornography have been helped by using an Internet filter like Covenant Eyes. On a scale of 1-10, how much have you struggled with porn in the past? How much have you struggled recently? Have you used an Internet filter? Would you use one? Here is a link to Covenant Eyes.

<http://www.covenanteyes.com/>

Here is a link to an online study Setting Captives Free - The Way of Purity:

<http://www.settingcaptivesfree.com/courses/way-of-purity/>

How can we protect ourselves against these kinds of sins? How will we keep each other accountable? How can your LifeGroup help hold each other accountable to guard against the pathway David walked?

Spend time praying for each other - for humility and accountability as men, for the desire to be obedient, and for strength to flee temptation.