



# STUDY GUIDE

## GOD IS FOR ME: Week 10 11.17.13

### [set up]

How did your parents' discipline you? How did you feel toward them during and after their discipline? Did their discipline feel loving?

Did your parents' discipline help grow your character? What method of discipline may have been more effective in building godly character in you?

If you are a parent what methods of discipline have you used? As you think about being a parent someday what methods of discipline do you use or think you will use? What are your hopes for what discipline will do to your children?

### [digging deeper]

Reread Nathan's rebuke of David in II Samuel 12:1-12. Why do you believe Nathan started this confrontation with a story? What do you think might have happened if Nathan confronted David WITHOUT the story?

Discuss how Nathan was able to apply the principles found in James 4:11-12 and, therefore, was able to avoid "critical condemnation" and achieve "caring confrontation."

Read the following Bible verses and stories about caring confrontation that resulted in the rescue of someone who sinned: James 5:19-20, Galatians 5:1-2, John 21:15-23, and Galatians 2:11-14. What principles can you glean from these verses and stories about how we are to confront someone in sin?

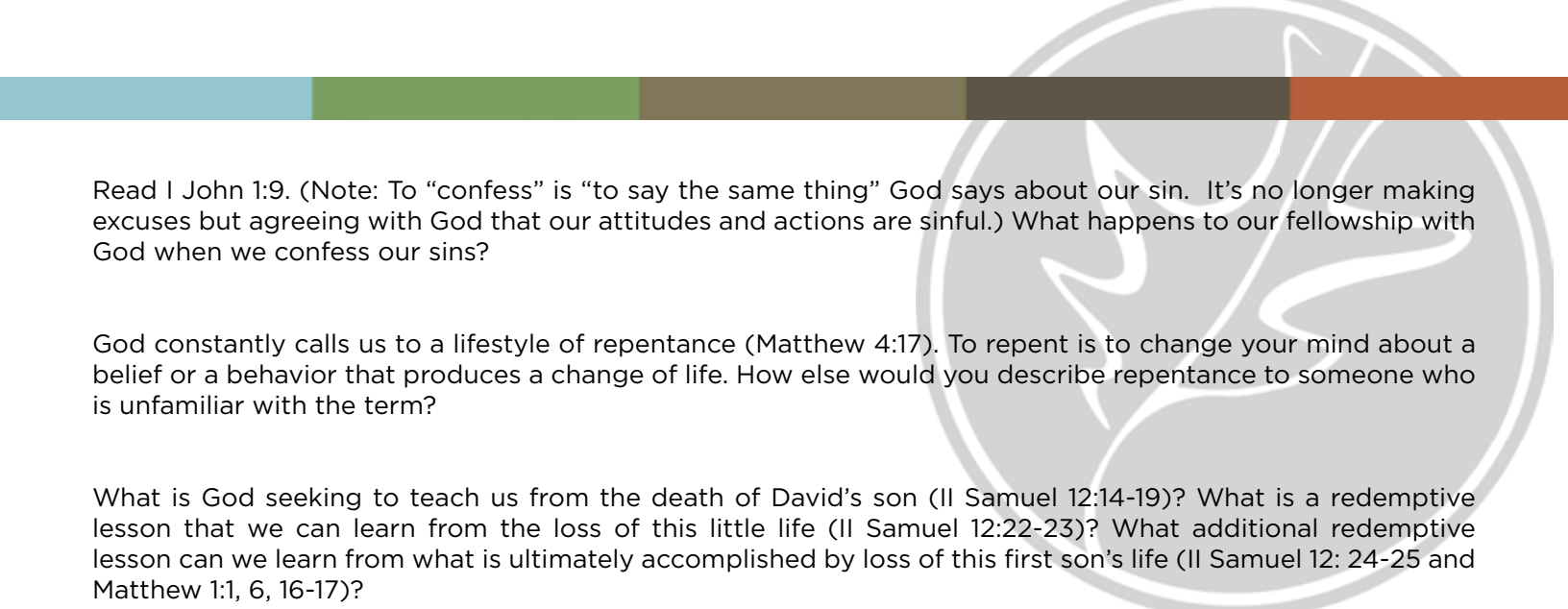
Read II Samuel 12:10-12 for prophetic words about the discipline that David would experience as a consequence for his sin. Now, read II Samuel 13:28-29, II Samuel 16:21-22, II Samuel 18:14-15, and I Kings 2:25 for the fulfillment of these prophecies. How does this function to encourage your pursuit of holiness and discourage you from stepping into sin?

Read Hebrews 12:4-13 and list some positive benefits of discipline from the hand of God.

Reread II Samuel 12:13 and compare it with Psalm 51:4. Considering the fact that David sinned against both Bathsheba and Uriah, what is the significance of David's words?

Read David's most famous songs of confession, Psalm 51 and Psalm 32, and point out necessary ingredients for true repentance.

When we put our faith in Christ, it's true that we are totally forgiven of all our past, present, and future sins. Because of that full and free forgiveness, our relationship with God has been eternally secured. Yet, we know we still sin. Discuss how these ongoing sins disturb our fellowship with our heavenly Father.



Read I John 1:9. (Note: To “confess” is “to say the same thing” God says about our sin. It’s no longer making excuses but agreeing with God that our attitudes and actions are sinful.) What happens to our fellowship with God when we confess our sins?

God constantly calls us to a lifestyle of repentance (Matthew 4:17). To repent is to change your mind about a belief or a behavior that produces a change of life. How else would you describe repentance to someone who is unfamiliar with the term?

What is God seeking to teach us from the death of David's son (II Samuel 12:14-19)? What is a redemptive lesson that we can learn from the loss of this little life (II Samuel 12:22-23)? What additional redemptive lesson can we learn from what is ultimately accomplished by loss of this first son's life (II Samuel 12: 24-25 and Matthew 1:1, 6, 16-17)?

When God is for you, He will discipline you. Discuss how this can both warn and warm you.

Note the blessings that David eventually received from God: II Samuel 12:24-31. How can this encourage us to live new today?

## **[living it out]**

When have you been a David who needed to repent – receiving conviction from the Lord and/or being confronted by a Nathan? Is it easy or hard for you to repent, are you quick or slow to repent?

How does God discipline us? Is it right or fair to be disciplined by God? Can you think of a specific time God has disciplined you? What was the outcome?

How have you been confronted by a Nathan in the past? Or where do you currently need to be confronted? (This is a time to be vulnerable! Please be truthful and transparent. Take a risk. Intimacy will grow in your LifeGroup as you trust one another with difficult truths about your life.) How might God be currently disciplining you?

We reap not only what we have sown, but also what others have sown. How are you suffering because of what your parents or a previous generation did wrong? How might your children be suffering likewise? What hope do you have that the sins of one generation will NOT be passed to another?

When have you been a Nathan? How might the way Nathan confronted David impact the way you will confront someone in the future? How will you use “caring confrontation” and avoid “critical condemnation”?

Is God showing you your need to confront someone? Make a list of people you know who are in sin and need confrontation. Encourage each LifeGroup member to share at least one name. Have a conversation about how the LifeGroup member could engage in caring confrontation.

Take some time to allow the Holy Spirit to search your sins. It might be helpful to slowly think through various areas of your life: sins of thought, sins of attitude, sins of relationships, sins of omission, sins of commission, sins of self-rule, and sins of self-reliance. Now, give time for LifeGroup members to ask God for the grace to repent and restore your fellowship with God. Then thank God that your sins were already paid for by Christ.

Finally, close your time praying in a God Dependent way for the straying people on your list so that they begin to Live New.