

# GOD IS FOR ME: Week 9 (For Women)

## 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 women 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.

We are prone to sin when we allow ourselves to be vulnerable to temptation from pride, control, emotional responses, unmet needs and unresolved issues. In what areas may have David let himself become vulnerable to sin? What may have been brewing in his heart and mind prior to the initial sin he made?

Read Deuteronomy 17:17 and 2 Samuel 5:13. How do these verses shed light on areas in David's life that he may have been vulnerable to sin?

As women what vulnerabilities are we prone to when it comes to sexual temptation? What entices our hearts and draws us away from righteous thoughts and actions? Men and women are wired differently. Men are drawn by the physical appearance of woman. Women are drawn by emotional connectedness with men. Shannon Ethridge states in her book, *Every Woman's Battle*, "While many men limit their affairs by what they take in through their eyes, women also submit longingly to mental fantasies and emotional affairs".

Ephesians 5:22-33 describes the ways in which God commands us to respond to our spouses. What is it that a man is commanded to give to his wife? So what is it that she is seeking? It is often said that men give love to get sex and women give sex to get love. Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not? How might a woman's emotional connectedness with a man put her at risk for sexual temptation?

In light of the story of David and Bathsheba, we know that Bathsheba was not an innocent bystander in this story. What does 2 Samuel 11:4-5 say about her response to him and the condition she was in? What may she have been thinking when she was summoned by the king's messenger? Why is it important to note that she was purifying herself from her uncleanness when he summoned her?

A woman's sexual struggle begins with her heart and mind, craving emotional intimacy, to be sought after, cared for, accepted, romanced, and complimented. A woman wants to know she matters and may find her significance and value in being sought after by a man. The battle is in her thoughts and emotions and it may be easy to believe that no lines of intimacy have been crossed. However, she may begin to compare her husband with other men, make small compromises in her emotional integrity, look for approval from, or befriend, other men, withhold emotional intimacy with her husband while sharing things of the heart with other men. What is the danger of this? How does the enemy use the slippery slope of desire and vulnerability here? If you are not married how might seeking after the things above still be dangerous to sexual purity?

Are there areas in your own life that those emotional lines have been crossed? If so, In what ways?

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:

Reread/reword the following passages so that it relates to the struggle that women face. For example: Job 31:1 "I made a covenant with my eyes not to look lustfully at a young woman". To "I made a covenant with my heart and mind not to seek fulfillment of my emotional needs from a man."

Job 31:1-4

Proverbs 5:15-22

Matthew 5:27-30

Read the following passages making note of God's provision for sexual purity.

Romans 6:12-14

Romans 8:6-13

Romans 12:1-2

I Corinthians 6:12-20

II Timothy 2:20-22

Galatians 6:8

Psalms 26:2

Psalms 73:26

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. Bathsheba fell as she was summoned by the king. What happens in a woman's life if she is seeking emotional fulfillment or self-significance from a man? Ask each woman to describe how she may continually find her value, significance and emotional fulfillment in Christ alone?

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. A woman's body, mind and spirit are intricately connected, making it difficult for a woman to disconnect mentally and emotionally from sexual sin. Include in your list what emotional consequences and negative thought processes, as well as, physical effects, may result from sexual sin. What might happen in your life if you were to read this list every day for 21 days?

(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?

How can we protect and safeguard ourselves against these kinds of sins? What areas are we particularly vulnerable and need to safeguard? 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, honesty, openness and accountability as women, for the desire to be obedient, and for strength to flee temptation.