

17.30 David and Bathsheba (2 Samuel 11:1–27; 12:1–25; Psalm 51; 32)

✓ “*Check*” it out; opinion, inference, supposed conversation, or fact one can verify follows

Brackets [. . .] indicate a remark to the teacher that should not be read aloud, or they show answers to questions.

Visuals and Tools:

- Pictures and other visuals found at the end of this lesson. Please give credit to the sources of pictures.
- Check “Activities” and “Handwork” found below for additional materials.

Bible Time Tips and Terms to Teach: Vocabulary words are enlarged for flashcards at the end of this lesson. Print, cut out, and glue to card stock, or just print on colorful cardstock. (Note: both of these terms are homonyms, words that sound the same as other words with different meanings; therefore, the matching homonym is also available to print below so that students may see the differences between the words.)

- *mourning*: grieving
- *ewe*: female sheep

Scripture: (ESV)

2 Samuel 11:1 In the spring of the year, the time when kings go out to battle, David sent Joab, and his servants with him, and all Israel. And they ravaged the Ammonites and besieged Rabbah. But David remained at Jerusalem.

2 It happened, late one afternoon, when David arose from his couch and was walking on the roof of the king’s house, that he saw from the roof a woman bathing; and the woman was very beautiful. 3 And David sent and inquired about the woman. And one said, “Is not this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?” 4 So David sent messengers and took her, and she came to him, and he lay with her. (Now she had been purifying herself from her uncleanness.) Then she returned to her house. 5 And the woman conceived, and she sent and told David, “I am pregnant.”

6 So David sent word to Joab, “Send me Uriah the Hittite.” And Joab sent Uriah to David. 7 When Uriah came to him, David asked how Joab was doing and how the people were doing and how the war was going. 8 Then David said to Uriah, “Go down to your house and wash your feet.” And Uriah went out of the king’s house, and there followed him a present from the king. 9 But Uriah slept at the door of the king’s house with all the servants of his lord, and did not go down to his house. 10 When they told David, “Uriah did not go down to his house,” David said to Uriah, “Have you not come from a journey? Why did you not go down to your house?” 11 Uriah said to David, “The ark and Israel and Judah dwell in booths, and my lord Joab and the servants of my lord are camping in the open field. Shall I then go to my house, to eat and to drink and to lie with my wife? As you live, and as your soul lives, I will not do this thing.” 12 Then David said to Uriah, “Remain here today also, and tomorrow I will send you back.” So Uriah remained in Jerusalem that day and the next. 13 And David invited him, and he ate in his presence and drank, so that he made him drunk. And in the evening he went out to lie on his couch with the servants of his lord, but he did not go down to his house.

14 In the morning David wrote a letter to Joab and sent it by the hand of Uriah. 15 In the letter he wrote, “Set Uriah in the forefront of the hardest fighting, and then draw back from him, that he may be struck down, and die.” 16 And as Joab was besieging the city, he assigned Uriah to the place where he knew there were valiant men. 17 And the men of the city came out and fought with Joab, and some of the servants of David among the people fell. Uriah the Hittite also died. 18 Then Joab sent and told David all the news about the fighting. 19 And he instructed the messenger, “When you have finished telling all the news about the fighting to the king, 20 then, if the king’s anger rises, and if he says to you, ‘Why did you go so near the city to fight? Did you not know that they would shoot from the wall? 21 Who killed Abimelech the son of Jerubbesheth? Did not a woman cast an upper millstone on him from the wall, so that he died at Thebez? Why did you go so near the wall?’ then you shall say, ‘Your servant Uriah the Hittite is dead also.’”

22 So the messenger went and came and told David all that Joab had sent him to tell. 23 The messenger said

to David, "The men gained an advantage over us and came out against us in the field, but we drove them back to the entrance of the gate. 24 Then the archers shot at your servants from the wall. Some of the king's servants are dead, and your servant Uriah the Hittite is dead also." 25 David said to the messenger, "Thus shall you say to Joab, 'Do not let this matter displease you, for the sword devours now one and now another. Strengthen your attack against the city and overthrow it.' And encourage him."

26 When the wife of Uriah heard that Uriah her husband was dead, she lamented over her husband. 27 And when the mourning was over, David sent and brought her to his house, and she became his wife and bore him a son. But the thing that David had done displeased the Lord.

12:1 And the Lord sent Nathan to David. He came to him and said to him, "There were two men in a certain city, the one rich and the other poor. 2 The rich man had very many flocks and herds, 3 but the poor man had nothing but one little ewe lamb, which he had bought. And he brought it up, and it grew up with him and with his children. It used to eat of his morsel and drink from his cup and lie in his arms, and it was like a daughter to him. 4 Now there came a traveler to the rich man, and he was unwilling to take one of his own flock or herd to prepare for the guest who had come to him, but he took the poor man's lamb and prepared it for the man who had come to him." 5 Then David's anger was greatly kindled against the man, and he said to Nathan, "As the Lord lives, the man who has done this deserves to die, 6 and he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity."

7 Nathan said to David, "You are the man! Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, 'I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you out of the hand of Saul. 8 And I gave you your master's house and your master's wives into your arms and gave you the house of Israel and of Judah. And if this were too little, I would add to you as much more. 9 Why have you despised the word of the Lord, to do what is evil in his sight? You have struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and have taken his wife to be your wife and have killed him with the sword of the Ammonites. 10 Now therefore the sword shall never depart from your house, because you have despised me and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife.' 11 Thus says the Lord, 'Behold, I will raise up evil against you out of your own house. And I will take your wives before your eyes and give them to your neighbor, and he shall lie with your wives in the sight of this sun. 12 For you did it secretly, but I will do this thing before all Israel and before the sun.'" 13 David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the Lord." And Nathan said to David, "The Lord also has put away your sin; you shall not die. 14 Nevertheless, because by this deed you have utterly scorned the Lord, the child who is born to you shall die." 15 Then Nathan went to his house.

And the Lord afflicted the child that Uriah's wife bore to David, and he became sick. 16 David therefore sought God on behalf of the child. And David fasted and went in and lay all night on the ground. 17 And the elders of his house stood beside him, to raise him from the ground, but he would not, nor did he eat food with them. 18 On the seventh day the child died. And the servants of David were afraid to tell him that the child was dead, for they said, "Behold, while the child was yet alive, we spoke to him, and he did not listen to us. How then can we say to him the child is dead? He may do himself some harm." 19 But when David saw that his servants were whispering together, David understood that the child was dead. And David said to his servants, "Is the child dead?" They said, "He is dead." 20 Then David arose from the earth and washed and anointed himself and changed his clothes. And he went into the house of the Lord and worshiped. He then went to his own house. And when he asked, they set food before him, and he ate. 21 Then his servants said to him, "What is this thing that you have done? You fasted and wept for the child while he was alive; but when the child died, you arose and ate food." 22 He said, "While the child was still alive, I fasted and wept, for I said, 'Who knows whether the Lord will be gracious to me, that the child may live?'" 23 But now he is dead. Why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he will not return to me."

24 Then David comforted his wife, Bathsheba, and went in to her and lay with her, and she bore a son, and he called his name Solomon. And the Lord loved him 25 and sent a message by Nathan the prophet. So he called his name Jedidiah, because of the Lord.

To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David, when Nathan the prophet went to him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba. 51:1 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy

blot out my transgressions. 2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!

3 For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. 4 Against you, you only, have I sinned and one what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment. 5 Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me. 6 Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.

7 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. 8 Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have broken rejoice. 9 Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. 10 Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. 11 Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. 12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.

13 Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you. 14 Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of your righteousness. 15 O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise. 16 For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it; you will not be pleased with a burnt offering. 17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

18 Do good to Zion in your good pleasure; build up the walls of Jerusalem; 19 then will you delight in right sacrifices, in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings; then bulls will be offered on your altar.

A Maskil of David. 32:1 Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. 2 Blessed is the man against whom the Lord counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

3 For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. 4 For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. Selah

5 I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," and you forgave the iniquity of my sin. Selah

6 Therefore let everyone who is godly offer prayer to you at a time when you may be found; surely in the rush of great waters, they shall not reach him. 7 You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance. Selah

8 I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you. 9 Be not like a horse or a mule, without understanding, which must be curbed with bit and bridle, or it will not stay near you.

10 Many are the sorrows of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts in the Lord. 11 Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!

Introduction/Review:

[Review events in David's kingship. See "17 Bulletin Board of David's Life."]

Joab had fought against Ammon and their hired soldiers from Syria and had sent them scurrying home. The hired soldiers then had gotten together with allies, but David and his army had defeated them.

Story:

David at home

Now, ✓perhaps through the winter, everyone went home. No warring was going on until springtime, when kings again go to battle. But when springtime came in Israel, for a reason that the Bible doesn't reveal, David didn't go out to battle. ✓Maybe he thought, "I'm tired of fighting; let my men do it," or "I'm the king; kings should send, not lead, their soldiers to battle." Therefore, he sent Joab back to Ammon, but he stayed in Jerusalem.

Just like us, when we don't do our duty and get bored and so do something we shouldn't do, David shirked

his duty, ✓perhaps got bored with nothing much to do, and got into big trouble. I hate to tell this story because it talks about David's sin—out-and-out sin—terrible, terrible sin.

In the evening time, when the house was still hot but the air outside was cooling down, people in Israel liked to sit, not out on a deck or in a back yard, but on their flat roofs. David went out on his roof, ✓probably looked over all the other roofs near his house, seeing kids playing and parents sitting and talking. David gazed first in one direction and then in another. [Teacher, gaze here and there; then stop to look intently at one spot.]

David in sin

“Wow! Whoa! Now there is a beautiful woman. She's washing herself. . . . Servant!”

“Yes, King David?”

“Who is that gorgeous woman on that rooftop over there? Go find out.”

The servant left and returned, saying, “That is Bathsheba, the wife of Uriah the Hittite.”

Now, who was Uriah? He was one of David's very best soldiers. Of all the thousands of soldiers in Israel, Uriah was listed among the top thirty of David's mighty men (1 Chronicles 11:41). He now was with Joab in Ammon, fighting for the sake of his king and his country.

As soon as David heard this information about Bathsheba, he should have thought, “Oh, she's married; forget her. The seventh commandment states, ‘You shall not commit adultery’—you shall not take another man's wife and act as if she's your own wife.” But David wasn't thinking about his duty nor about God's law.

“Go send for Bathsheba,” he told some messengers. “Bring her here to my house.”

That night David “did a very wrong thing and sinned against God” (ebibleteacher.com who copied it from Betty L. Hakin).

Sometime later Bathsheba let David know she was going to have a baby, and he was the father. David, trying to cover up his sin, summoned Uriah back to Jerusalem so that he could go home to his wife, Bathsheba, making it appear that the baby was Uriah's.

Uriah at the king's house

But that plan didn't work. After David asked Uriah about the war at Ammon, he sent Uriah home. However, Uriah was so loyal to his king and the army that he didn't think he should be able to go home while his fellow soldiers slept in the field.

During the following evening David even made Uriah drunk, hoping he wouldn't be able to think straight and would go home. But Uriah slept again with David's servants and did not go home.

The next morning David wrote a letter to Joab. [Teacher, pantomime writing on a scroll.] “Put Uriah in the front of the army where there is the fiercest fighting. Then, leave him there so that he shall be struck down and die.”

Uriah in danger

What?! Do you understand what David was doing? He was breaking another commandment. Which one? [You shall not murder, the sixth commandment.] He was making sure the enemy killed Uriah, which was to commit murder himself. The orders were carried by the very man he would murder, Uriah. He took the letter and didn't look at it ✓because he thought it was none of his business. Oh, that letter was his business—his very life!

Joab, for his part, did just as David commanded. Uriah was killed in a needless, heedless battle. When the messenger gave David the news of Uriah's death, David merely said, “Don't let this upset you. War kills one

as well as another. Encourage Joab to keep on fighting.”

Bathsheba, when she heard of the death of her honorable husband, grieved for him. When her time of mourning (crying) was over, David married her, and that baby, a son, was born to them.

David in a story

Is that the end of the story? Is everything okay? This kind of thing goes on frequently in our world today, and people say, “Well, as long as they’re happy, everything’s okay.” But that is not true. The Bible says, “The thing David had done displeased the Lord.”

God sent the prophet Nathan to David to tell him a story showing David how wrong he was. There are two men in the story: one pictures David and the other, Uriah. See if you can see which man is David and which one is Uriah. Here’s Nathan’s story:

“There are two men in a certain town, one, very rich [David], and the other, poor [Uriah]. The rich man had lots and lots of sheep and cattle, but the poor man had only one ewe (female) lamb that he had bought, that had become a pet, that grew up with his children, that shared their food and even drank from his cup, and that slept with his family. The sheep was almost like a daughter to the poor man.

“A traveler came to eat with the rich man. Instead of taking one of his many sheep to prepare a meal, the rich man took the ewe lamb away from the poor man, slaughtered it, and prepared it for dinner.”

When David heard this, he became furious and said to Nathan, “As surely as the Lord lives, that rich man deserves to die. He must pay for that lamb four times over because he did such a terrible thing without being sorry!”

David in guilt

Then Nathan said to David [Teacher, point out], “You are the man! This is what the Lord says to you: ‘I anointed you king over Israel; I delivered you from Saul; I have given you wives; I gave you the house of Israel and Judah. Why, then, did you despise the word of the Lord and do this evil in His eyes? You struck down Uriah with a sword and took his wife. Now, your family will have fighting within it all the time. You tried to take Uriah’s wife in secret, but someone close to you will take some of your wives and everybody will know it.’”

David was suddenly stricken with guilt and sorrow. He said, “I have sinned against the Lord,” and he meant it from the depths of his soul. In fact, he wrote about five psalms telling of his guilt and repentance (Psalms 51; 32; 38; 103; 6).

Although David deserved to die for this sin, Nathan said, “The Lord is forgiving you. But because you have made God’s name to be abhorred by His enemies (or, because you showed contempt for My name in doing this), your son will die.”

Baby in danger

Sure enough, when Nathan left David’s house to go home, that baby became very ill. He suffered for a whole week. During that time, David prayed continually for the life of the baby. He refused to eat, and he lay on the ground at night—all the time pleading with God for the life of his son.

Finally, on the seventh day, the child died. The servants, afraid that David would really grieve if he heard the sad news, whispered among themselves. [Pantomime the whispering.]

Finally David asked, “Is the child dead?”

“Yes,” they reluctantly replied.

Then the servants were surprised, for instead of doing something to show greater sorrow, David got up, washed himself, changed his clothes, and went to the tent where the ark was. There he worshiped the Lord. When he came home, he asked for food and ate.

“Why are you getting up and eating after the baby died when before he died, you cried and stopped eating?” asked the servants.

David replied, “While the child was alive, I thought perhaps God would show kindness and let the child live. Now that he is dead, I can do nothing. So I worship the God who gives and takes away.”

David was not hard-hearted but realistic. He was still sad, but he comforted his new wife. Later, they had other sons; one was named Nathan and the other, Solomon.

Lessons from This Lesson:

- We see Jesus:
“David named one of his sons by Bath-sheba Nathan, in honour of this prophet ([1 Chr. 3:5](#)), and it was that son of whom Christ, the great prophet, lineally descended, [Lu. 3:31](#)” ([2 Samuel 12 Commentary - Matthew Henry Commentary on the Whole Bible \(Complete\) \(biblestudytools.com\)](#)).
- Psalm 6:8–14 states, “The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. He will not always chide, nor will he keep his anger forever. He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us. As a father shows compassion to his children, so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear him. For he knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust.”
- David was not punished with death, but we will see that he was disciplined with punishment for these terrible sins. Is God always merciful as He was in this case? No. He is often merciful, but no one should assume God will forgive when a person sins willfully and knowingly. Forgiveness is by God’s grace. Don’t presume upon God’s mercy.

Activities:

- Play dough: sheep; baby
- Snack: sugar cookies in the shape of a sheep
- Sing “Obedience” by Mike and Ruth Greene, found in *Praises I* songbook, published by Majesty Music.
- Review questions: (Game: Prepare ten swords according to instructions found in “Handwork” below. For each correct answer, students will place a sword in a pocket chart.)
 1. Where was David in the spring of the year “when kings go out to battle”? [At home in Jerusalem.]
 2. What did David see from his rooftop? [A beautiful woman washing herself.]
 3. What was the name of the woman? [Bathsheba.]
 4. Whose wife was Bathsheba? [Uriah’s.]
 5. Who was Uriah? [One of David’s mightiest men.]
 6. When David wanted Uriah to go home to his wife, why did Uriah refuse? [Because the soldiers he had left in battle were staying in the open field.]
 7. What message did Uriah take back to Joab? [His own death warrant—that he should die in battle.]
 8. Who confronted David about his terrible sin? [Nathan the prophet.]
 9. How did David respond to Nathan’s rebuke? [Recognized his guilt and repented of his sin.]
 10. What happened to the baby born to David and Bathsheba? [He died.]

Memory Verse[s]: I heartily recommend the song and visual at [Psalm 139 - NKJV \(thywordcreations.com\)](#).

- Psalm 139:1 O Lord, You have searched me and known me. 2 You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off. 3 You comprehend my path and my lying down, And are acquainted with all my ways. 4 For there is not a word on my tongue, But behold, O Lord, You know it altogether. 5 You have hedged me behind and before, And laid Your hand upon me.

6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; It is high, I cannot attain it.

7 Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? 8 If I ascend into heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there. 9 If I take the wings of the morning, And dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, 10 Even there Your hand shall lead me, And Your right hand shall hold me. 11 If I say, "Surely the darkness shall fall on me," Even the night shall be light about me; 12 Indeed, the darkness shall not hide from You, But the night shines as the day; The darkness and the light are both alike to You.

13 For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb. 14 I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well. 15 My frame was not hidden from You, When I was made in secret, And skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. 16 Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, The days fashioned for me, When as yet there were none of them.

17 How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them! 18 If I should count them, they would be more in number than the sand; When I awake, I am still with You. . . .

23 Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties; 24 And see if there is any wicked way in me, And lead me in the way everlasting.

Handwork:

- Print on card stock and cut apart the swords that are found below. Print on paper and cut apart the verses about the sword's not departing from David's house. Students will color the sword and glue the verse to the sword.

mourning

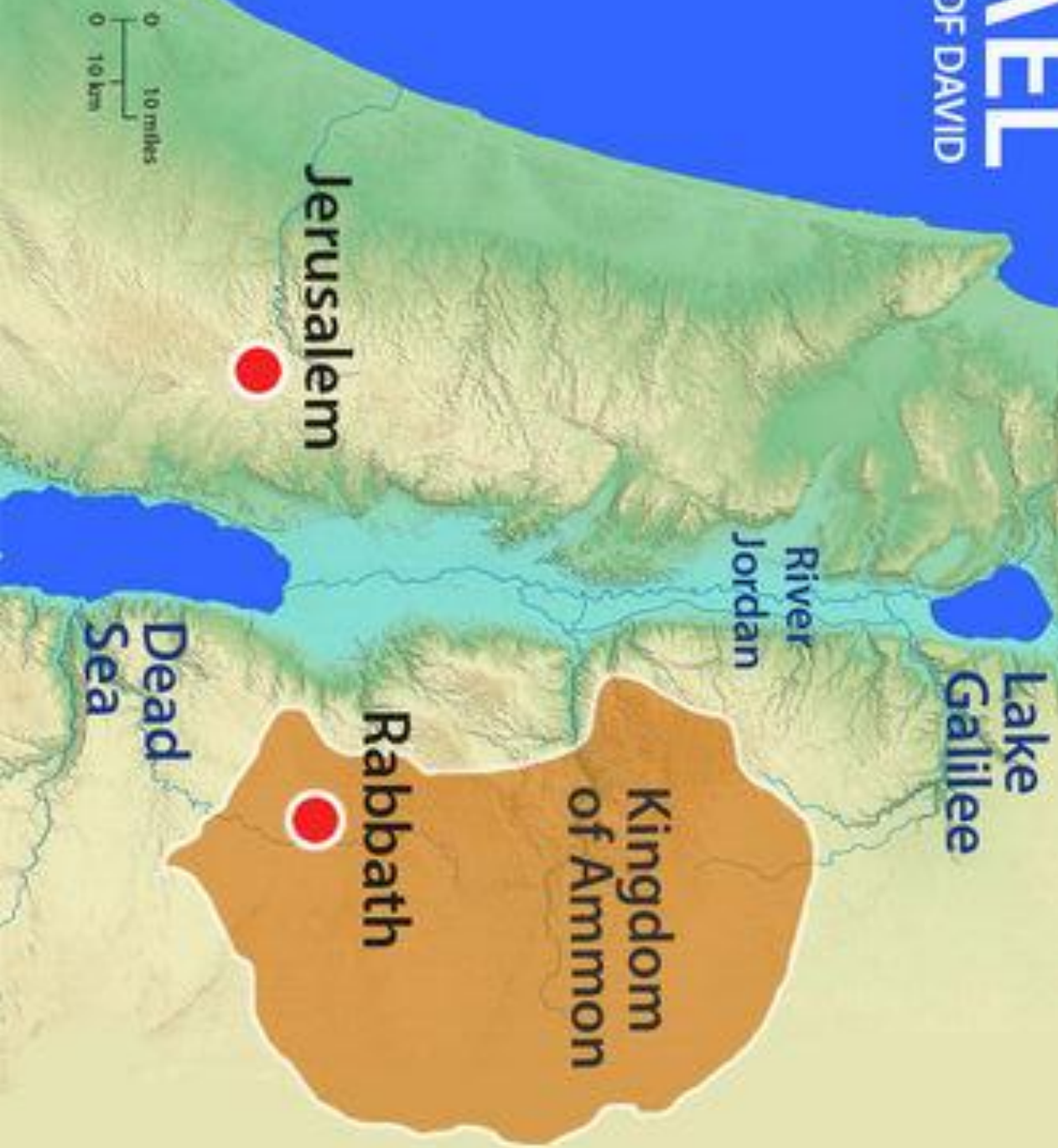
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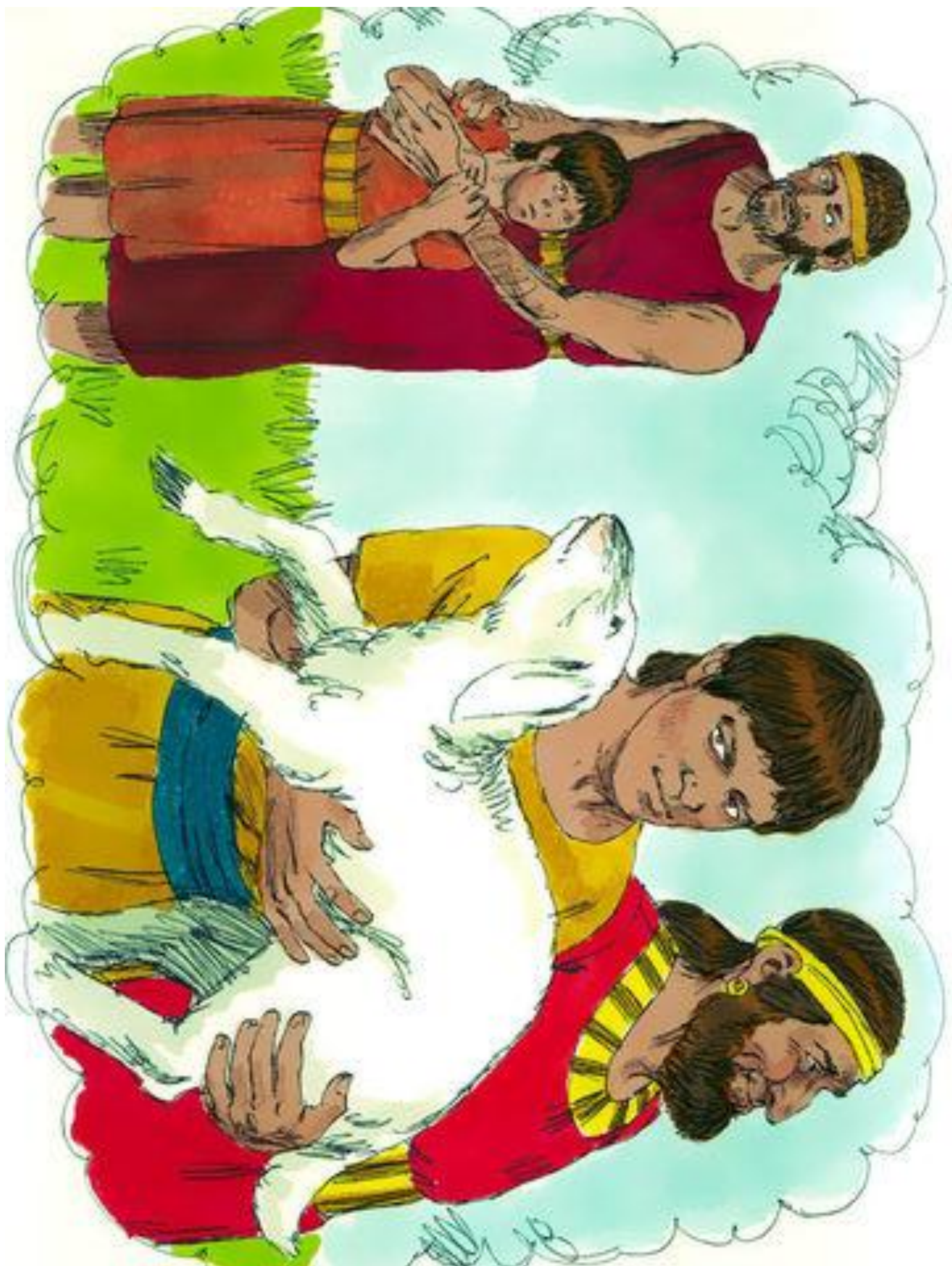
IN THE TIME OF DAVID







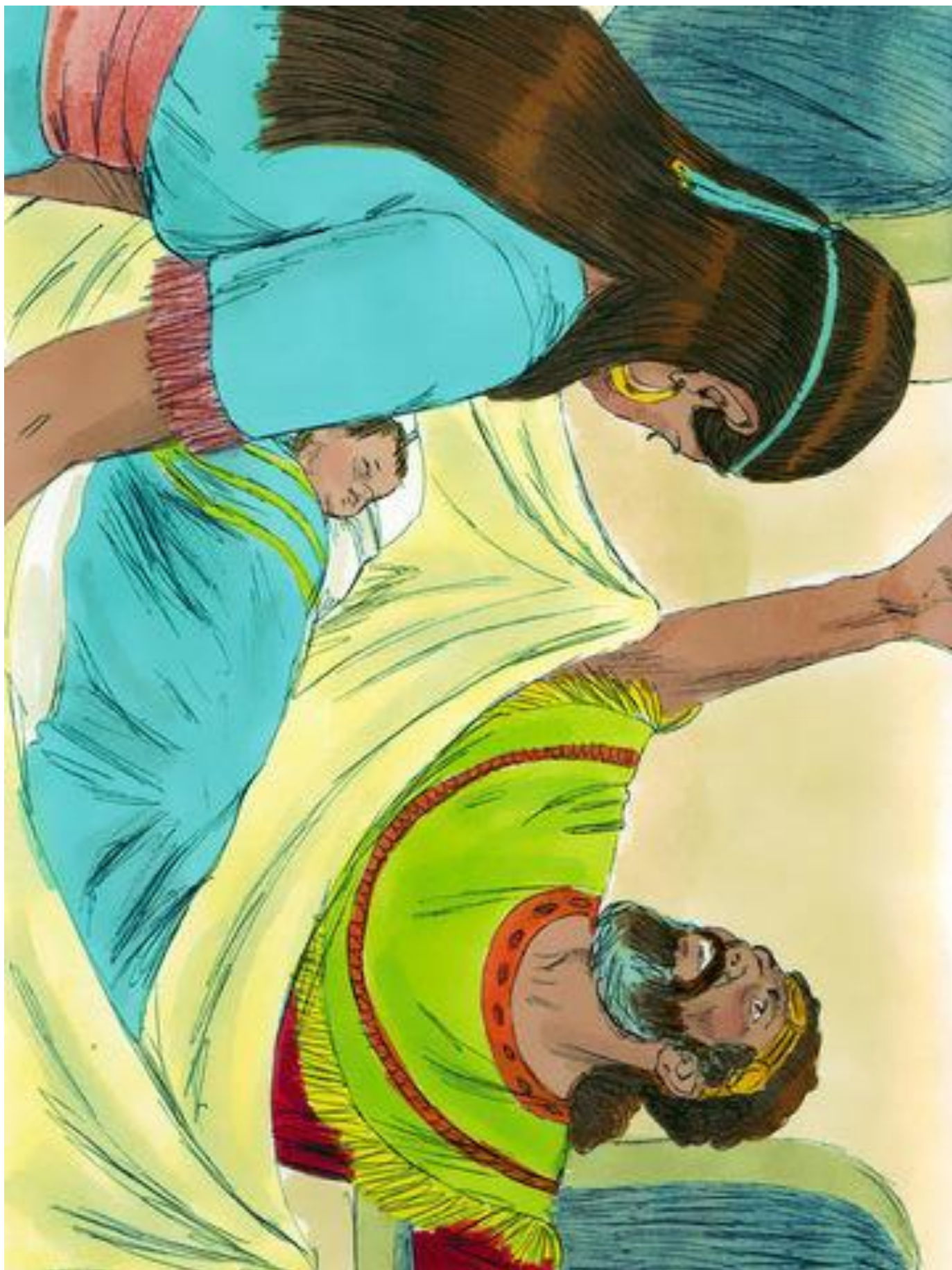
FreeBibleimages :: David, Bathsheba and Nathan's parable :: Nathan the prophet confronts David after he commits adultery and murder (2 Samuel 11:1-12:25)





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