

## **Sixth Relationship Story: Relational Sin: Consequences, Confession, and Forgiveness**

### First Third:

Express joy in Christ together

Cast Vision

Questions:

How are you doing?

How did you obey last week's teaching?

Who are you witnessing to?

Who has come to faith? Are they witnessing to those in their circle?

Who are you training to become a reproducing disciple? Are they training others?

### Second Third:

Pray briefly for God to open up His message to us.

DO stick to the story.

DON'T talk about politics; DON'T chase rabbit trails; DON'T focus on minor points in the passage.

DON'T talk about religion. DON'T dominate the conversation.

*This is a true story from the Bible about David, the greatest king of ancient Israel, whom God called a man after God's own heart:*

**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. . . . But David remained at Jerusalem. <sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> 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?" <sup>4</sup> So David sent messengers and took her, and she came to him, and he lay with her. . . . Then she returned to her house. <sup>5</sup> And the woman conceived, and she sent and told David, "I am pregnant."

<sup>6</sup> So David sent word to Joab, "Send me Uriah the Hittite." And Joab sent Uriah to David. . . . <sup>9</sup> 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. <sup>10</sup> 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?" <sup>11</sup> 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." . . .

<sup>14</sup> In the morning David wrote a letter to Joab and sent it by the hand of Uriah. <sup>15</sup> 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." . . . <sup>17</sup> 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. <sup>18</sup> Then Joab sent and told David all the news about the fighting. . . .

<sup>26</sup> When the wife of Uriah heard that Uriah her husband was dead, she lamented over her husband. <sup>27</sup> 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. <sup>2</sup> The rich man had very many flocks and herds, <sup>3</sup> 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. <sup>4</sup> 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."<sup>5</sup> 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,<sup>6</sup> and he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity."<sup>7</sup> 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.'<sup>8</sup> 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.'<sup>9</sup> Why have you despised the word of the LORD, to do what is evil in his sight? . . .<sup>10</sup> 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.' . . .<sup>13</sup> 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."

*This is a prayer David prayed at this time – and then read before the entire community.*

**Psalm 51:1** Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.<sup>2</sup> Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!<sup>3</sup> For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.<sup>4</sup> Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment.<sup>5</sup> Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.<sup>6</sup> Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.<sup>7</sup> Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.<sup>8</sup> Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have broken rejoice.<sup>9</sup> Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.<sup>10</sup> Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.<sup>11</sup> Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.<sup>12</sup> Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.<sup>13</sup> Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you.<sup>14</sup> Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of your righteousness.<sup>15</sup> O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.<sup>16</sup> For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it; you will not be pleased with a burnt offering.<sup>17</sup> The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.<sup>18</sup> Do good to Zion in your good pleasure; build up the walls of Jerusalem;<sup>19</sup> then will you delight in right sacrifices, in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings; then bulls will be offered on your altar.

What does this story tell us about God? About man?

What does this story tell us about marriage? About sin – particularly sexual sin and its consequences? About confession? About forgiveness?

Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow? A promise to claim?

Who do you identify with in this story?

Last Third:

Practice telling the story

What will you do differently this week because of this story?

Who will you witness to or share this story with next week?