

11 Indispensable Relationships You Can't Be Without

Who's Your Nathan? 2 Samuel 12: 1-13

Background

2 Samuel 11 tells us about the darkest moment in the life of King David. After being blessed by the Lord in many ways; after reaching the pinnacle of success; after leading his nation to peace, prosperity and power, David fell into a deep web of sin.

Now, we all know the story! David succumbed to a giant named, "Lust," that lived within in his heart. He committed adultery with a married woman and got her pregnant; and then in an effort to cover up that sin, David had her husband put to death. Chapter 11 closes with the sin of David hanging like a dark cloud over the life of the King and the nation.

Who is Nathan?

- Nathan, the prophet, was a _____ sent from God. 2 Sam. 12:1
- A _____ who had access to provide...
 - _____ 2 Samuel 7; 2 Chronicles 29:25
 - _____ 1 Kings 1
 - _____ (2 Samuel 12)
- An _____ who had permission to mark up our lives when they find inconsistency between what we say and how we actually live.

Nathan will...

- **Help us see the** _____ - 2 Sam 12:7; Num. 32:23; Prov. 28:13, 26; Jer. 17:9
- **Get Under Your** _____
- **Ask** _____ - 2 Sam. 12:9
 - Questions can comfort
 - Questions can challenge
 - Questions can convict
- **"Truth _____" rather than "Truth _____"** - 2 Sam. 12:7-13
 - ...in love (Ephesians 4:15)
 - ...in humility (Gal 6:1)
 - ...in care (Gal. 6:2)
- **Be your** _____ - 2 Sam. 12:13-14
 - ...Forgiveness - 1 John 1:8-9
 - ...Repentance

Qualities Needed in a Healthy Relationship with Nathan

- _____ - Committed to telling the truth in love regardless of how much it hurts. James 5:16
- _____ - Willingness to open one's life up to another. Prov. 13:10
- _____ - Open to counsel from others and are quick to hear and respond to reproof. Prov. 13:10; 2 Timothy 3:16-17
- _____ - Be there. 1 Samuel 20:4
- _____ - The rule is, nothing shared inside the relationship gets shared outside the relationship unless permission has been given

Primary Skills Needed

- Being a good _____ - James 1:19
- Partnering in _____ - Job 16:20-21; James 5:16
- _____-frontation. Prov. 27:6; Gal. 6:1.

Discussion Questions

- Who is your Nathan? If you have a Nathan, what level of openness do you have or desire to have within the relationship? If you do not have a Nathan, what are some of the barriers?
- List reasons why being in a relationship with a Nathan can strengthen your walk with God.
- Which of the qualities and skills do you believe you possess in good measure? Which one will be the hardest for you? Why?
- Share an experience in your life when a Nathan helped you. How did you respond? What was the end result? How did you learn from this experience?
- Share any additional insights that you learned from the lesson.

Assignments

- Read 1 Samuel 18:1-4 and 20
- Chapter 2 "Who's Your Jonathan: You Need a True Friend"

Questions

Your Relationship With God

- How much prayer time did you find this week, and was it quality time with God? Describe your prayer life this week to your partner(s)
- Did you find adequate time to do devotional and reflective reading this week? In Scripture? In other sources? What has been a struggle area for you in your devotional life this week?
- How did you and your spouse meet with God together this week?

Your Relationship with Your Spouse

- What did you do this week to strengthen your relationship with your spouse? What did you do to relate to your spouse's love language (Words of Affirmation, Quality Time, Gifts, Acts of Service, Physical Touch)
- How good do you think your communication with your spouse is right now? How good would your spouse say your communication is right now?
- Did you go out this week with your wife as a couple? Did you find other significant personal time with him/her that was strengthening for your marriage?
- What stresses in your marriage have the potential to distract you from being your best together? How might the stresses be relieved?
- Are you praying regularly about your marriage? Are you praying together with your spouse?
- Have you held hands, kissed each other and hugged each other this week?
- Have you said, "I love you"?
- Have you admitted you were wrong about something this week and asked for forgiveness?
- What have you and your spouse done for fun recently?
- What need would you like your spouse to meet? Have you discussed this need with your spouse?

Your Relationship With Your Children

- Have you been a good listener to your kids this week? Each one?
- Have you been able to spend quantity as well as quality time with each of your children this week? What did you do together?
- When was the last time you attended something one of your children was taking part in (sports event, musical performance and so on)? How many such events have you missed lately? For what reasons?
- Have you told your children that you love them and you're proud of them? Each one?
- What has been difficult for you in your relationship with any of your children this week? What have you done to resolve difficult problems?
- Have you hurt any of your children? Have you disappointed or exasperated any of your children? If so, did you ask forgiveness?

Your Work Life

- Did you make any work-related decisions this week that lacked integrity?
- How satisfied are you in your present work assignment? If you are dissatisfied, is the problem your work or is it your attitude?
- How good are your work relationships? Is there anything you could do to make any of your work relationships better?
- What is your greatest joy in your work? Your biggest disappointment?
- How effective were you in your use of time?
- How have you shared the gospel with someone at work lately?
- Are you protecting your days off for yourself and for your family?

Your Attitude Toward Money and Material Things

- Is your giving to the Lord challenging, sacrificial and satisfying? Are you meeting your financial goals in regard to the Lord's work?
- What personal and family goals have you made recently to help you to continue being a good steward of your finances?
- What have you done to reduce your debt?
- What differences in financial attitudes do you and your spouse have that could potentially create disagreements? How are you progressing in managing these differences?

Your Christian Behavior

- Have you made any decisions or taken any actions this week that compromised your integrity as a Christian?
- What are you wrestling with in your thought life? Have you responded to any temptations?
- What sin has plagued you since we met last?
- How did you lose control of your tongue this week? How will you try to prevent this in the future?
- How well have you treated the difficult people in your life this week?
- Did you put yourself in an awkward situation with any member of the opposite sex? Have you discussed any topic with someone of the opposite sex this week that felt inappropriate? Do you find someone of the opposite sex in your work circle, church, neighborhood or elsewhere especially attractive?
- Do your family friends and personal friends encourage you to act in ways that glorify God?
- Where have you gone on the Internet lately that you're ashamed to admit?
- Have you lied about anything?