LESSON 18

DAVID AND BATHSHEBA



Aim: **To show the children how David sinned and asked God's forgiveness for the terrible things he did.**

Scripture Reading: **2 Samuel 11:1–27; 12:1–23; Psalm 51**

Memory Verse: **Psalm 1:5**
[T]he wicked will not stand in the judgment …

PRESENTING THE LESSON

STARTING POINT

Anna admired her sister Ruta's hair ornament so much that she took it and hid it in her own box. Every day Anna took it out and looked at it, but she could not wear it in her hair because Ruta would see it. One day Anna dropped it and it broke. Ruta came into the room and saw the broken ornament. Both girls were very unhappy.

MAIN POINTS OF THE LESSON

1. As the King of Israel David was very rich. He had many beautiful possessions. He had a strong army, of which he was supposed to be the leader. But he started staying at home in his palace in Jerusalem while his men were out fighting (11:1).
2. One day David was taking a walk on the roof terrace of his palace when he saw a beautiful woman in another house taking a bath. Her name was Bathsheba. **Show Picture 18.** Bathsheba was the wife of one of David's soldiers, Uriah. Uriah was away with the army, fighting for his king and country. David ordered Bathsheba to come to the palace and live with him. She could not refuse, as he was the king. David made her pregnant. Uriah knew nothing of this (11:2–5).
3. Now what would King David do? At first he tried unsuccessfully to make it look as if the baby could have been Uriah's. Then he arranged to have Uriah killed in battle. In addition to being a wife stealer and a liar David had become a murderer, too (11:6–17).
4. After Uriah's death David took Bathsheba as his wife and he loved her well. But that could not wipe away his evil deeds (11:26–27).
5. God sent a religious teacher, the prophet Nathan, to make David realise how wicked he had been (12:7–9). **If there is time tell the story of the lamb that Nathan told David to illustrate to him the evil of his actions (12:15–19).**
6. David realised how sinful he had been; that he deserved to die. He repented and begged God's forgiveness. God did forgive him (12:13). However, we have to live with the consequences of our evil actions. God did not allow the first child born to David and Bathsheba to live (12:15–19).

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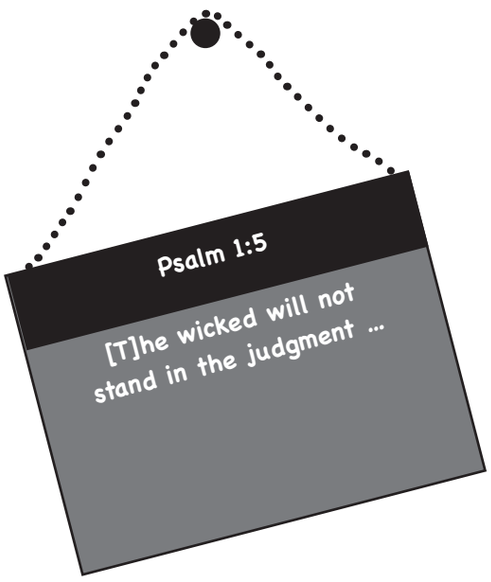
Our Response to the Story

After this episode in David's life he wrote Psalm 51 in which he asks for God's forgiveness.

Repenting our sins means realising how awful our sin is and humbling ourselves before God. We also need to change our behaviour. **Read Psalm 51:10 aloud.**

Instil the Memory Verse

Review the verses of Psalm 1 the children have learnt so far.



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