

# Fire in His Lap

*Icebreaker:* Describe a time when you let something monopolize your life. What circumstance lead to your faulty priorities?

## 2 Samuel 12:1-25

In this parable, who do each of the following represent?

The rich man

The poor man

The little ewe lamb



What is the point of this parable?

Why does Nathan speak to David in Parable?

## Proverbs 5



How would you summarize God's view of sex as described in this passage?

What are some warnings? Use verses 21-23 as a guide.

## Proverbs 6:23 – 7:5

What do the questions posed in 27 and 28 tell us about sin?

Adultery is also used in the bible as an image for betraying our relationship with God. What other sins could these concepts apply?



How do we rationalize playing with fire?

Give some examples that illustrate getting “burned?”

How would obeying the commands in chapter 7 protect a person from sexual sin?

### **Points to Remember:**

- If you play with fire, you’re going to get burned.
- Sin is a way of betraying our relationship with God.
- Psalm 51

## 2 Samuel 12: 1- 25

### Nathan Rebukes David

1 The LORD sent Nathan to David. When he came to him, he said, "There were two men in a certain town, one rich and the other poor. 2 The rich man had a very large number of sheep and cattle, 3 but the poor man had nothing except one little ewe lamb he had bought. He raised it, and it grew up with him and his children. It shared his food, drank from his cup and even slept in his arms. It was like a daughter to him.

4 "Now a traveler came to the rich man, but the rich man refrained from taking one of his own sheep or cattle to prepare a meal for the traveler who had come to him. Instead, he took the ewe lamb that belonged to the poor man and prepared it for the one who had come to him."

5 David burned with anger against the man and said to Nathan, "As surely as the LORD lives, the man who did this deserves to die! 6 He must pay for that lamb four times over, because he did such a thing and had no pity."

7 Then Nathan said to David, "You are the man! This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: 'I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you from the hand of Saul. 8 I gave your master's house to you, and your master's wives into your arms. I gave you the house of Israel and Judah. And if all this had been too little, I would have given you even more. 9 Why did you despise the word of the LORD by doing what is evil in his eyes? You struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and took his wife to be your own. You killed him with the sword of the Ammonites. 10 Now, therefore, the sword will never depart from your house, because you despised me and took the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your own.'

11 "This is what the LORD says: 'Out of your own household I am going to bring calamity upon you. Before your very eyes I will take your wives and give them to one who is close to you, and he will lie with your wives in broad daylight. 12 You did it in secret, but I will do this thing in broad daylight before all Israel.' "

13 Then David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD."

Nathan replied, "The LORD has taken away your sin. You are not going to die. 14 But because by doing this you have made the enemies of the LORD show utter contempt, the son born to you will die."

15 After Nathan had gone home, the LORD struck the child that Uriah's wife had borne to David, and he became ill. 16 David pleaded with God for the child. He fasted and went into his house and spent the nights lying on the ground. 17 The elders of his household stood beside him to get him up from the ground, but he refused, and he would not eat any food with them.

18 On the seventh day the child died. David's servants were afraid to tell him that the child was dead, for they thought, "While the child was still living, we spoke to David but he would not listen to us. How can we tell him the child is dead? He may do something desperate."

19 David noticed that his servants were whispering among themselves and he realized the child was dead. "Is the child dead?" he asked.

"Yes," they replied, "he is dead."

20 Then David got up from the ground. After he had washed, put on lotions and changed his clothes, he went into the house of the LORD and worshiped. Then he went to his own house, and at his request they served him food, and he ate.

21 His servants asked him, "Why are you acting this way? While the child was alive, you fasted and wept, but now that the child is dead, you get up and eat!"

22 He answered, "While the child was still alive, I fasted and wept. I thought, 'Who knows? The LORD may be gracious to me and let the child live.' 23 But now that he is dead, why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I will go to him, but he will not return to me."

24 Then David comforted his wife Bathsheba, and he went to her and lay with her. She gave birth to a son, and they named him Solomon. The LORD loved him; 25 and because the LORD loved him, he sent word through Nathan the prophet to name him Jedidiah.

## Proverbs 5

### Warning Against Adultery

- 1 My son, pay attention to my wisdom,  
listen well to my words of insight,
- 2 that you may maintain discretion  
and your lips may preserve knowledge.
- 3 For the lips of an adulteress drip honey,  
and her speech is smoother than oil;
- 4 but in the end she is bitter as gall,  
sharp as a double-edged sword.
- 5 Her feet go down to death;  
her steps lead straight to the grave.
- 6 She gives no thought to the way of life;  
her paths are crooked, but she knows it not.
- 7 Now then, my sons, listen to me;  
do not turn aside from what I say.
- 8 Keep to a path far from her,  
do not go near the door of her house,
- 9 lest you give your best strength to others  
and your years to one who is cruel,
- 10 lest strangers feast on your wealth  
and your toil enrich another man's house.
- 11 At the end of your life you will groan,  
when your flesh and body are spent.
- 12 You will say, "How I hated discipline!  
How my heart spurned correction!
- 13 I would not obey my teachers  
or listen to my instructors.
- 14 I have come to the brink of utter ruin  
in the midst of the whole assembly."
- 15 Drink water from your own cistern,  
running water from your own well.
- 16 Should your springs overflow in the streets,  
your streams of water in the public squares?
- 17 Let them be yours alone,  
never to be shared with strangers.
- 18 May your fountain be blessed,  
and may you rejoice in the wife of your youth.
- 19 A loving doe, a graceful deer—  
may her breasts satisfy you always,  
may you ever be captivated by her love.
- 20 Why be captivated, my son, by an adulteress?  
Why embrace the bosom of another man's  
wife?
- 21 For a man's ways are in full view of the LORD,  
and he examines all his paths.
- 22 The evil deeds of a wicked man ensnare him;  
the cords of his sin hold him fast.
- 23 He will die for lack of discipline,  
led astray by his own great folly.

**Proverbs 6:23-7:5**

- 23 For these commands are a lamp,  
this teaching is a light,  
and the corrections of discipline  
are the way to life,
- 24 keeping you from the immoral woman,  
from the smooth tongue of the wayward wife.
- 25 Do not lust in your heart after her beauty  
or let her captivate you with her eyes,
- 26 for the prostitute reduces you to a loaf of bread,  
and the adulteress preys upon your very life.
- 27 Can a man scoop fire into his lap  
without his clothes being burned?
- 28 Can a man walk on hot coals  
without his feet being scorched?
- 29 So is he who sleeps with another man's wife;  
no one who touches her will go unpunished.
- 30 Men do not despise a thief if he steals  
to satisfy his hunger when he is starving.
- 31 Yet if he is caught, he must pay sevenfold,  
though it costs him all the wealth of his house.
- 32 But a man who commits adultery lacks  
judgment;  
whoever does so destroys himself.
- 33 Blows and disgrace are his lot,  
and his shame will never be wiped away;
- 34 for jealousy arouses a husband's fury,  
and he will show no mercy when he takes  
revenge.
- 35 He will not accept any compensation;  
he will refuse the bribe, however great it is.

**Proverbs 7**

## Warning Against the Adulteress

- 1 My son, keep my words  
and store up my commands within you.
- 2 Keep my commands and you will live;  
guard my teachings as the apple of your eye.
- 3 Bind them on your fingers;  
write them on the tablet of your heart.
- 4 Say to wisdom, "You are my sister,"  
and call understanding your kinsman;
- 5 they will keep you from the adulteress,  
from the wayward wife with her seductive  
words.

**Psalm 51**

For the director of music. A psalm of David. When the prophet Nathan came to him after David had committed adultery with Bathsheba.

- 1 Have mercy on me, O God,  
according to your unfailing love;  
according to your great compassion  
blot out my transgressions.
- 2 Wash away all my iniquity  
and cleanse me from my sin.
- 3 For I know my transgressions,  
and my sin is always before me.
- 4 Against you, you only, have I sinned  
and done what is evil in your sight,  
so that you are proved right when you speak  
and justified when you judge.
- 5 Surely I was sinful at birth,  
sinful from the time my mother conceived me.
- 6 Surely you desire truth in the inner parts ;  
you teach me wisdom in the inmost place.
- 7 Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean;  
wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.
- 8 Let me hear joy and gladness;  
let the bones you have crushed rejoice.
- 9 Hide your face from my sins  
and blot out all my iniquity.
- 10 Create in me a pure heart, O God,  
and renew a steadfast spirit within me.
- 11 Do not cast me from your presence  
or take your Holy Spirit from me.
- 12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation  
and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.
- 13 Then I will teach transgressors your ways,  
and sinners will turn back to you.
- 14 Save me from bloodguilt, O God,  
the God who saves me,  
and my tongue will sing of your righteousness.
- 15 O Lord, open my lips,  
and my mouth will declare your praise.
- 16 You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring  
it;  
you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.
- 17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;  
a broken and contrite heart,  
O God, you will not despise.
- 18 In your good pleasure make Zion prosper;  
build up the walls of Jerusalem.
- 19 Then there will be righteous sacrifices,  
whole burnt offerings to delight you;  
then bulls will be offered on your altar.