

Leadership Training Storying Track
A series of eight lessons based on events in the life of David to be used in the
leadership training of Jesus' disciples

This track is a result of work begun at the 2000 Follow-Up Storying Conference for the
West Africa Region of the International Mission Board.
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STORIES and TRUTHS

1. Leaders of Jesus' disciples are chosen by God.

David is anointed. 1 Samuel 16:1-13

TRUTHS AND TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION:

Leaders of Jesus' disciples are chosen by God.

God does not choose everyone to be a leader of Jesus' disciples.

God wants leaders whose hearts are committed to him.

Leaders listen for God's directions.

If God's plan is different from a leader's plan, he/she should follow
God's plan.

Leaders are sometimes reluctant to follow God's directions.

The power for the leaders of Jesus' disciples comes from the Holy Spirit.

Leaders continue to lead others and obey God even though
they are afraid.

It is understandable for leaders to be sad when people disappoint them.

2. Leaders of Jesus' disciples rely on God's strength and not their own.

David and Goliath. 1 Samuel 17

TRUTHS AND TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION:

Leaders of Jesus' disciples rely on God's strength and not their own.

Leaders are courageous.

Leaders are respectful of their families.

Leaders do not let others discourage them from doing God's will.

3. Leaders of Jesus' disciples will experience difficult times because of their faith.

David spares Saul. 1 Samuel 24; 1 Samuel 26; Psalm 54

TRUTHS AND TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION:

Leaders of Jesus' disciples will experience difficult times because of their
faith.

When leaders experience difficult times, they must pray and seek God's
direction.

Sometimes, leaders should stay out of the way of those who oppose them.

Leaders do not seek vengeance against those who oppose them.

Leaders try to reason with those who oppose them.

Leaders show love and mercy to those who oppose them.

Leaders use caution when dealing with those who oppose them.

Leaders rely on God's strength and not their own.

Leaders continue to praise God in difficult times.

4. Leaders of Jesus' disciples have compassion on others.

David and Mephibosheth. 1 Samuel 18:1-3; 20:12-17; 2 Samuel 4:4; 9:1-13

TRUTHS AND TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION:

Leaders value friendships.

Leaders forgive those who have wronged them and do not hold grudges.

Leaders keep their promises to the best of their ability.

Leaders show love and mercy to others.

Leaders show compassion to others by what they say and do.

Leaders see that words are followed by actions.

5. Leaders of Jesus' disciples lead pure lives.

David and Bathsheba. 2 Samuel 11

TRUTHS AND TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION:

Leaders guard their thoughts and their minds.

Satan tempts leaders because they lead others.

Leaders consider the results of their actions.

Leaders flee all forms of sexual sin.

Leaders are responsible to God and others for their actions.

Leaders can cause others to sin because others are following them.

6. Leaders of Jesus' disciples are accountable to God and to others for their actions.

Nathan rebukes David. 2 Samuel 12

TRUTHS AND TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION:

God may speak to leaders through other leaders or disciples of Jesus.

God judges leaders' secret thoughts and actions.

Leaders confess their sin to God and others.

God is merciful and will forgive confessed sin.

God holds leaders accountable for their witness in their community.

Leaders bear the consequences of their sin.

Others suffer when leaders sin.

When leaders confess their sins and accept the consequences of their sins, God will help them put their lives back together.

7. Leaders of Jesus' disciples manage their families well.

David and his children. 2 Samuel 13; 14:23-28, 33; 15:13-14; 18:32-19:8;
1 Kings 2:1-4

TRUTHS AND TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION:

Polygamy causes jealousy and problems in a family.

Leaders love their children and do not show favoritism.

Leaders discipline their children.

Leaders talk and spend time with their children.

Leaders teach their children to rely on God.

8. Leaders of Jesus' disciples honor God with their lives.

A psalm of David. Psalm 139

TRUTHS AND TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION:

Leaders know that God knows everything about them, their weaknesses and strengths.

Leaders know that God is with them even in difficult times.

Leaders praise God and give him glory in good times and in bad.

Leaders know that God has a plan for their lives.

Leaders oppose evil.

Leaders guard their thoughts and their minds.

Leaders listen for God's directions.

LESSON ONE: Leaders of Jesus' disciples are chosen by God. David is anointed.

Bible text for the story: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

Before you prepare your story, study the suggested questions and truths for this lesson. Be certain to include all the events in the story that you will be discussing during the discovery time.

TRUTHS AND TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION:

Leaders of Jesus' disciples are chosen by God.

God does not choose everyone to be a leader of Jesus' disciples.

God wants leaders whose hearts are committed to him.

Leaders listen for God's directions.

If God's plan is different from a leader's plan, he/she should follow God's plan.

Leaders are sometimes reluctant to follow God's directions.

The power for the leaders of Jesus' disciples comes from the Holy Spirit.

Leaders continue to lead others and obey God even though they are afraid.

It is understandable for leaders to be sad when people disappoint them.

STORY QUESTIONS:

- Why was Samuel mourning? (God had rejected Saul as king over Israel.)
- Is it understandable for a leader to be sad when people disappoint him/her? Why or why not?
- What did God tell Samuel to do? (Quit mourning, fill your horn with oil, be on your way.)
- Where did God tell Samuel to go? (Bethlehem.)
- Who did Samuel send him to see? (Jesse.)
- Why did God send him to Jesse? (Because God had chosen one of Jesse's sons to be the new king.)
- What was Samuel's reaction to God's command? (He didn't want to go because he was afraid that Saul would kill him.)

- Are leaders ever reluctant to follow God's directions? (Yes.) Why?
- How did God respond to Samuel's fear? (He gave him a plan – say you are going to do sacrifices.)
- Did Samuel obey God even though he was afraid? (Yes.)
- What does this tell us about what leaders of Jesus' disciples should do when they are afraid to do what God directs them to do? (Leaders continue to lead others and obey God even though they are afraid.)
- What was the reaction of the elders when Samuel arrived at Bethlehem? (They trembled; asked if he was coming in peace.)
- Why do you think they were afraid? (They knew Saul was looking for Samuel.)
- Did Samuel return home when he saw they were afraid? (No.) What did he do? (He did what God told him to.)
- What does this tell us about what leaders of Jesus' disciples should do when they or others are fearful? (Leaders continue to lead and obey God even though they are afraid.)
- Who was invited to the sacrifice? (All the elders, Jesse, and his sons.)
- How was Samuel to know which son to choose? (God would tell him.)
- What does this tell us about a leader should make decisions? (Leaders listen for God's directions.)
- When Samuel saw Jesse's eldest son Eliab, what was his reaction? (This must be the one.)
- Why do you think Samuel thought Eliab was the one? (His appearance, his height, he was firstborn.)
- Did God agree with Samuel's impression/choice? (No.)
- Why did God disagree? (Samuel was looking at the outward appearance. God was looking at the heart.)
- What does this tell us about how God chooses leaders? (God wants leaders whose hearts are committed to him.)
- What does this tell us about God? (He sees our hearts. He's not impressed with what others see.)
- When the other sons passed before Samuel, did God choose any of them? (No.)
- Does God choose everyone to be a leader for Jesus' disciples? (No.)
- Did all of Jesse's sons come for the sacrifice? (No. David was not there.)
- Why wasn't David at the sacrifice? (He was obeying his father and tending the sheep.)
- What was Samuel's reaction? (He would not sacrifice until all of the sons were there.)
- What did God tell Samuel to do when David arrived? (Anoint David. He is the one.)
- What was David's position in the family? (He was the youngest son.)
- How can the youngest in a family be selected as the king? (It was God's plan.)
- If God's plan is different from our plan, whose plan should we follow? (God's.)
- What came upon David to give him power? (The Spirit of the Lord.)
- What does this tell us about where the power comes from for the leaders of Jesus' disciples? (The Holy Spirit.)

QUESTIONS FOR THE LEADERS:

- What can we learn from this story that God wants us to know about those who lead Jesus' disciples?
 - Do you feel that God has chosen you to lead Jesus' disciples? What makes you believe God has chosen you?
 - What are your feelings about being chosen?
 - Is it all right to be afraid of being a leader?
 - What should we do when we are afraid?
 - What does God expect you to do? (Obey him.)
 - Did God choose you because of what you look like?
 - Did God choose you because of your abilities?
 - Why did God choose you? (He looked at your heart. It is his plan.)
 - Where will your power to lead come from? (The Holy Spirit.)
 - How will you know what you need to do as a leader? (Follow the direction of the Holy Spirit. Know God's Word. Seek Godly counsel.)
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LESSON TWO: Leaders of Jesus' disciples rely on God's strength and not their own. David and Goliath.

Bible text for the story: 1 Samuel 17

Before you prepare your story, study the suggested questions and truths for this lesson. Be certain to include all the events in the story that you will be discussing during the discovery time.

TRUTHS AND TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION:

- Leaders of Jesus' disciples rely on God's strength and not their own.**
- Leaders are courageous.**
- Leaders are respectful of their families.**
- Leaders do not let others discourage them from doing God's will.**

STORY QUESTIONS:

- What problem does the Israelite army face at the beginning of the story? (A Philistine warrior, Goliath, had challenged the Israelites to fight him.)
- Describe Goliath. (A giant.)
- What did Goliath's challenge include? (If an Israelite defeats him the Philistines will become the Israelites' slaves, but if Goliath wins the Israelites will become the Philistines' slaves.)
- How did the Israelites react to Goliath's challenge? (They were afraid.)
- What place did David have in his family? (He was the youngest.)
- What was David's job? (He took care of his father's flocks. He took care of his father.)
- What did David's father ask him to do? (Take supplies to his brothers who were fighting and to bring back their news.)
- Did David obey his father? (Yes.)

- What does this tell us about how David saw his responsibility toward his family? (David was respectful of his family.)
- What does this tell us about how leaders of Jesus' disciples should treat their families? (Leaders are respectful of their families.)
- What was David's reaction when he heard Goliath's challenge? (He asked who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the armies of the living God.)
- Was David afraid of Goliath? (No.) Why not? (He knew God was more powerful.)
- What was David's older brother's reaction to David's questions? (He was angry.)
- Did David fight with his brother when his brother spoke harshly to him? (No.)
- Did David allow his older brother to discourage him from talking about God? (No.)
- What does this tell us about how leaders should treat others who are not supportive? (They should treat others with respect but not allow themselves to be discouraged from doing God's will.)
- When Saul said David was too young to fight Goliath, how did David convince Saul of his abilities? (He told him stories of animals he had fought.)
- Did David say he would win because of his own strength? (No.)
- Why did David think he would win? (Because God would help him.)
- What can leaders accomplish in their own strength? (Nothing.)
- What truth does this teach us that leaders need to know? (Leaders of Jesus' disciples rely on God's strength and not their own.)
- How do we know that David was courageous? (His stories of his battles with the animals. He went against Goliath without armor and with only his shepherd's sling.)
- Was David courageous because he believed in his own abilities? (No.)
- Why was he courageous? (Because he knew God was the source of his strength.)
- Why should leaders be courageous and not afraid? (Because God is the source of their strength.)
- What did David tell Goliath concerning the battle? (The battle is the Lord's.)
- What truth does this teach leaders of Jesus' disciples? (The battle is the Lord's. Leaders rely on God's strength and not their own.)

QUESTIONS FOR THE LEADERS:

- What can we learn from this story that God wants leaders of Jesus' disciples to know?
- Was David's family always loving and supportive of his faith? (No.)
- What has been your family's reaction to you following Jesus? (Family head? father?, mother?, uncles?, brothers and sisters?, spouse?, children?)
- What has been your family's reaction to you being a leader of Jesus' disciples?
- If they have not been supportive of you, how have you reacted?
- How should you have reacted?
- Is there someone to whom you should go to ask forgiveness for not being respectful?
- How can you be respectful to family members who are not supportive and still follow God's will?
- As a leader, have there been any circumstances where you needed to be courageous?

- Describe an experience as a leader when you relied on your own strength and not God's. What happened?
 - What does it mean in your life when God's Word says, "The battle is the Lord's?"
 - Since the battle is the Lord's, what is your job?
 - What will you do this week to rely more on God's strength and not your own?
 - Is there a situation you are facing where you need prayer to be courageous?
 - Where will your courage come from?
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**LESSON THREE: Leaders of Jesus' disciples will experience difficult times because of their faith.
David spares Saul.**

Bible text for the story: 1 Samuel 24, 1 Samuel 26, Psalm 54

Before you prepare your story, study the suggested questions and truths for this lesson. Be certain to include all the events in the story that you will be discussing during the discovery time.

TRUTHS AND TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION:

Leaders of Jesus' disciples will experience difficult times because of their faith.

When leaders experience difficult times, they must pray and seek God's direction.

Sometimes, leaders should stay out of the way of those who oppose them.

Leaders do not seek vengeance against those who oppose them.

Leaders try to reason with those who oppose them.

Leaders show love and mercy to those who oppose them.

Leaders use caution when dealing with those who oppose them.

Leaders rely on God's strength and not their own.

Leaders continue to praise God in difficult times.

STORY QUESTIONS:

- Why do you think Saul wanted to kill David? (Jealousy.)
- Was it David's fault that Saul was jealous of him? (No.)
- Did David fight Saul? (No.) What did he do? (He ran and hid.)
- If the battle is the Lord's, why did David run and hide? (He was following God's direction.)
- What does this tell us about how leaders should act in difficult times? (Leaders pray and seek God's direction when they experience difficult times. Sometimes leaders should stay out of the way of those who oppose them.)
- When was David's first opportunity to kill Saul? (In the cave.)
- What did David's men tell him to do? (Kill Saul.)
- What did David do instead? (Cut off the corner of Saul's robe to show he had been close enough to kill him but had not wanted to harm him.)
- Why do you think David's men wanted David to kill Saul? (They were afraid for David. They were tired of hiding.)

- What reason did David give for not killing Saul? (Saul had been anointed by God. God was in control.)
- What truth does this tell us about whether leaders should seek vengeance against those who want to harm them? (Leaders do not seek vengeance against those who oppose them.)
- How did Saul learn that David had cut off part of his robe? (David told him.)
- Did David seek to reason with Saul? (Yes.)
- What does this tell us about how leaders should treat those who oppose them? (Leaders try to reason with those who oppose them.)
- What was Saul's reaction to David's act? (He was sorry. He asked David not to destroy Saul's descendants.)
- Did David agree? (Yes.)
- How did David show love and mercy toward Saul? (He did not kill him. He promised to spare his descendants.)
- What does this tell us about how leaders should treat those who oppose them? (Leaders show love and mercy to those who oppose them.)
- Why do you think David did not return home after talking to Saul? (He was cautious. He knew he was still in danger.)
- What does this tell us about how leaders should react to someone who opposes them? (Leaders use caution when dealing with those who oppose them.)
- What was David's second opportunity to kill Saul? (When David entered Saul's camp and Saul was sleeping.)
- Why did David refuse to let Abishai kill Saul? (He knew that God was in control and would punish Saul.)
- What was Saul's reaction when he learned David had spared his life? (Saul knew he had sinned.)
- Why do you think David did not take Saul's spear back to Saul himself? (He was being cautious.)
- In the Psalm, what did David do in difficult times? (He turned to God through prayer.)
- What does this tell us that leaders should do in difficult times? (When leaders experience difficult times, they must pray and seek God's direction.)
- Where did David's strength come from? (God.)
- Did David continue to praise God, even in difficult times? (Yes.)
- What does this tell us about how leaders should act in difficult times? (Leaders continue to praise God in difficult times.)

QUESTIONS FOR THE LEADERS:

- What truths can we learn from today's story that God wants leaders to know concerning difficult times they will experience because of others?
- As a leader, what kind of difficult times have you experienced that have been caused by others?
- Have you ever been in physical danger because of your faith?
- Have you ever been in financial difficulty because of your faith?
- Have others said bad things about you because of your faith?
- How did you react? Did you do something you realize now you shouldn't have?
- What did you learn from the experience?
- How did you see God working in this experience?

- Why should leaders use caution in dealing with those who oppose them?
 - How should leaders react to others' advice in how to deal with those who oppose them?
 - What testimonies do you have of how God has been your strength in situations when others opposed you?
 - How can you praise God in difficult times?
 - Is anyone now facing difficult times because of others? What is the situation? How can we support you, especially in prayer?
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**LESSON FOUR: Leaders of Jesus' disciples have
compassion on others.
David and Mephibosheth.**

Bible text for the story: 1 Samuel 18:1-3; 20:12-17; 2 Samuel 4:4; 9:1-13

Before you prepare your story, study the suggested questions and truths for this lesson. Be certain to include all the events in the story that you will be discussing during the discovery time.

TRUTHS AND TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION:

Leaders value friendships.

Leaders forgive those who have wronged them and do not hold grudges.

Leaders keep their promises to the best of their ability.

Leaders show love and mercy to others.

Leaders show compassion to others by what they say and do.

Leaders see that words are followed by actions.

STORY QUESTIONS:

- What did David want to know about the family of Saul? (If there was anyone left in Saul's family to whom he could show compassion.)
- Why do you think David wanted to show compassion to Saul's family? (Because he had made a covenant with Jonathan not to cut off compassion to his family forever.)
- What does this tell us about David's view of his friendship with Jonathan? (He valued it.)
- What does this tell us about how leaders should view their friendships? (Leaders value friendships.)
- Why was it important for David to keep his promise? (To show that he was a righteous man.)
- What does this tell us about the importance of leaders' keeping their promises? (Leaders keep their promises to the best of their ability.)
- What had Saul done to David in the past? (Saul was jealous of David and had sought to kill him in spite of the fact that his son Jonathan and David were close friends.)
- What does David's concern for Saul's family teach us about forgiving those who have hurt us? (Leaders forgive those who have wronged them and do not hold grudges.)

- When David summoned Ziba, Saul's servant, what did David tell him he wanted to show to Saul's family? (The kindness of God.) What does this tell us about David? (He wanted to do what God would do.)
- Which of Saul's descendants had a son who was still living? (Jonathan.)
- What was the name of Jonathan's son? (Mephibosheth.)
- What was special about Mephibosheth? (Mephibosheth had been crippled in both feet when he was five years old.)
- When David located Mephibosheth, what did he do? (He had Mephibosheth brought to him.)
- What did Mephibosheth do when he first came before King David? (He fell on his face before David.)
- What does this teach us about Mephibosheth's feelings toward David? (He was respectful and perhaps fearful of him.)
- What did David say to calm Mephibosheth's fears? (Do not be afraid.)
- What did David say he was going to do for Mephibosheth? (Show kindness to him for his father Jonathan's sake. Restore to him all the land that his grandfather Saul owned. Let him eat at his table regularly.)
- What do these actions teach us about how David showed compassion to Mephibosheth? (He showed compassion by what he said and did.)
- What does this teach us about how leaders should treat others? (Leaders show compassion to others by what they say and do.)
- How did David see that his promises to Mephibosheth were carried out? (He directed Ziba, Saul's servant, to cultivate the land for Mephibosheth and provide for Mephibosheth's needs.)
- Why was it important for David to give specific directions to meet Mephibosheth's needs? (In order to make certain that something was done and his words were not just words.)
- What does this tell us about the importance of making specific plans to meet needs? (Leaders see that words are followed by actions.)
- How did David treat Mephibosheth? (As one of his own sons.)
- What does this tell us about how leaders should treat others? (Leaders treat others with love and mercy.)

QUESTIONS FOR THE LEADERS:

- What truths can we learn from this story that God wants us as leaders to know and do?
- Does anyone have a testimony of a special friendship that you value? What makes this friendship special?
- Why are special friendships among Jesus' disciples important?
- Does anyone have a testimony of how someone showed compassion and/or mercy to you?
- Is there someone whom you have not forgiven for something he/she did to you?
- What should you do about this grudge you have against him/her?
- What kinds of promises are good for leaders to make?
- Why is it important for leaders to keep promises?
- Has there been a time when you as a leader did not keep a promise? What could you have done differently?
- Why is it important to show love and mercy to others?

- How do leaders show compassion for those they lead?
 - Why are both words and actions important in showing compassion to others?
 - Why should we be concerned about the needs of all the people we lead, not just certain people?
 - What do you do when the people you lead are hungry or sick?
 - Can you meet all of their needs yourself?
 - What have you done (or seen others do) to help meet others' needs?
 - What specific things can you do to make certain that words, either your own or the words of those you lead, are followed by actions? (Involve others in making decisions on what actions to take. Follow-up. Hold people accountable for their promises.)
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LESSON FIVE: Leaders of Jesus' disciples lead pure lives. David and Bathsheba.

Bible text for the story: 2 Samuel 11

Before you prepare your story, study the suggested questions and truths for this lesson. Be certain to include all the events in the story that you will be discussing during the discovery time.

TRUTHS AND TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION:

Leaders guard their thoughts and their minds.

Satan tempts leaders because they lead others.

Leaders consider the results of their actions.

Leaders flee all forms of sexual sin.

Leaders are responsible to God and others for their actions.

Leaders can cause others to sin because others are following them.

STORY QUESTIONS:

- What time of the year does this story take place? (The spring.) What did kings usually do during the spring? (Go out to battle.)
- What did King David do this particular spring? (He sent his general Joab and his army out to do battle, but he stayed behind in Jerusalem.)
- What did David see one evening from the roof of his royal home? (He saw a beautiful woman bathing.)
- Rather than turning his eyes away, what did David do next? (He asked who she was.)
- Why did David's asking about her open the door for temptation? (He spent more time thinking about her instead of putting it out of his mind.)
- What should David have done immediately if he had not wanted to be tempted? (He should have put her out of his mind.)
- What does this teach us about the best way to resist temptation? (Leaders flee all forms of sexual temptation. Leaders guard their thoughts and their minds.)
- What did David learn about the woman? (Her name was Bathsheba and she was married to Uriah the Hittite.)

- When David learned she was married, did he stop thinking about her? (No.) What did he do? (In spite of the fact she was married, he sent for her, and seduced her.)
- Was it all right for David to take Bathsheba since Uriah was a Hittite from a different tribe than David? Why or why not?
- Was the fact that David was tempted, sin? (No.)
- When did David's temptation become sin? (When he planned what he would do and carried those plans out.)
- Who do you think was the force behind David's temptation? (Satan.)
- Why was it important to Satan for David to fall into sin? (David was king and had influence over many people.)
- What does this tell us about why Satan tempts leaders of Jesus' disciples? (Satan tempts leaders because they lead others.)
- Do you think David considered what the results of his actions could be? (No.) Why not? (All he thought of were his own desires.)
- What were the results of his actions? (Bathsheba became pregnant.)
- When David heard the news that Bathsheba was pregnant with his child, did he repent of his sin and ask forgiveness from Bathsheba and her husband? (No.)
- Why do you think David did not repent of his sin? (He was afraid that because he was king he would lose face.)
- Had David repented immediately, how would he have been spared from further sin? (There would have been no need to try to trick Uriah or to have him killed.)
- What did David do? (He commanded his general Joab to send Uriah home from the battlefield.)
- After David asked about Joab and the battles, what did King David urge Uriah to do? (Go to his home and his wife.) Why? (To make it appear that Uriah was the father of the child.)
- What did Uriah do? (He slept at the door of the royal house instead of going home to his wife.)
- When David called Uriah in to explain why he didn't go home to his wife, what did Uriah say? (He did not feel right about going home when the Ark of the Covenant was in temporary shelter and the army of Israel was in the battlefield fighting.)
- What does Uriah's words tell you about Uriah's character? (He put loyalty to King David and his superiors ahead of his own personal comfort and pleasure.)
- What did King David try next? (David got Uriah drunk, hoping he would go home to his wife.)
- What did Uriah do, even in his drunkenness? (He stayed with David's servants.)
- What did King David say in his letter to his general Joab? (Put Uriah in the front line of a fierce battle and withdraw from him so that he would die.)
- Did Joab do as David asked? (Yes.) Was what Joab did sin? (Yes.)
- Who was responsible for causing Joab to sin? (David.)
- What does this tell us about how David used his position of leadership? (He used people for his own purposes, even causing them to sin.)
- What does this tell us about why leaders should be careful in their thoughts and actions? (They could cause others to sin.)
- What happened to Uriah? (He was killed in battle just as David wanted.)
- Was Uriah the only one killed? (No, some of David's servants were killed, too.)

- What did Bathsheba do when she heard about Uriah's death? (She mourned for her husband.)
- What did David do after Bathsheba's period of mourning? (He took her into his house as his wife.)
- Was God pleased with David's actions? (No.)
- How did God feel about what David had done? (It was evil in the Lord's sight.)

QUESTIONS FOR THE LEADERS:

- What truths can we learn from this story that God wants us as leaders to know and do?
- What have you found to be good ways to keep your mind and heart focused on what pleases the Lord?
- What are some of the ways Satan especially tempts leaders? (Finances, pride, sexual sins.)
- What advice would you give other leaders of Jesus' disciples on ways to avoid falling into sexual sin?
- Is it possible to hide sexual sin from God?
- Is it possible to hide sexual sin from others?
- What happens to a leader's influence when he/she falls into sexual sin?
- Does anyone have a testimony of God's faithfulness in this area?

LESSON SIX: Leaders of Jesus' disciples are accountable to God and to others for their actions. Nathan rebukes David.

Bible text for the story: 2 Samuel 12:1-25

Before you prepare your story, study the suggested questions and truths for this lesson. Be certain to include all the events in the story that you will be discussing during the discovery time.

TRUTHS AND TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION:

God may speak to leaders through other leaders or disciples of Jesus.

God judges leaders' secret thoughts and actions.

Leaders confess their sin to God and others.

God is merciful and will forgive confessed sin.

God holds leaders accountable for their witness in their community.

Leaders bear the consequences of their sin.

Others suffer when leaders sin.

**When leaders confess their sins and accept the consequences of their sins,
God will help them put their lives back together.**

STORY QUESTIONS:

- Who did the Lord send to talk to David? (Nathan.) Do you think David knew that Nathan had a message for him from the Lord? Why or why not?
- What does this teach us about how God may speak to leaders? (God may speak to leaders through other leaders or disciples of Jesus.)

- What do you think were Nathan's feelings when God told him to do this? (He was probably afraid.)
- What did Nathan do to communicate the Lord's message to David? (He told David a story.)
- What was the story that Nathan told to David? (A rich man and poor man lived in a village. The rich man had many herds and flocks but the poor man had nothing except one ewe lamb that he cared for deeply. A traveler came to visit the rich man. The rich man was unwilling to prepare a meal from one of the many animals in his herd. Instead, the rich man took it to prepare for the traveler.)
- What was David's response to Nathan's story? (He was very angry with the man. He swore by the Lord that the rich man deserved to die and must pay back the poor man four times the value of the lamb.)
- Who did Nathan say the rich man was? (David.)
- According to Nathan, what had the Lord given to David? (God anointed David king, delivered him from Saul, and gave him many wives.)
- Then what did Nathan tell David concerning how he had treated Uriah the Hittite? (David despised the Lord's word and did evil by having Uriah killed and taking Uriah's wife.)
- What did Nathan tell David would be the results of his actions? (David would also be fighting wars and David's own family would take his wives publicly.)
- What does this teach us about whether leaders must bear the consequences of their sin? (Leaders bear the consequences of their sin.)
- Why do you think God said that David's punishment would take place in public? (Perhaps because David had tried to cover up his sin. David had not confessed his sin and repented earlier because he was afraid of what people would say.)
- What does this tell us about whether leaders are responsible to God for what they do in secret? (God judges leaders' secret thoughts and actions.)
- What did David say immediately in response to Nathan's message from God? (He confessed his sin against the Lord.)
- What does David's confession tell us about what leaders must do? (Leaders confess their sin to God and others.)
- Why did God say that his son would die? (Because David's actions had caused unbelievers to show contempt for God.)
- Do you think the unbelievers would have shown contempt if David had not been known as a leader of God's people? (Probably not as much.)
- What does this teach us about whether God holds leaders accountable for their witness in their community? (God holds leaders accountable for their witness in their community.)
- When David discovered that the child was sick, what did he do? (He prayed and fasted.)
- Was David able to change God's will? (No.)
- How did David learn that the child had died? (He saw his servants whispering.)
- Who suffered because of David's sin? (David, Bathsheba, Uriah, David's soldiers, the child, the Israelites.)
- What does this teach us about what happens to others when leaders sin? (Others suffer when leaders sin.)
- What did David do after the child died? (He arose, washed, anointed himself, changed his clothes and went to the house of the Lord to worship. He then went home and ate.)

- What does the fact that David worshiped God after the death of his son tell us about David? (He had truly repented and wanted to be close to God again.)
- What did David's actions cause his servants to ask him? (They didn't understand why he didn't mourn after the child died.)
- How did David explain his actions? (He confessed that he could not bring back the baby but that one day he would go to him.)
- What was the name of the second son born to David and Bathsheba? (Solomon.)
- How did God feel toward Solomon? (God loved him.)
- When God sent Nathan to David this time, what was David's message? (Name the boy Jedidiah because he is loved by God.)
- Did God forgive David's sin? (Yes.) What does this tell us about what happens when a leader confesses sin? (God is merciful and will forgive confessed sin.)
- What can leaders learn from the birth of Solomon? (When leaders confess their sins and accept the consequences of their sins, God will help them put their lives back together.)
- Do you think David was as effective now as he had been before his sin? (No. He still had to bear the consequences in the future.)
- What does this tell us about leaders and the consequences of sin? (Leaders bear the consequences of their sin.)

QUESTIONS FOR THE LEADERS:

- What truths can we learn from this story that God wants us as leaders to know and do?
- Why is it difficult to confront other leaders with their sin?
- Why is it important for leaders to be confronted with their sin?
- What kinds of actions do leaders try to cover up?
- When leaders admit publicly that they have sinned, what does their confession tell us about them as leaders?
- When is it appropriate for a leader to confess a sin publicly? When is it not appropriate to confess a sin publicly? (When doing so will harm an innocent person.)
- To whom should leaders confess their sin?
- What are some possible consequences for others (family, those he/she leads, the community) when leaders of Jesus' disciples sin?
- If a leader falls into sin, is God still able to use him/her if he/she repents?
- What is God saying to you personally because of this lesson?

LESSON SEVEN: Leaders of Jesus' disciples manage their families well. David and his children.

**Bible text for the story: 2 Samuel 13; 14:23-28, 33; 15:13-14; 18:32-19:8;
1 Kings 2:1-4**

Before you prepare your story, study the suggested questions and truths for this lesson. Be certain to include all the events in the story that you will be discussing during the discovery time.

TRUTHS AND TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION:

- Polygamy causes jealousy and problems in a family.**
- Leaders love their children and do not show favoritism.**
- Leaders discipline their children.**
- Leaders talk and spend time with their children.**
- Leaders teach their children to rely on God.**

STORY QUESTIONS:

- How did David's polygamy cause problems in his family? (There was jealousy among the children. David showed favoritism.)
- What truth does this teach us about polygamy? (Polygamy causes jealousy and problems in a family.)
- What was David's reaction when he heard that Amnon had raped his sister? (He was furious.)
- Did David discipline Amnon or force him to treat his sister honorably? (No.)
- How did David's failure to act harm his children? (Tamar lived a desolate woman. Absalom killed Amnon and was forced to flee.)
- What does this teach us about whether leaders should discipline their children? (Leaders discipline their children.)
- Do you think David showed favoritism between his children? Why or why not?
- How did David's showing favoritism affect his children? (There was jealousy. Some lost respect for him.)
- What truth does this teach us about how leaders should treat their children? (Leaders love their children and do not show favoritism.)
- When Absalom was brought back, what did his father David do? (He assigned Absalom to live apart from him and would not see him.)
- How long had Absalom lived in Jerusalem without seeing his father David? (Two years.)
- How would you describe the relationship between David and Absalom? (David loved Absalom but he did not communicate with him. Absalom lost respect for David because of his actions.)
- What does this teach us about the importance of communication between leaders and their children? (Leaders talk and spend time with their children.)
- Following Absalom's death, what was David's response? (He grieved. He was unable to fulfill his duties.)
- What were David's instructions to Solomon at the time of David's death? (Be strong and show yourself a man. Observe what the Lord requires, walk in his ways, and obey his commands.)
- Why should leaders teach their children to rely on God? (So that they will have a strong personal relationship with God and know peace and joy.)
- In what ways was David a good father? (He provided for his children's material needs. He loved them.)
- In what ways was David a bad father? (He showed favoritism. He did not discipline his children as he should. He did not talk with them or spend time with them.)

- How did David's position as king and leader of the Israelite people affect his relationship with his children? (His children had many material blessings and some of them were spoiled. Some were prideful. David was often gone to war and did not spend time with his children.)

QUESTIONS FOR THE LEADERS:

- How does your position as leader of Jesus' disciples affect your relationship with your children? Do others expect your children to act a certain way?
- What kind of difficulties have you experienced in your family because you are a leader? How have you responded to these difficulties?
- Why is communication and spending time together important to a leader's family?
- What do you do to be certain you spend time and talk to your children?
- What problems have you had in disciplining your children?
- What advice does the group have for solving these problems?
- What can happen with the group you lead and with those in the community when you are having trouble in your family?
- When you are having problems in your family, what can you do?
- What specific things do you do to teach your children to rely on God?

Lesson Eight: Leaders of Jesus' disciples honor God with their lives. A psalm of David.

Bible text: Psalm 139

Before you prepare your story, study the suggested questions and truths for this lesson. Today's story is a psalm of David. In your transition story, remind the listeners that David was a musician and wrote many songs expressing his faith. We can learn about David's relationship with God through his songs. Challenge your listeners to memorize this psalm.

TRUTHS AND TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION:

Leaders know that God knows everything about them, their weaknesses and strengths.

Leaders know that God is with them even in difficult times.

Leaders praise God and give him glory in good times and in bad.

Leaders know that God has a plan for their lives.

Leaders oppose evil.

Leaders guard their thoughts and their minds.

Leaders listen for God's directions.

STORY QUESTIONS:

- According to this psalm, when did God's relationship with David begin? (Before David was born.)
- What things could David keep hidden from God, things that God did not know about David? (Nothing.)

- What does this tell us about what God knows about leaders of Jesus' disciples? (Leaders know that God knows everything about them, their weaknesses and their strengths.)
- Where did David say he could go to get away from God's presence? (Nowhere.)
- What does this teach us about God? (God is everywhere.)
- What do you think David meant when he said, "If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there." (Perhaps that God is with us in the good times and the bad.)
- What truth does this teach us about what leaders can expect from God during difficult times? (Leaders know that God is with them even in difficult times.)
- What did David mean when he said, "If I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me?" (God is faithful wherever we live.)
- Does this mean that if God calls me to move to another area different from where I was born, that he will be with me? (Yes.)
- What did David mean when he said, "All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be?" (Leaders know that God has a plan for their lives.)
- When did David praise God? (In good times and in bad.)
- When should leaders of Jesus' disciples praise God? (Leaders praise God and give him glory in good times and in bad.)
- Who hates God? (Satan.)
- How can Satan cause people to "misuse" God's name? (By saying they know God but not following God's commands.)
- How did David feel about evil? (He hated it.)
- What does this teach us about how Jesus' disciples should feel about evil? (Leaders oppose evil.)
- What does the fact that David asked God to search his thoughts tell us about the truth David had learned about guarding his thoughts? (Leaders guard their thoughts and their minds.)
- What truth had David learned about listening for God's directions? (Leaders listen for God's directions.)

QUESTIONS FOR THE LEADERS:

- What truths did you see in David's psalm that leaders need to know?
- When you look at the things that have happened in your life in the past, how have you seen the hand of God leading you to this stage in your life?
- Is it possible to know all the plans that God has made for you?
- If we cannot know what plans God has for us in the future, what should we do today?
- Has God ever called you to leave the area where you were born, to serve him somewhere else? If so, how did you feel when you went to the new area?
- Does someone have a testimony of how God was faithful even in a new area?
- When are you "in the depths"? What can you do when you are "in the depths"?
- Is there someone who is "in the depths" now? What can our group do to help you?
- Can each of you honestly ask God to search your heart and know your thoughts without being afraid of what he will find?
- What do you believe is the secret to being an effective leader of Jesus' disciples?
- If you were to write a song of praise to God, what would you say?