



Study Guide

Lent 2012 Sermon/Study Series
Expect More

“Recognize Your Challenge”

Week #3

March 10,11, 2012

Next week: March 17,18: *“Overcome Your Fear”*

Scripture References
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Read and reflect on the following scriptures.

2 Samuel 11:1-17

¹ In the spring, at the time when kings go off to war, David sent Joab out with the king's men and the whole Israelite army. They destroyed the Ammonites and besieged Rabbah. But David remained in Jerusalem.

² One evening David got up from his bed and walked around on the roof of the palace. From the roof he saw a woman bathing. The woman was very beautiful, ³ and David sent someone to find out about her. The man said, “She is Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam and the wife of Uriah the Hittite.” ⁴ Then David sent messengers to get her. She came to him, and he slept with her. (Now she was purifying herself from her monthly uncleanness.) Then she went back home. ⁵ The woman conceived and sent word to David, saying, “I am pregnant.”

⁶ So David sent this word to Joab: “Send me Uriah the Hittite.” And Joab sent him to David. ⁷ When Uriah came to him, David asked him how Joab was, how the soldiers were and how the war was going. ⁸ Then David said to Uriah, “Go down to your house and wash your feet.” So Uriah left the palace, and a gift from the king was sent after him. ⁹ But Uriah slept at the entrance to the palace with all his master's servants and did not go down to his house.

¹⁰ David was told, “Uriah did not go home.” So he asked Uriah, “Haven't you just come from a military campaign? Why didn't you go home?”

¹¹ Uriah said to David, “The ark and Israel and Judah are staying in tents,^[a] and my commander Joab and my lord's men are camped in the open country. How could I go to my house to eat and drink and make love to my wife? As surely as you live, I will not do such a thing!”

This sermon is based on studies Pastor Neal has been doing on understanding God's direction in our lives. He has developed a seminar to help us become the kind of people who know what next steps to take and are willing and able to take those steps and make those changes. Consider coming as a small group to this seminar.

Discovering Your Next Step

Saturday, March 17, 8:30-3:00, lunch provided. \$15 per person.

At Rancho Bernardo Community Presbyterian Church

Contact Lynn@rbcp.org to register

For more information, contact Rev. Neal Nybo, 858-487-0811, neal@rbcp.org

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Scripture

1. Read the 2 Samuel 11 scripture.
2. What stands out to you about David? Bathsheba?
3. What choices did either of them have?
4. If you had been a friend to either of them, when would you have stepped in to give advice? What would you have said?

5. Skim ahead a few chapters to see what happened in David’s life.
6. What part of God’s judgment is divine and what part are natural consequences?

Sermon

Neal describes symptomatic and real challenges as puddle and cabinet issue - ,
“Imagine that there is a puddle of water on the floor in front of your kitchen sink. Is the puddle the real problem? No. The real or most important problem is under the sink, in the cabinet.”

1. Can you relate to the idea of cleaning up puddle problems while ignoring the bigger problems that cause the puddles?
2. Why do people focus on puddles and not address cabinet issues?
3. In a real kitchen, what real problems can arise if a leak under the sink isn’t fixed?
4. Can cabinet issues in relationships get worse over time and cause more trouble the way a leak in real life does?
5. For thoughtful reflection, not necessarily for sharing in the group – if you have a cabinet issue, what stops you from opening your cabinet doors and facing the real challenge?

Life Application

Problems often get worse over time and puddles keep forming until the real issues are addressed. Think about ways you might begin to look at and address any cabinet issues in your life.

Prayer

Lord, I would like help with the real challenges in my life. Thank you that you know they are too big for me to deal with alone. Lead me to resources and people who can help me and Lord, I open myself up to the work of your Holy Spirit in these areas of my life. Amen.