

# God's GOAL in me

## Week 3: October 21-27

**Introduce Guests/Share Life:** *How has this week been going? Good? Bad? Ugly? Things to celebrate?*

**Open in Prayer:** *Include any prayer needs that came up while you were sharing life together.*

**Recall the Guidelines:** *Ask: "What is the purpose of the guidelines?" Answer: To be relational!*

**Share the Vision:** *At group, not only will we engage one another in relational discipleship every week, but we will also practice a method for studying the Bible that you can reproduce and use to disciple others!*

**Ask someone to retell last week's story (1 Chronicles 22:1-13).**

**Hook Question:** What blind spot have you had in your life that you discovered as a result of someone else helping you see what you could not?

**Ask someone from your team to read or tell the following background for the story:**

In last week's story we met two characters: David, king of Israel, and Nathan, a prophet in Israel. Both these characters make a reappearance in our story today.

David was a great king. He is remembered as the greatest king in Israel. The Bible calls David a man after God's own heart. While there is so much to praise about David, he was not a perfect man.

David's army was off to war, but David decided to stay "home alone." His hands were idle, and his thoughts had time to drift. One day, a married woman caught his eye. Her name was Bathsheba. David saw her bathing from his roof. She was beautiful to David. David snapped and a spiral of terrible sins began.

First, David sent messengers to go get Bathsheba. When she came, David slept with her. Shortly after, Bathsheba revealed to David that she was pregnant. This was bad news for David, because her husband, Uriah, was off to war. Everyone was going to find out about the affair! On top of that, Uriah was one of David's personal friends.

David tried to cover it up. He sent for Uriah to come back from battle. Uriah returned to see the king. David tried to create an opportunity for Uriah to go sleep with his wife, but Uriah refused because he was a man of honor and he was unwilling to afford himself such a luxury while his brothers were dying at war.

David felt hopelessly trapped. He devised a plan. He used his power as king to make arrangements for Uriah to be abandoned by his brothers on the battlefield. The arrangements were carried out and Uriah was killed at war. David had not only committed adultery, but he committed murder to cover it up. Bathsheba had not arranged any of this. When she heard about her husband's death, she was crushed.

The dust was settling. David was starting to feel as though he might get away with his terrible downward spiral into sin. He could not see the horror of what he had done. God had mercy towards David. When David could not see his sin, God sent the prophet Nathan to help show David his own wickedness. This is where our story begins...

**Tell the story from 2 Samuel 12:1-10:** *Use different storytellers. Teach people to share God's Word!*

**Rebuild the story:** *Group members retell the story based on what they remember.*

**Read 2 Samuel 12:1-10:** *Ask the group to read these verses.*

## Discussion Questions: learn to talk about God's Word...

Head  
Questions:  
Quicker  
tempo.

- What do you like or dislike about this story? What stands out to you?
  - How did David respond to Nathan? Read Psalm 51 out loud to find out.
- What does this story teach us about people?
- What does this story teach us about God?

Heart & Hand  
Questions:  
Slow down &  
wait!

- How do you relate to this story?
  - What is God showing you that you need to change tonight?
- Who could retell the story for us right here one last time?

*Ask for a volunteer to tell the Bible story next week.*

*Close in prayer.*



## Week 3: Chase the Strays

*Imagine this...*

You've invited your four adult children home for dinner, and they have all agreed to come. The meal is set for 6:30pm. At 6:22pm, two of your children arrive. You're excited to see them and you start catching up. The food comes out of the oven hot at 6:35pm. You sit down to eat, you finish dinner at 7:15pm, and you and your two kids move into the living room for coffee and conversation. By 8:48pm, you're all feeling tired and the two who came hit the road.

***Did you notice anything missing?***

I doubt this situation would ever play out in your house. Before dinner ever started, something vital would have taken place. You would have naturally contacted the two other children who had not arrived! You would want to make sure they were still coming. You would be concerned to make sure nothing happened to them. You would want them to know you are anticipating your time together with them.

This is how we act with people we care about – with family. When we all agree to be together, we check in. We communicate when plans change. We show interest and concern.

How have so many become so calloused about this most basic principle of relationships in the church?! For God's sake, this must change among God's people!!

***If this is happening in your small group, your heart is not agreeing with God's heart towards His Church. He sees you as part of His Family, but you are treating His Family worse than strangers.***

Spiritual parents (group leaders) care for their spiritual children (group members). They shepherd them. They chase the strays. If we refuse to take this basic step in our discipleship relationships, we might as well shut our groups down. Over time, having group without this basic practice will be far more damaging than it will be productive in the lives of new disciples. This is a principle that cannot and must not be neglected.

**How are you doing when it comes to chasing the strays? There are two main areas for us to consider every week...**

1. At each group meeting
2. At each service on Sunday morning

How are you doing in these areas? Do you check the connections page Pastor Britt sends every week to help us chase the strays? Do you text people to check in with them before you start your group meetings? If not, will you repent immediately of this major area of neglect and change?