

Bearing Christmas

Small Group Questions: Part 3: Growing Through Pain

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Read

2 Samuel 11 & 12; 2 Corinthians 10:3 –5; Romans 12:19; and Colossians 3:23–24

Reflect

While there are many men listed in the lineage of Christ, only five women are listed and accounted for. We join Bathsheba in her story in a very vulnerable place. Having been spotted by King David from his roof while bathing, she is taken to King David, and as the text says: “he lay with her.” Not long after, she discovers that she is with child. Bathsheba and her name carry a negative connotation to this day, but if we look closely, we can see that she was a woman taken advantage of, acquainted with grief, and largely overlooked. While these things may have been true about Bathsheba, God divinely inspired her name to be included in the lineage of Christ. What can we learn about God’s heart for us as we look at the life of Bathsheba?

Josh and Katie Walters discuss three lessons from Bathsheba on growing through pain:

1. When you are taken advantage of, focus on what you can control, instead of what is trying to control you.
 - a. Like Bathsheba, we may find ourselves in circumstances beyond our control.
 - i. Read 2 Corinthians 10:3-5
 - ii. When we are faced with circumstances out of our control, how can we apply this passage as we seek to walk in truth?
2. When you experience loss, grieve, but remember it’s not the end of the story.
 - a. Not only would Bathsheba suffer the loss of her husband, she would also suffer the loss of her newborn baby, and yet it wasn’t the end of her their story.
 - i. Read 2 Samuel 11:26-27 & 2 Samuel 12:13-14
 1. What can we learn of Bathsheba as she grieves her profound losses?
 2. What can we learn about God’s heart as we reflect on his dealings with both Bathsheba and King David?
3. When you’ve been overlooked, remind yourself most rewards are not passed out here.
 - i. Read Matthew 1:6, Colossians 3:23-24
 1. Bathsheba even in her own narrative seems to be overlooked. Do you agree/disagree?
 2. While this may be true, what honors did God give to Bathsheba after all the loss she experienced?
 3. Reflect/ discuss a time or a season where you felt overlooked.
 4. How can we apply the truths of Colossians 3:23-24 to our lives?

Respond: We will all experience pain, loss, and being overlooked at times. Jesus himself was a man acquainted with sorrow, born as a baby largely overlooked. We can be confident that he is near to the broken-hearted and is a rewarder of those who earnestly seek him. What can we learn and how can we grow in our faith as we experience the losses and hurts of life?