



Welcome

SERIES: THE MATRIARCHS OF CHRISTMAS

Message: Silent Suffering

Dr. Lance Watson, Senior Pastor

PRAYER: O Lord, as we continue in this season of Advent, we thank you for the remarkable faith and resilience of the women you chose to include in the lineage of your Son, Jesus Christ. We honor the tenacity of Tamar, the courage of Rahab, the loyalty of Ruth, the wisdom of Bathsheba, and the “yes” of Mary, all who navigated complex circumstances to play their part in your divine plan. May we draw strength from their stories of courage and perseverance as we await the arrival of the promised King. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.

ICEBREAKER: Can you share a time in your life where you suffered in silence?

INTRODUCTION: Bathsheba, known in the Bible primarily as the wife of Uriah the Hittite whom King David took and then married, is a figure defined by profound suffering and quiet endurance in the face of immense power and tragedy. Her story begins with her being seen and summoned by the king, an event widely interpreted as an abuse of royal authority that left her voiceless and vulnerable, leading to the subsequent murder of her husband and the death of her first child with David. Despite these crushing losses and the public scandal surrounding her, she ultimately rose from victimized subject to Queen Mother, claiming a pivotal and enduring place in the lineage of the Messiah.

BIBLE STUDY: Read **Matthew 1:6b**: David was the father of Solomon, whose mother had been Uriah’s wife.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. **What was your biggest takeaway from the message?** What’s one thing you learned? What questions came to mind as you listened to the message? What points did you find most insightful?
2. **Navigating Power and Silence:** The text states, "David sent messengers and took her, and she came to him, and he lay with her" (2 Sam 11:4). Given the immense power imbalance between a ruling king and a subject's wife, how should we interpret Bathsheba's initial actions—her compliance and her subsequent message to David: "I am pregnant"?
3. **The Burden of Scandal:** David's attempts to cover up his misdeed (2 Sam 11:6-13) involves manipulating Bathsheba's husband, Uriah, whose noble integrity ultimately seals his fate. How does Uriah's unyielding character inadvertently contribute to Bathsheba's profound personal tragedy? Furthermore, how does the national scandal increase the social burden on Bathsheba, forcing her into a position where silent endurance is the primary path forward?



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4. **Grief, Ritual, and Inner Strength:** After Uriah's death, the text simply says, "When the wife of Uriah heard that Uriah her husband was dead, she lamented for her husband. And when the mourning was over, David sent and brought her to his house, and she became his wife" (2 Sam 11:26-27). This compressed account moves quickly from grief to marriage. What does the performance of the mourning ritual suggest about Bathsheba's internal strength? How does she exhibit resilience by completing the required mourning and then accepting the new reality imposed upon her, understanding that her survival and future now depend on her position next to the king?
5. **Foreshadowing Future Action:** Chapter 11 ends with Nathan the prophet being sent to David to confront him. Though Bathsheba is not present in that conversation, she is the cause and subject of it. What actions or inactions in Chapter 11 might foreshadow the wisdom she later displays in securing the throne for her son, Solomon (1 Kings 1)? How might the silent suffering and strategic maneuvering forced upon her by David's actions in this chapter have taught her the necessary political skills to become a powerful Queen Mother?

CHALLENGE: Thank God that your story will ultimately be determined by God's grace.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Take this time to share group announcements. Church wide and campus specific announcements can be found at www.myspbc.org. You can also "find, follow and like" our Facebook page at facebook.com/myspbc. Turn on your notifications.

CELEBRATIONS: Take this time to share praise reports (e.g. answered prayers, birthdays, anniversaries, promotions).

PRAYER REQUESTS & PRAYER: Take this time to share prayer requests. Close with prayer.

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We Care!

NOTICE: As a small group leader, we depend on you to show members that we care. Here's a list of resources to help you.

FOR PRAYER:

CALL: 804.463.2472

EMAIL: prayer@myspbc.org.

FOR COUNSELING:

CALL: 804.643.6177

EMAIL: care@myspbc.org

TO REQUEST A HOSPITAL VISIT:

CALL: 804.304.3890 (For Emergencies)

EMAIL: ecare@myspbc.org.

TO REQUEST FUNERAL SUPPORT:

CALL: 804.304.3890 (Pastor On Call)

EMAIL: ecare@myspbc.org.

TO FIND A SUPPORT GROUP:

CALL: 804.643.6177

EMAIL: care@myspbc.org.

TO REQUEST EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE:

CALL: 804.643.4000

EMAIL: emergencyassistance@myspbc.org.

TO CONTACT MY LIFE STAGE PASTOR: CALL: 804.643.4000 and Press 1 for the Dial by Name Directory

EMAIL:

- Imagination (0-10): Vernita Williams: Vernita.Williams@myspbc.org
- SMB (11-19): Martina Jones-Smith: Martina.Jones-Smith@myspbc.org
- Dreamchasers (20-29): Juan Shackelford: juan.shackelford@myspbc.org
- Aspire (30-39): Lance Watson, Jr.: lance.watsonjr@myspbc.org
- Fusion (40-49): Michelle Townsend: michelle.townsend@myspbc.org
- Encore (50-59): Lisa Johnson: lisa.johnson@myspbc.org.
- Prime Time (60-69): Maceo Freeman: maceo.freeman@myspbc.org
- Refiners (70+): Roscoe Jones: roscoe.jones@myspbc.org

*GPS is a study guide based on the weekend message. The purpose of this guide is to assist small groups in study.
Previous GPS Guides are available online at www.myspbc.org.*



Small Group Leader Guide

Would you like to START or JOIN a Small Group at Saint Paul's?

Most existing groups are open to new group members, and new groups begin on a regular basis. If you have friends in a small group, ask about joining their group. If you are new to Saint Paul's and are looking for a place to connect, please feel free to contact us and we will do our best to help you find the right group.

Leader Tips:

The GPS document is a guide for discussion. Don't feel like you must use every question. Some questions will take a while to work through while others will be over in a few seconds!

1. Don't teach the lesson. The lesson was taught on the weekend. Just ask questions and let everyone else talk.
2. Let other people ask questions. It's OK to go "off topic" for a while. Sometimes those conversations are more interesting anyway!
3. Have fun. Relationships, not curriculum, are the heartbeat of our small groups. So, have fun with the people in your group.

Agenda for a Small Group Gathering

Gathering Time

Take 5-10 minutes to welcome everyone, catch up and if planned, share some food!

Discussion Time

Here's a suggested format:

1. **Ice Breaker** – Lighthearted icebreaker question (5-10 min.)
2. **Discussion** - Discussion time, Bible study, application challenge (30-40 min.)
3. **Prayer** – Prayer requests and praying for one another (10-20 min.)
4. **Planning** – Remind the group of how we serve together (e.g. usher, sing, greet, pray, etc.)