



SG | Small Groups

Group Prep

In preparation for small group, read 2 Samuel 11:1-27 and 2 Samuel 12:1-14, then answer the following discussion questions.

Introduction

Shouldn't we become more mature as we age? Although most would answer, "absolutely," we know this isn't necessarily true. We all know an adult who hasn't yet grown up in certain areas of their life. Because of this, the passing of time doesn't necessarily produce growth and maturity. Instead, we become mature by making the decision to confront the negative aspects of who we are.

Discussion Questions

1. Part of "adulting" is choosing to face reality. Describe a time when you went through a substantial life change and had to face a new reality? In what healthy or unhealthy ways did you deal with this new reality? How did facing that new reality affect the person you are today?

2. Take a moment to discuss the excerpt of King David's story found in the Group Prep. Who are the main characters in this story? What realities does David have to face? In what ways does he decide to deal with those realities? What do David's decisions tell us about the reality of the man he had become?

David has to come to grips with the reality that he is no longer living in God's kingdom. He is acting as king of his own life. Why is it hard for David to face this reality? How can we determine whether or not we have removed God as King and are acting as king/queen in certain areas of our own lives?

3. In 2 Samuel 12, God places a man named Nathan into David's life for the purpose of helping him face who he's truly become. How do you generally respond when someone attempts to help you face

the reality of who you are? Who is the "Nathan" God has placed in your life that you need to start listening to, and what realities about yourself could they help you face?

What reality do you need to face? If you chose to face the reality about yourself that doesn't align with God's will for your life, how would your life change? How could this group be more intentional about helping one another face reality?

4. Your life is a result of the choices you make. What steps can we take to eliminate the blind spots of our current reality? Finish this statement: If this is true about me, then I will

_____. What actions will you take to face reality and become the person God has designed you to be?

My action step is _____.

I will encourage and pray for _____ to follow through, and their action step is _____.

My memory verse is _____.

This coming week, I'm praying for _____.

Outreach: Groups in Action

The Children's Ministry has a summer opportunity! Keep your group connected over the summer by serving in the children's area. Connect with Kerry Carmichael at kcarmichael@eclife.org to pick a service time and opportunity your group can support.

Colombia still needs a lot of little toys (balls, happy meal toys, beanie babies, etc). Clean out your closets or hit up the local garage sales. Over 900 kids will be ministered to while our missions team serves there at the end of June. Drop toys off at the Information Desk.

Time does not grow us up.

Adults choose to face reality.

Their **purpose** is to teach people wisdom and discipline, to help them understand the insights of the wise. Their **purpose** is to teach people to live disciplined lives, to help them do what is right, just, and fair. These proverbs will give insight to the **simple**, knowledge and discernment to the **young**. *Proverbs 1:2-4*

Why is it so hard to face reality?

The truth is painful.

1. We live in denial.
2. We medicate.

David was **furious**. "As surely as the Lord lives," he vowed, "any man who would do such a thing deserves to **die**!" *2 Samuel 12:5*
2 Samuel 12:7-10

Then David **confessed** to Nathan, "I have sinned against the Lord." *2 Samuel 12:13*

How do we face reality?

1. Assume you're missing it somewhere.

Whoever trusts in his own mind is a **fool**, but he who walks in wisdom will be **delivered**. *Proverbs 28:26*

2. Believe that facing reality is better than living in denial.

People who **conceal** their sins will not **prosper**, but if they **confess** and turn from them, they will receive **mercy**.
Proverbs 28:13

3. Ask for help and be willing to receive it.

Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. **Point out** anything in me that offends you, and lead me along the path of everlasting life. *Psalms 139:23-24*

Plans go wrong for lack of advice; **many advisers** bring success.
Proverbs 15:22

4. Make the adjustment.

If this is true about me, then I will _____.
John 18:37

John 3:3