



**Main Passage:** 1 Chronicles 21:1-17

## Theological Theme

Sin matters to God and the consequences of sin are often far reaching.

## Introduction

- 1. How big of an issue do you think blame-shifting is in our world today?
- 2. Why do you think people struggle with accepting responsibility for their actions?

## 1. Choosing to Sin (1 Chronicles 21:1-8)

King David, nearing the end of his life, made a crucial mistake by giving in to temptation from Satan to sin against God. This is another reminder that even the most revered Biblical characters are not unlike us: they were real people who did wrong things as well as great things. Studying their lives through the pages of Scripture allows us to learn from what they did right as well as where they strayed from God's path.

- 1. Why is it important and helpful to see figures in Scripture as real people that we can relate to today?
- 2. What is the connection between pride and sinfulness in our lives? Why are the two almost always intertwined?
- 3. Application: In this passage we see that David listened to Satan, ignored wise counsel, and finally submitted to God. Where are these three paths present in your life today? How is God calling you to respond?

## 2. Far Reaching Consequences (1 Chronicles 21:9-15)

David's response to his sin teaches us some valuable lessons. In a world where blame is passed around freely, he accepted responsibility for his sin. David owned up to his failings and showed wisdom and character in the way he chose the resulting judgment. David also recognized that his sin was against God as he repented of his grasp for glory.

- ❓ What does the difficult nature of each of these options communicate about the seriousness of sin? How can remembering the seriousness of sin be a help to us when tempted towards sin?
- ❓ How did David's decision show humility as a leader?
- ❓ Application: What do you need to trust to the Lord in your life? What can we learn from this painful experience for David?

### 3. Humbled to Repentance (1 Chronicles 21:16-17)

What happened when the Lord stayed the hand of the angel is a picture of the mercy and provision of the Lord. David was blessed to see the angel standing between heaven and earth with a raised sword. Though the destruction had halted, there remained imminent danger and David responded appropriately.

- ❓ How have you experienced the mercy of God in your life when you repented after recognizing your sin?
- ❓ How did David's response show that his repentance was real and not just a momentary response to the consequences of his sin? How do we show true repentance in our lives?
- ❓ Application: What can you apply from David's story to your own life?

### Conclusion

- ❓ Where are you tempted to find security or purpose in things outside of God?
- ❓ How can our group support one another by speaking the truth as Joab did to David in this account?
- ❓ Who will you seek to have a gospel conversation with this week? How might sharing about the life of David help in this?