

Christmas Hope: Bathsheba

Life is messy. No matter how hard we try, it's impossible to be perfect. This can be so hard and uncomfortable at Christmas when we want everything to feel cheerful and bring back warm fuzzy memories, but the reality is, our stories are filled with sin and brokenness: mistakes, missteps, and moments when our best simply was not enough. Join *Groundwork* for an Advent reflection on the story of Bathsheba, the fourth woman referenced in Jesus' genealogy. Through the story of "Uriah's wife," Bathsheba, we witness the traumatic results of King David's sin and we are invited to take an honest look at our own experiences of brokenness. Together, through Bathsheba's story, we'll remember *why* Jesus needed to come, seek the truth of God's abundant forgiveness, and celebrate Jesus' coming at Christmas.

AWARENESS Before listening reflect on what you already know or understand about topics we'll cover in the episode.

- What dampens your Christmas spirit?
- Is there any pain, sorrow, shame, or trauma in your life story? Does it ever impact your celebration of Christmas?



LISTEN TO THE EPISODE: [Christmas Hope: Bathsheba](#)

READ [Matthew 1:5-7](#), [2 Samuel 11:1-12:25](#)

REFLECTION After listening, consider the following questions:

- As you listened to the story of David and Bathsheba in the context of Christmas, were there any details that surprised you or made you think about the story differently than you may have in the past?
- Hosts Darrell Delaney and Scott Hoezee twice discussed the power dynamics at work between David and Bathsheba. How might the fact that God included Bathsheba, a socially powerless woman, in Jesus' genealogy encourage you when you recognize unfair power dynamics in your own life or in the situations of others you observe? How might it impact your approach to the people and circumstances involved?
- God SAW Bathsheba, the wife of Uriah the Hittite. He saw her vulnerability; he saw her brokenness; he saw how David sinned against her. God SAW David. He saw David's abuse of power: he saw David's adultery; he saw David's murder of Uriah; he saw David's imperfection. In his unfathomable mercy, he drew them both in and gave them an integral place in Jesus' family tree. Likewise, God SEES you. How does that truth make you feel? What emotions does it stir in you? Relief? Hope? Comfort? Guilt? Shame? Where might you need God to intervene in your story today?

RELATED PASSAGES for further study

[Psalm 32](#), [Psalm 103](#), [Psalm 10:14-18](#), [Romans 8:35-59](#)

CONCLUSION

As part of your Christmas preparation, dedicate some time to reflection and prayer.

- Identify some of the brokenness in your life or in our world.
- Pray for God's continued intervention in this brokenness.
- Give thanks for the first Advent, Jesus' first coming into our world at his birth.
- Look ahead to the second Advent, the second coming of Jesus, and pray for when all will be made well, all of our sins forgiven, and all of our brokenness healed.
- Close your prayer with the words of [Psalm 103](#).

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