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"Let my TEACHING fall like RAIN...like SHOWERS on YOUNG PLANTS." (Deuteronomy 32:2)



Story: David and Bathsheba

Supplies Needed

You will need the following:

15 Sheets of Cardstock (8.5" x 11")
15 3 mil Laminating Film

Directions

- Print pages 2-31 two-sided on cardstock. Laminate the pages.
- Hold up the pictures while you read the story.

Illustrations courtesy of Free Bible Images
https://www.freebibleimages.org/



Before holding up the picture:

Do you like to make a snowman? Do you know how to start making a snowman? You start with a little snowball in your hands, and then you start rolling it in the snow, and it gets bigger and bigger as more snow sticks to the ball.

Today we're going to talk about a man who made a big mistake. It was a sin that didn't please God, but he didn't stop with just one sin. That first sin, led to another sin, and another sin. Sometimes sin is like that snowball that starts small but keeps growing. Sin, if we don't correct it, can lead us to make more sinful choices.

Hold up picture:

Would you be surprised if I told you that man who sinned was David? David had been described as "a man after God's own heart" (1 Sam. 13:14). God knew that David loved Him and wanted to serve Him, but even the best Christians can sin. This story will make us sad, but we should remember what Paul said in Romans 15:4: "For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us…" God expects us to learn from these lessons in the Old Testament. We will see the wrong choices David made and also learn about forgiveness.



Hold up picture:

In the spring, David sent his army, under the command of Joab, off to attack the Ammonites, but David chose to stay at home in Jerusalem. We're not told why David stayed at home. Usually, the king would go with his army as a brave leader. But because David stayed home, he would make some choices that caused him many problems.



Hold up picture:

One evening, David walked around on the roof of the palace and saw a beautiful woman bathing. David should have looked away, but instead he wanted to know more about this woman. David sent someone to find out who she was. He was told she was Bathsheba, the wife of Uriah, who was away fighting in David's army.



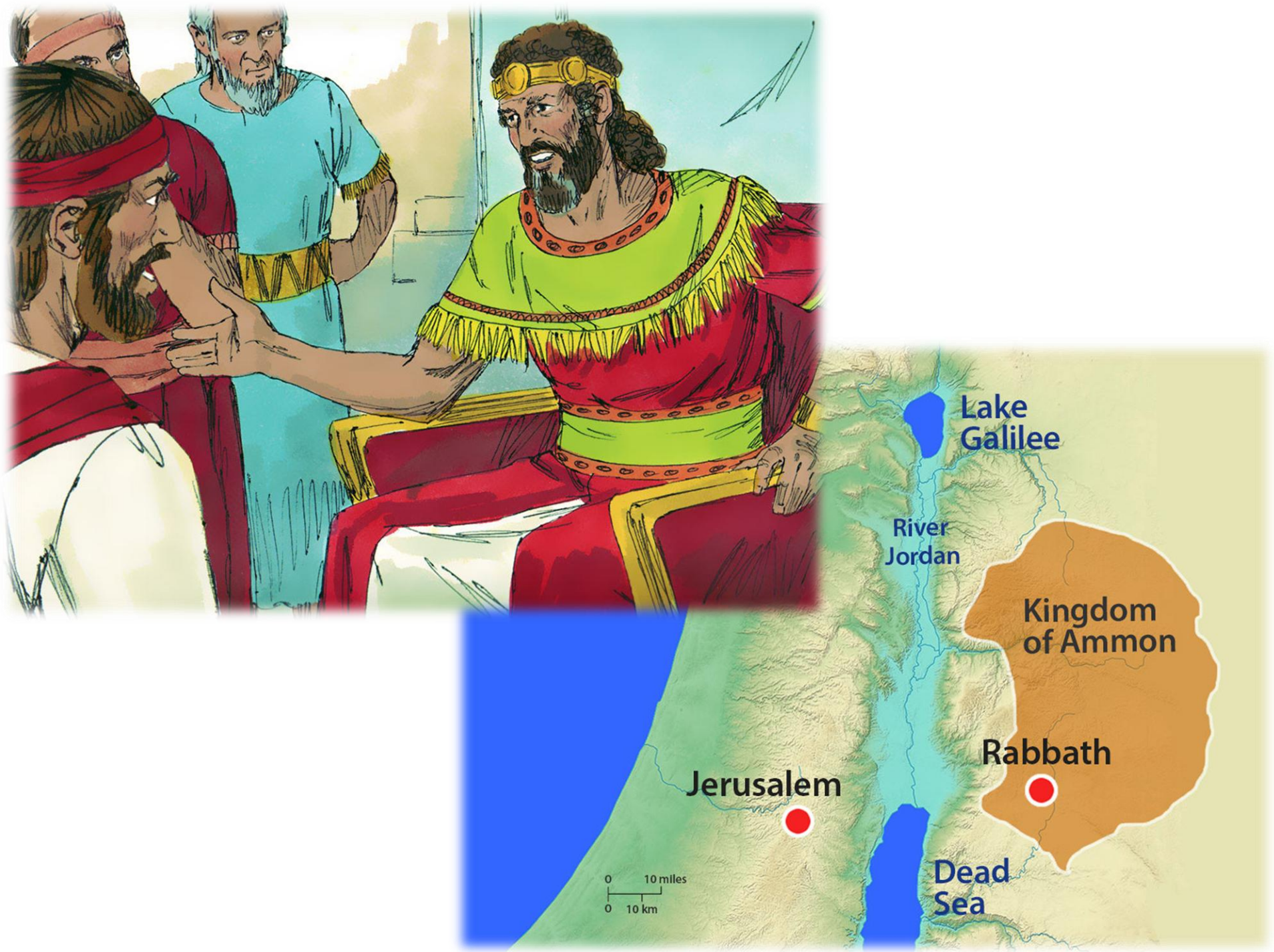
Hold up picture:

David sent messengers to bring Bathsheba to him. Even though David knew it was against God's law to be with another man's wife, David wanted Bathsheba for himself. Bathsheba spent the night with David, that was a sin, and then she went back home.



Hold up picture:

A little while later, Bathsheba sent a message to David saying, “I am pregnant.” David had to come up with a plan to trick everyone. He didn’t want anyone to know that he had sinned with Bathsheba and that he was the father of her baby.


Lake
Galilee
River
Jordan
Kingdom
of Ammon
Rabbath
Jerusalem
Dead
Sea
0 10 miles
0 10 km

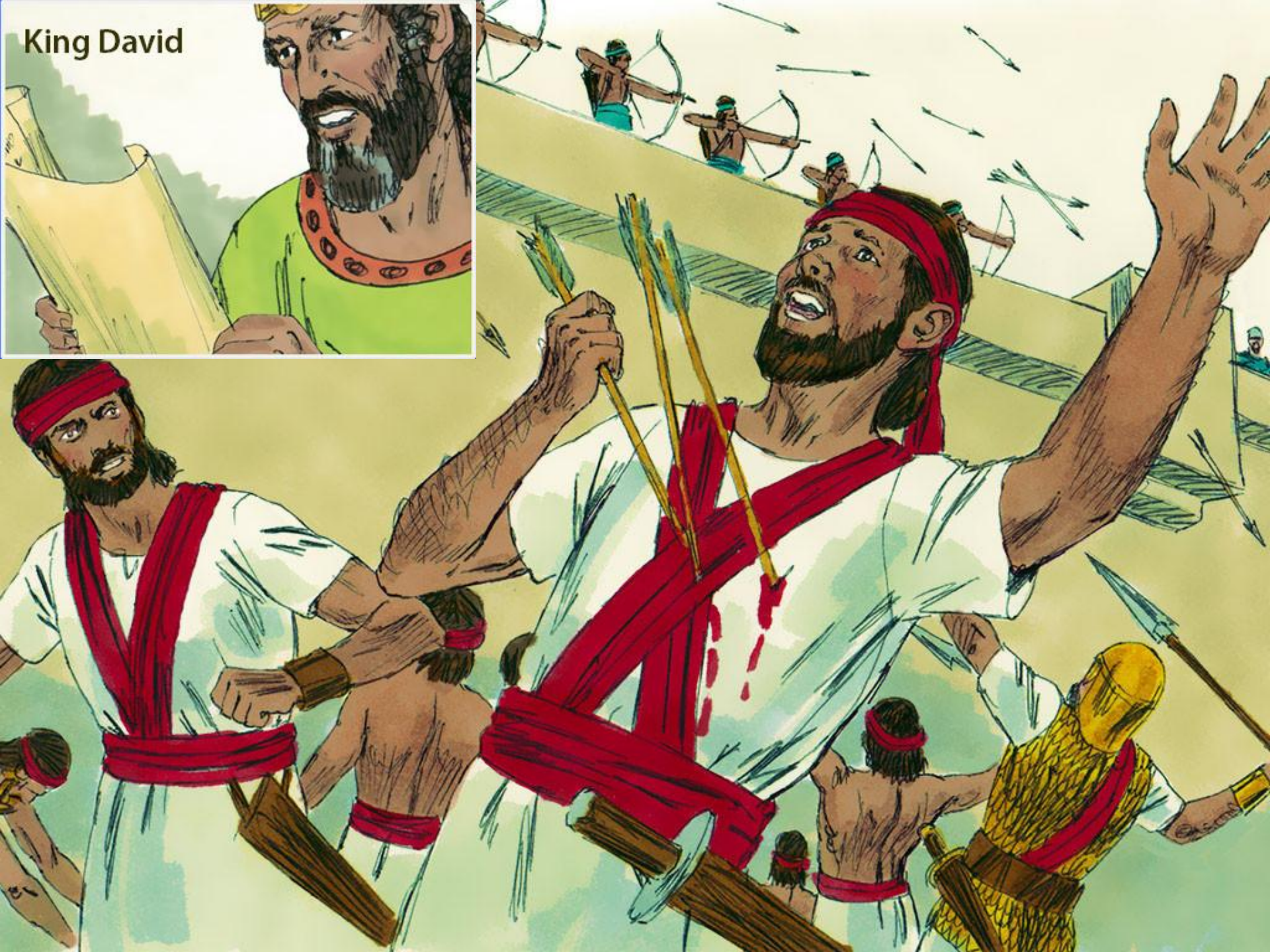
Hold up picture:

David's first plan was to send a message to Uriah to come see him. Uriah left the siege in Ammon and returned to Jerusalem. David asked Uriah how the siege was going and then sent him home. David was hoping Uriah would spend the night with Bathsheba and later think the child was his own. But Uriah did not think it was fair that he should be at home while the other troops were living in tents. So Uriah slept at the door of the palace with the other servants.



Hold up picture:

The next day, David found out that Uriah had not spent the night with Bathsheba. So David's second plan was to get Uriah drunk, hoping he would then go home to Bathsheba. But again Uriah did not go home, instead he slept on a mat by the palace entrance. David's plan had failed again.


King David

Hold up picture:

David's third plan was to get Uriah killed in battle. So David sent Uriah back to the battle carrying a letter to Joab, his commander. David ordered Joab to put Uriah at the front of the hottest battle, then withdraw from him so that he will be struck down and killed. Joab obeyed King David's order, and this time David's plan worked. Bathsheba's husband Uriah was killed by the Ammonites. David's sin with Bathsheba (adultery) had led him to commit another sin - murder!



Hold up picture:

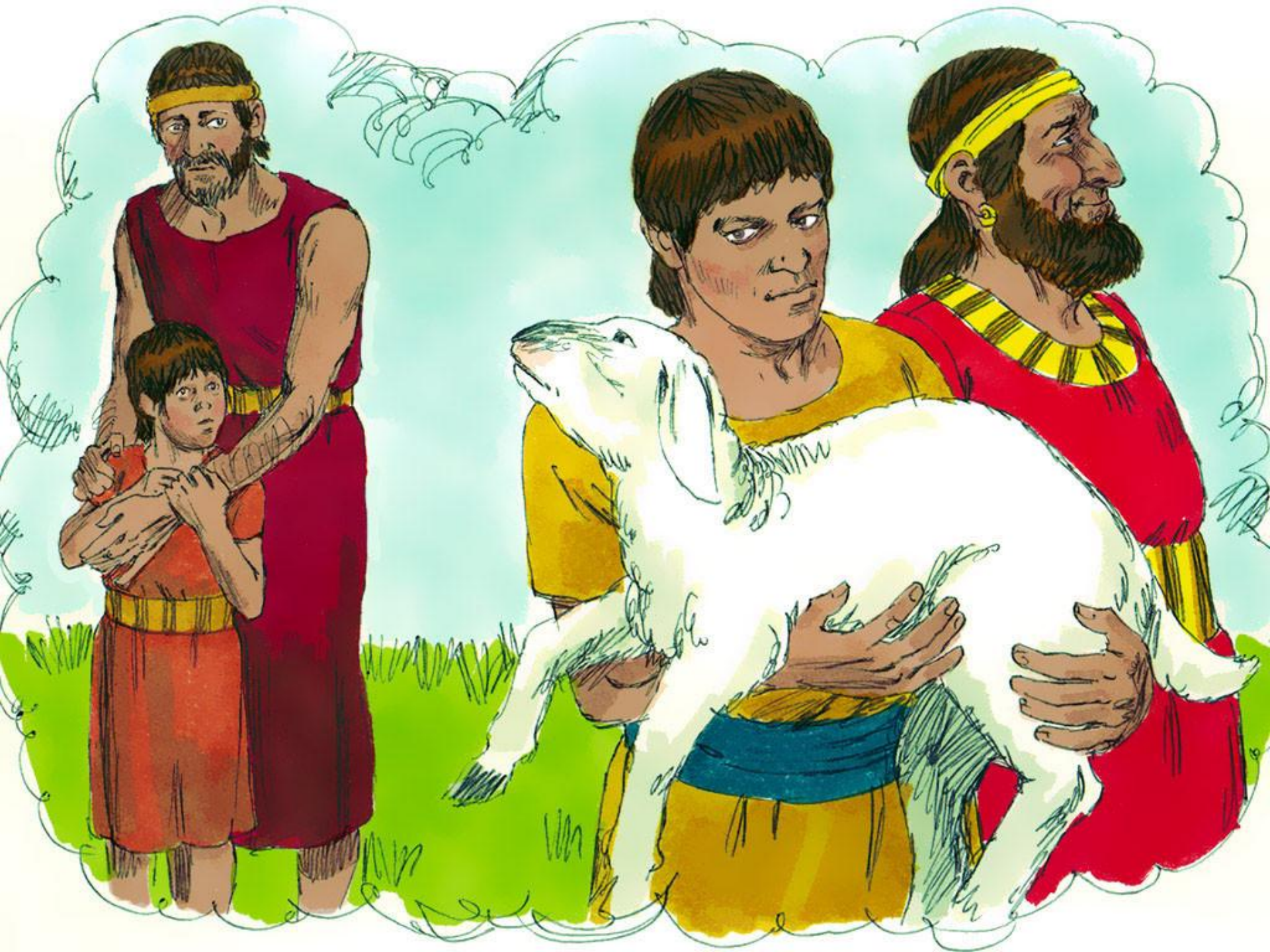
When Bathsheba heard that her husband was dead, she mourned for him. After her time for mourning was over, David brought her to his palace and married her. Later, Bathsheba gave birth to a baby boy. But David had forgotten one very important thing…even though he had tricked everyone else, God knew. Can we hide from God? *(No)* God was very unhappy with David's sins.



Hold up picture:

The Lord sent a prophet named Nathan to David. Nathan told David the following story:

There were two men, one rich and the other poor. The rich man had a very large number of sheep, but the poor man had nothing except one little lamb. The poor man raised the lamb, and it grew up with him and his children. The lamb shared his food, drank from his cup, and even slept in his arms. It was like a daughter to him.



Hold up picture:

Now a visitor came to the rich man, but instead of taking one of his own sheep to prepare for a meal, the rich man stole the lamb that belonged to the poor man. He killed the lamb and prepared it as a meal for his guest.



Hold up picture:

David was furious! He said, “That rich man deserves to die! And he must pay the poor man four times over for the lamb because he had no pity.”

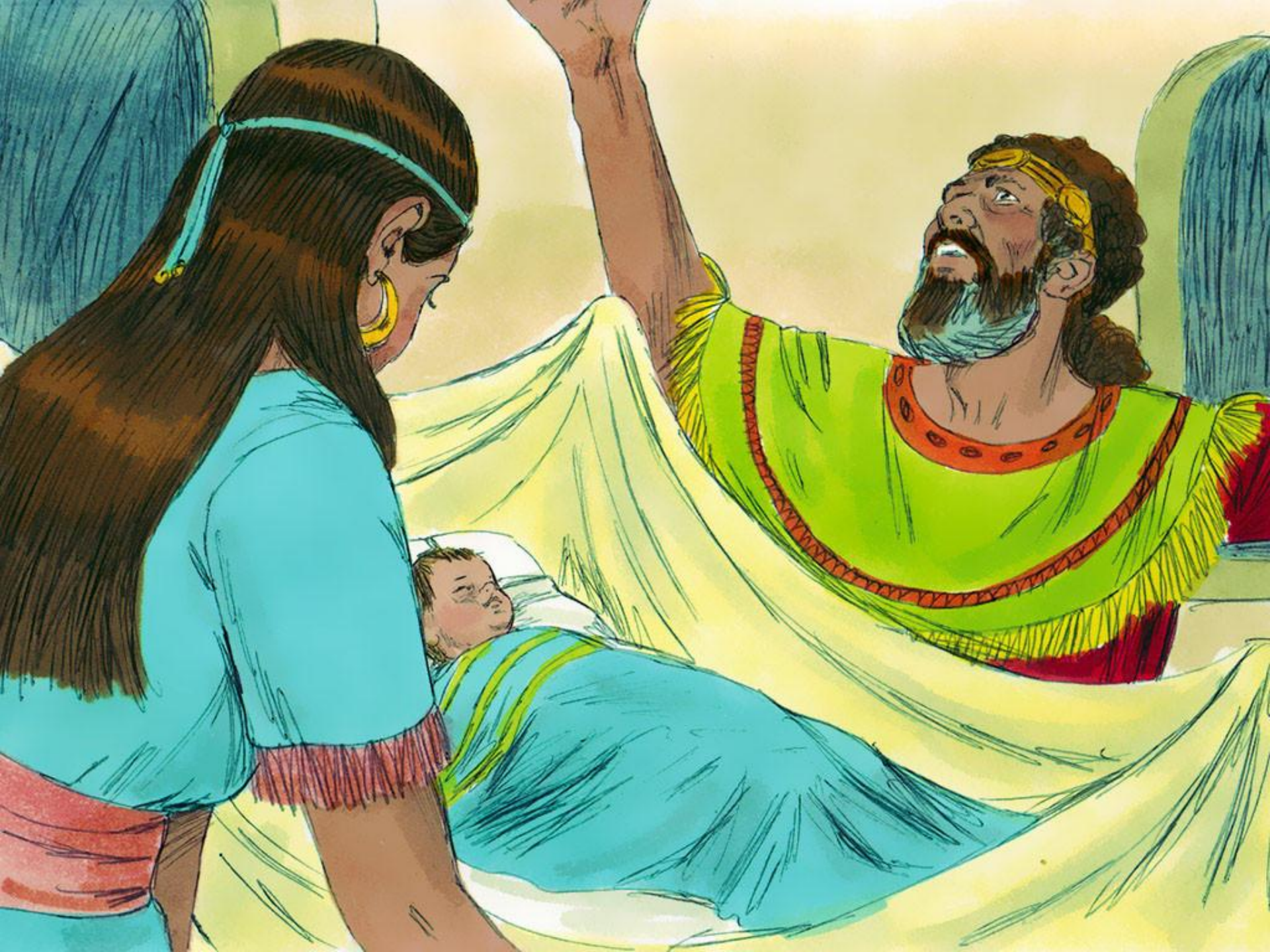
Then Nathan said to David, “You are that man! The Lord anointed you as king over Israel and has given you everything, but you killed Uriah and took his wife to be your own. From now on bloodshed will never depart from your family.”



Hold up picture:

David cried and said, “I have sinned against the Lord.” David didn’t blame anyone else; he was truly sorry. In fact David later wrote Psalm 51 after Nathan confronted him. This is a psalm of repentance, where David asks God to have mercy on him. David says, “Create in me a clean heart…wash me and I shall be whiter than snow.”

David could be forgiven, but his sin would still have consequences. Nathan told him, “The Lord has taken your sin away. But because you have done this evil deed, the son born to you and Bathsheba will die.”



Hold up picture:

After Nathan had left, the child born to Bathsheba became very sick. David pleaded with God to spare the child. He fasted and spent the nights lying in sackcloth on the ground.

Seven days later, the child died. When David was told the sad news, he stopped fasting, he changed his clothes, and he went to worship God.



Hold up picture:

Some time later, David and Bathsheba had another baby boy whom they named Solomon. The Lord loved him and sent word through Nathan the prophet to bless him with the name Jedidiah which means "Friend of God." Solomon would grow up to be the next king of Israel.

What can we learn from this lesson? *(Answers might vary)* One thing we should learn is that God knows everything we do. We can't hide our sins from God. Also, sin makes God sad. We must learn to say no to sin and always look to God to guide us. James 4:7-8 says, "Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you."