

#METOORECKONING WORKSHOP
"BATHSHEBA, DAVID & NATHAN"



BATHSHEBA & DAVID

chapter 5, pp. 108-133

2 Samuel 11 — the dynamics of consent

NATHAN

chapter 6, pp. 134-165

2 Samuel 12 — the role of the prophet

1. Review the power of King David. Note that his men are engaged in battle while he lounges on a roof. What observations can you make about David's relationship to his own power?
2. Note that Uriah, Bathsheba's husband, is a general in David's army. What power does Bathsheba have?
3. This could be a case study about the dynamics of consent. The question is not only "Did Bathsheba consent?" but whether meaningful consent was possible.
4. After Bathsheba discovers she is pregnant, she corresponds with David. How does she choose to exercise the power she has, and how successful is it?
5. The pregnancy initiates a chain of events that culminates in Uriah's death. How has the church traditionally interpreted David's sin? What has this reinforced about gender roles?
6. When David marries the widow Bathsheba, how does that change the power dynamics?
7. The child Bathsheba delivers does not survive. David laments this sickness and death. What do you notice about this part of the story?
8. Chapter 11 appears to end the story — the pregnancy crisis is resolved. Yet the prophet Nathan appears in chapter 12 with a story to tell David, about a lamb. What does this story suggest about the nature of David's sin (revisit question 5)?
9. Note the details of the story of the pet lamb, who is analogous to Bathsheba. What does the lamb teach us about Bathsheba?
10. What is Nathan's role in the story? What person or group could, or should, play this role today? What are the obstacles to this?