

MATRIARCHS

A 13 Week Study of Mothers of the Bible
*Discover the Power of Motherhood
through the Lives of Those Who Have
Gone Before Us*

Week: Nine

Author: Marcie Gribbin

Biblical Mom: Bathsheba

Title of Lesson: Daughter of Abundance

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Text: II Samuel 11 & 12

Video Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XxbhwThDaQs>

BATHSHEBA: Daughter of Abundance

When we first meet Bathsheba in 2 Samuel, chapters 11 and 12, she is unclothed on her rooftop, bathing. This isn't just any soak in the tub, she is likely receiving her *ritual cleansing* bath after her menstrual period. The Bible points this out, I believe, for a very important reason, as proof that she is not with child at the time.

Bathsheba was a beauty. She immediately drew the attention of King David as he gazed out onto her rooftop. The Bible doesn't tell us if she knew or not that David watched her. Though she was married to a man named Uriah, who was off fighting a battle for the King, she was deeply desired by David. David sent for her to come to the palace, and they had a sexual affair. Bathsheba became pregnant by King David. When David heard of the pregnancy, he panicked! His sin was going to be made pub-

lic if he didn't do something about it quickly! Instead of *confessing his sin*, he plotted to get Uriah to sleep with his wife so that people would believe the child was Uriah's. So far this story sounds very much like a soap opera episode. But, Uriah chose to stay with his soldiers, so the plan did not work. David, likely in a deep panic, then, in a passive-aggressive, yet carefully planned out maneuver, had Uriah sent to the front of the battle where he would likely be, and was, killed.

So, we see how **fear** and **shame** can cause even the best intended people to act, or react, in sinful, hurtful, destructive, self-serving ways. **So often when we get to the point where fear and shame control our behavior, we are past the point of caring how our actions affect others.** And, we come to a crisis or critical moment, where we can choose to act or passive-aggressively want another person to fail, we can decisively act to allow pain to come to other people's lives as we attempt to protect ourselves—**or**—we can choose to repent, ask forgiveness for our behavior, accept the consequences, and receive true and lasting healing.

As a counselor, friend, and even in my own life, I have seen coldness towards others take over in so many hearts, *and even in my own.* **Maybe you can relate?** If so...if you are right now feeling a coldness in your heart toward someone who reminded you of shame, or maybe someone who hurt you, I urge you to *take some time and confess that feeling*, get to the root of it, confess the actions you have taken that resulted in sin in your own heart. Lay it before the Lord, and allow Him to cover it with His forgiveness and mercy, and heal that wound.

Ponder for a moment:

Is there someone I currently feel a coldness in my heart toward, because of something they have done, or because of something I am ashamed of? Who is that? _____

Why do I feel this way? _____

How would things change if I forgave them or if I forgave myself? _____

What steps can I take toward forgiving them or myself, or both? _____

David did NOT take the time to confess or repent at that point, and continued on with his cover-up for a while until he was confronted by Nathan. David did marry Bathsheba after Uriah's death, but the consequences of his sin and unrepentant heart was the death of their child.

How often we forget that there are *always* consequences to our sin!

Sometimes the consequences themselves can be so painful and shameful that we give the pain and shame the power to *define us* with prolonged grief and bitterness, or fear, or even hatred toward God and others, if we allow it to.

But, God knows what He is doing, and He knows the beauty that can come from the ashes and shame and pain in our lives, when we allow Him to change us. This reminds me of a song by the Christian artists *Love and the Outcome*. The song is called "We can trust our God." The song says, "We can trust our God, He knows what He's doing. Though we might hurt now, we won't be ruined. It might seem there's an ocean in between, but He's holding on to you and me, and He's never letting go."

When they finally got around to repentance after David was confronted by his friend (*II Samuel 12*), the prophet Nathan, who spoke truth into his life and urge him to deal with the truth of his actions, and after the death of this beautiful baby boy, God brought an amazing gift to Bathsheba and David's life, their son, Solomon, who is renown as being the wisest of kings, and who rebuilt the Temple to honor God. What a gift to a mom who made such open mistakes! What mercy and grace the Lord offers each one of us! What a reminder of how God can turn tragedy into triumph!

Bathsheba's name is often translated as meaning "Daughter of Abundance," and like most biblical names, her name holds such weight in the meaning of Bathsheba's existence.

There are just a few instances in Scripture in which we are given a glimpse into Bathsheba's life, but in every instance, we see her as a capable, ambitious, attractive, pleasantly beautiful, gifted woman who produced several children, and mother to one who was a vessel of wisdom.

Between the death of her infant son and the birth of Solomon, Bathsheba was surely faced with an abundance of guilt, shame, rebuke, public and private humiliation. But in her lifetime, Bathsheba had

Four Great Areas of Abundance:

1. An Abundance of Grief

Certainly, Bathsheba had to process through what David had done to cause her warrior husband's death. Such incredible loss and confusion, and pain, just in the loss of the husband of her youth, alone.

Then we read about the loss of her sweet baby ([II Samuel 12:15-25](#)). To any mother who has lost her child, I am sure you understand and can feel what immense heartache she was feeling, to have carried this child to term, to hold him in her arms, and hope and pray for his future, to have fought through the fear of what to do or think in this whole mess that had just brought upheaval to her life, and to realize that no matter what mess is going on, like all mothers, her priority needed to be as caretaker of this new life. And then he was snatched away in a tragic death. The pain had to be immense. Here is how we know of her grief: Scripture says in [2 Samuel 12:24](#), that David fasted and wept while the child was alive, and fervently prayed that God would spare the child's life, but when he heard the baby had died, he rose and ate food, then went to Bathsheba to comfort her in her. So, we know she grieved, and we know she was comforted.

Disenfranchised Grief:

For the mom out there who may be dealing with what I call *disenfranchised grief*, that grief where your heart is aching for something you can't talk about, or feel you can't share with others. It stems from loss of *any* kind. This disenfranchised grief is when you are sad and miserable and maybe others do not think you have a *right* to be that sad or miserable, and maybe some people think you're not entitled to grieve that loss for as long as you have been grieving, or even *at all*.

Maybe at some point you've had an abortion, and haven't walked through the grief and loss and shame you might be feeling inside. Maybe you've had a miscarriage or a still birth and you haven't processed through it, because you feel you aren't allowed to openly grieve that loss. Maybe another loss in your life, a child who has gone astray, or a parent who disowned you, or a spouse who left you, or a job that was taken from you. Grief, that *disenfranchised* grief, can take over if we let it, and if we don't process through it. It can change our hearts in destructive ways.

I urge you, sisters, take that grief to the Lord, process through it, maybe with a fellow Christian mom or counselor or mentor. Allow others, the *right* others, to walk with you through it, and allow God to heal it. Because, like Bathsheba and her story, God is not done with you yet, and He has a mission for you to accomplish in this life, and wants to heal you and show you your immense and abundant worth in Him.

2. An Abundance of Beauty

Bathsheba had obvious outward beauty, which both drew people to her and got her in trouble, but her inner beauty, her true worth, is something don't often consider. When Nathan confronted David about his sin, he used an allegory to teach his point. He told of a rich man who had many sheep and a poor man who had only one sheep. When a traveler visited the rich man, the rich man didn't want to use a sheep from his own flock to offer hospitality, so he took the poor man's beloved lamb. The lamb, Nathan describes, was loved by the poor man, grew up with his children and ate his food and rested comfortably with the poor man.

David, disgusted by how any wealthy man could steal another's beloved lamb for his own use, threw a little bit of a fit and wanted to punish that man. Nathan told David that he was, in fact the rich man, who stole the other man's sheep. I believe here, there is so much to pull from this story, but right now I will pull this out of it: Bathsheba was a cherished young woman. She wasn't just a curvy body, a pretty face, **she was a valuable, priceless, beautiful part of her husband's life.**

We see her inner beauty later in the way David longed to comfort her broken heart in her grief. By then, David had made her a part of his family, and cherished her, and offered her a coveted place in his kingdom.

Sister, never forget that God has put inside of you and inward beauty, and **you are a cherished member of his family.** And no matter your past, He longs for your company, and to use your inward beauty to advance His kingdom.

3. An Abundance of Station

She was the daughter of a military and political figure and counselor to the king. Her father and husband were stationed in Jerusalem as trusted members of the king's command. Obviously, she lived very near the castle, close enough to be in full, vulnerable view of the king himself. It was this station in life that placed her in temptation's path. Has your station in life ever led to sin in your heart? Food for thought.

But, also, later, as the beloved wife of the man God called, endearingly, "a man after God's own heart (**Acts 13:22**)," who had God's favor and blessing—and rebuke and discipline—Bathsheba was blessed with being able to be a part of the spiritual growth of her husband, or at least was a very close observer and learner. You, sister, also play a part in the spiritual growth of your family, especially your spouse. Your spiritual station is to be his helpmate, and your physical station should be, daily, on your knees or in your prayer closet, in prayer for him.

Bathsheba's abundance of station is also found in being the mother of the promised heir to the throne. Somewhere along the course of David's life, he had forgotten his promise to make Solomon his heir, and his other sons plotted and killed and vied for that position in destructive ways. When David was old and nearing death, Bathsheba bravely approached him and reminded him of his promise.

Ladies, know your station. You are the child of the King, you are, as [Ephesians 2:6](#) says, seated in the heavenlies in Christ Jesus, and [Hebrews 4:1](#) shows us that you are able to approach the throne of God with boldness and with his blessing.

When you are feeling weak, unable, incapable, brokenhearted by the broken promises of others, approach the throne of God and find confidence in Him, and remember who you are, daughter of the Most High, beloved, redeemed, adopted, adored, forgiven, empowered, and able to do all things through Christ your strength. And immeasurably blessed.

What are some ways you be more bold, yet reverent, in your approach to God?

4. An Abundance of Blessing.

Not only was Bathsheba now the wife of the man after God's own heart, and mother of an incredibly wise and gifted son and heir, she was blessed with many children. Bathsheba is named in the New Testament in the lineage of Christ, both on Joseph's side, and on Mary's. What an amazing honor!! To be doubly named in the lineage of the King of Kings!

Just thinking about that catches my breath. Here's why. Sisters, you are blessed. No matter your circumstances, or your choices, or your past, or no matter how much grief or disenfranchised grief

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you have felt or currently feel, you, daughter of the Kings are:

- An heir in the kingdom of God (Romans 8:17)
- Seated in the heavenlies in Christ Jesus. (Ephesians 2:6)
- Favored in the eyes of the King. (Psalm 5:12)
- Forgiven (I John 1:9)
- Significant to the Good Shepherd as His precious lamb. (Isaiah 40:11)

What are some ways you can remind yourself of the blessings you have in Christ? How will that help you when you are feeling overwhelmed, distant from God, or alone?

Trust Him with your inner beauty, and let Him teach you. Be confident in your station, don't let the enemy allow you to lose sight of who you are in Christ. Rest your weariness and grief on the Lord, and find comfort and healing there. **He knows your hurts, your longings, and your losses.** Allow the Holy Spirit to comfort you, and know that through Christ you, sister, have an eternal abundance of blessings of mercy and grace, hope and security, and ***you are deeply loved!*** Walk each day, from this day forward, confident that you are a daughter of abundance!

WHAT GOD'S WORD IS SAYING TO ME: _____

HOW I CAN APPLY IT TO MY LIFE: _____

PRAY ABOUT IT: Lord, please help me understand that I'm a woman of abundance. That abundance includes the hard things as well as the beauty, the station, and the blessings. Thank You that I can trust that You know, understand and help me deal with the grief and losses in my life. Help me know that You've placed me here for such a time as this and help me live to honor You with my life. And Father, please help me teach my children these same lessons from Bathsheba's life that speak to my life today.

MEMORY VERSE:

He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young. Isaiah 40:11

