

The Purpose of Grace Growth Groups:

Growth Groups help you take your next step with God by developing meaningful friendships built around God's Word. As we connect with one another and with God's Word, incredible things take place and we naturally grow. In community, this growth occurs through 4 primary activities:

We SHARE Life

Each week we'll take time to connect and share what is happening in our lives. This will become more natural as we begin to feel more comfortable with one another. Sharing life and accepting each other is essential to the healthy relationships needed for growth groups.

We STUDY God's Word

Each week we'll study the previous week's sermon text, though we will not rehash the sermon. Our goal is to learn how to live out our Christianity in everyday life. Accountability to God's Word is transformational and brings spiritual growth in our lives. We also take time to seek God in prayer for relevant needs and issues present in our group.

We SUPPORT Each Other

Each week we'll learn how to care for one another as Christ instructed us. People who know each other well, care for each other well. This care will take many forms, such as prayer, encouragement, listening, challenging, accountability, advice, and meeting real needs.

We SERVE Together

Spiritual growth is fostered not only by what we gain through the support and input of others, but also through service to others. Jesus reminds us that the world will know we're his disciples by our love. The role each member fills in serving one another and the local community is essential; for we were created to serve others, not ourselves. Throughout the semester, we will serve the other members of our group and together the group will serve the local community through one service project.



Sermon Notes

I. What's wrong with David's counting the people?

- A. God said not to.

- B. The idea was prompted by Satan.

II. David's personal repentance:

- A. David chooses a personal judgement.

- B. David gives God a personal offering.

Growth Group Guide

For the week of September 16, 2018

Welcome to week 2 of Grace Growth Group's Fall Session. We pray that week 1 went well for you all. If you are not in Growth Group but would like to be please see Pastor Ken Maxey (or any Pastor) to find out how to join one. If you are part of a G3, we strongly urge you to read, ponder, and even write down how you would answer the following questions. This week our passage is **1 Chronicles 21**.

MY STORY:

1. This week's passage is full of people who had to make choices. So let's play "Would you rather". Everyone in the group must vote between two options. So here you go – WOULD YOU RATHER.....

- lose your sense of taste OR lose your sense of hearing
- be able to run 100mph unlimited distances OR fly up to 10 mph unlimited distances?
- be super funny OR a super singer?

QUICK REVIEW:

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

REMEMBER LEADERS WE ARE TRYING TO BUILD UNITY BY COMMUNITY.
ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO DO THEIR HOMEWORK AHEAD OF TIME SO
THEY'RE READY TO SHARE WITHOUT STRUGGLING TO THINK OF
SOMETHING.

EXPLORING THE PASSAGE

1. In the sermon this Sunday the point was made that David could legitimately say that Satan prompted the idea to take the census; or as the late comedian Flip Wilson would say "the devil made me do it". As a kid when was a time or two you wish you could have used that excuse with a parent or teacher? How did most authority figures respond to your excuses?

Everyone should have at least one time where they did something stupid or rebellious. You may have to really prompt people, SO BE PREPARED TO SHARE YOUR OWN EXPERIENCES, EVEN IF IT'S A BIT EMBARRASSING.

2. Why do you think God allowed Satan's prompting? Remember, David was an older, battle tested, wealthy king who already had a long up and down history with God. Does it worry you that at any stage of life or with God you can be tested like this? Why or why not? This is commentary on 2 Samuel 24:1&2 The anger of the LORD was aroused against Israel, and He moved David: The translators of the New King James Version believe that "He" in this sentence applies to God, because they capitalize it. Yet 1 Chronicles 21:1 tells us, Now Satan stood up against Israel, and moved David to number Israel. The best explanation is that Satan prompted King David and is the "he" of 2 Samuel 24:1. Yet the LORD expressly allowed it as a chastisement against David. (Guzak) [W]e find out in 1 Chronicles, chapter one, it was Satan that moved David's heart, to the numbering of the people. So God opened the door, and allowed Satan to move in and tempt David." (Smith)

3. How did Joab respond to David's command? (vss. 3-6) In your opinion should Joab have been held accountable too? Do you think where he drew the line in verse 6 was good enough? How have you responded when given a choice to either follow or draw a line (w/ a friend, boss, or family member)

Joab wasn't afraid to speak to David when he thought the king was wrong. With the best interest of both David and Israel in mind, Joab tactfully asked David to reconsider this foolish desire to count the nation.

Joab also hints at the motive behind the counting – pride in David. The this thing that David desired was the increase of the nation, and he perhaps wanted to measure the size of his army to know if he had enough force to conquer a neighboring nation. "He did it out of curiosity and creature-confidence." (Trapp)

We gather from 2 Samuel 24 that this took place late in his reign. So late in his reign, David was tempted to take some of the glory in himself. He looked at how Israel had grown and prospered during his reign – it was remarkable indeed. The count was a way to take credit to himself. “The spirit of vainglory in numbers had taken possession of the people and the king, and there was a tendency to trust in numbers and forget God.” (Morgan)

Nevertheless the king’s word prevailed against Joab: 2 Samuel 24:4 tells us that it wasn’t only Joab who tried to tell David not to do this – the captains of the army also warned David not to count the soldiers in Israel. But David did so anyway.

4. Verse 9 – The sermon this Sunday talked about David’s difficult choices in regards to his actions. His decision would negatively affect thousands, maybe millions of people. Discuss David’s options and whether anyone in the group would have chosen differently. Also, discuss possible reasons The Lord gave consequences that affected the nation and not just David and his house (vs 17)?

I offer you three things: God used David’s sin and the resulting chastisement to reveal David’s heart and wisdom. His choice of the three options were to test David. (Guzak)

· **Seven years of famine:** This would surely be the death of some in Israel, but the wealthy and resourceful would survive. Israel would have to depend on neighboring nations for food.

· **Flee three months before your enemies:** This would be the death of some in Israel, but mostly only of soldiers. Israel would have to contend with enemies among neighboring nations.

· **Three days’ plague in your land:** This would be the death of some in Israel, but anyone could be struck by this plague – rich or poor, influential or anonymous, royalty or common. (Guzak)

“Had he chosen *war*, his own *personal safety* was in no danger, because there was already an ordinance preventing him from going to battle. Had he chosen *famine*, his own wealth would have secured his and his own family’s support. But he showed the greatness of his mind in choosing the *pestilence*, to the ravages of which himself and his household were exposed equally with the meanest of his subjects.” (Clarke)

5. Have you ever had to pay the consequences for someone else’s poor choices? Have you ever had to make a choice that either way would negatively affect people? Describe what happened, how you dealt with your decision and how those affected reacted?

These will be personal answers. We have a wide variety of demographics with our Growth Groups. Some of you leaders may have people that will take this question and dominate the discussion. **BE PREPARED TO HEAD THEM OFF OR ANNOUNCE BEFORE DISCUSSION BEGINS TO LIMIT THEIR ANSWERS SO EVERYONE CAN SHARE.** You may choose to skip the question. That is well within your discretion as a facilitator.

Also, be careful not to let people get hateful or hurtful. Don’t let them name names if it directly affects anyone in the group.

6. Verse 24-27– What was the difference between David’s heart at the beginning of the chapter versus this moment?

(verses 26-27) *And David built there an altar to the LORD, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings, and called on the LORD; and He answered him from heaven by fire on the altar of burnt offering. So the LORD commanded the angel, and he returned his sword to its sheath.*

God is satisfied and the judgment relents

This shows that David understood that the death of the 70,000 in Israel in the plague did not atone for his and Israel’s sin. Atonement could only be made through the blood of an approved substitute.

Burnt offerings were to atone for sin; peace offerings were to enjoy fellowship with God. This shows us from beginning to end, David's life was marked by fellowship with God.

"We finally see the man after God's own heart turning the occasion of his sin and its punishment into an occasion of worship." (Morgan)

TAKING IT HOME:

1. Would anyone like to share their list from last week of things they are pursuing and whether God added or deleted from that list?

2. *ON YOUR OWN THIS WEEK:* Would you have responded like Ornan in verse 23? Before you answer just know 600 gold shekels equals about \$288,000 in TODAY'S money. (1918 = \$4.7 million). Now what's your honest answer? *This week jot down some "items" you might have a hard time freely and completely giving away to God to be used by Him. Then pray about releasing ownership.*

G3 SERVICE PROJECT OPPORTUNITY

Being part of a Growth Group means that you will commit to serving each other and our local community. We have been asked to provide homemade cookies for Open Door food kitchen. They need about 200-250 cookies each month. If your group would like to volunteer to bake cookies for just one month please let the church office know (816-279-2090) we can even arrange for use of the kitchen & ovens.