

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Series Title: Family Life?
Message Title: "Walking on Eggs"
Speaker: Kevin Myers
Date: November 8, 2009

Icebreaker:

Often *what if* questions are statements of regret, "*What if I hadn't said that to my kids!*" But sometimes it's fun to play with *what if* questions, so here goes: *What if* a stranger handed you a check for a million dollars...what would you do with it?

Message Overview:

This week's message picks up where last week's left off. Last week we touched on King David's most famous failure—his adulterous affair with another man's wife. We saw how unchecked dissatisfaction despite success as King of Israel fed growing lust for Bathsheba, which eventually led to sin, death, and family chaos.

This week we took a closer look at the impact David's disobedience and dysfunction had on his family. We saw choosing to **bury and ignore** his sin, led to similar acts of sexual immorality and murder by his children. We saw how disconnect led to a lifestyle of pretense, tension, and walking on eggs in his household. On the flip side, we also saw how brokenness and confession led to forgiveness and restored favor with God. But what if...just...what if David had followed God's holy law in the first place instead of following his feelings? *What if?* And...what if you and I would do the same?

Discussion:

(Leaders: Do not attempt to cover every question provided in this study guide, but rather review the complete list, selecting a mix of questions that work best for your group, mixing scripture research/discussion as well as personal application of the teaching principles.)

What if...

- Recall the sequence of events that occurred among David's children, Absalom, Amnon, and Tamar. *What if* David had actively taken part in his children's upbringing and had created boundaries for them? *What if* he had talked to them candidly about his adultery and taught them how to walk uprightly with God...how might his children's stories have turned out differently? What practical steps can you take to be an active, positive influence on the children in your life?
- *What if* you and I stop buying into the lie that if we bury something it will go away and that if we ignore it, it will get better? What would we have to start doing differently?

- In 2 Samuel 12 we read how God sent the prophet Nathan to confront David's adultery. Nathan brought out into the open what no one else dared to voice. What was David's response? (See verse 13 and Psalm 51). What was God's response to David's prayer (verses 13-14)? *What if* we were to humble ourselves, give voice to our hidden sins, and ask God and others for forgiveness...where would that lead?
- Pastor Kevin made it very clear that you are either a follower of Jesus or a follower of your feelings. Why can't both be true? *What if* right now you were asked to commit to following Jesus no matter what...could you make that commitment? Why or why not?
- Pastor Kevin made some very strong, Biblically based statements about Christians, marriage, and sex. According to scripture, what options do Christians have when it comes to sex and sexual fulfillment? *What if*—no matter where you are in your relationship with a loved one—*what if* you were to take this seriously, what changes would you need to make in the way you think or act?

Wrap-Up:

Read the following verses: I Peter 1:13-16, Romans 12:2. Let's talk candidly. *What if* you and I were to take God at His word? As Christians, according to these verses, is there room for adultery. . . pornography. . . pre-marital sex. . . romance novels. . . fantasizing about life with someone else? Is there room at all for the privacy of one's own mind? Why or why not?

Following Jesus whole-heartedly means taking God at His word, no matter how tough, how vulnerable, how humbling, how painful. Time does not heal all wounds, but it does heal all wounds that have been washed clean by the blood of the Lamb. God does not free us from the consequences of our sin, but He does forgive, heal, and restore us by His grace. Do you have the courage to follow Him whole-heartedly, to hold candid conversations with your loved ones in order to rid yourself of pretense?

Throughout the Week: (Optional)

(Leaders: Share these optional exercises for further study and growth with your group.)

Memorize I Peter 1:15-16, *"But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written; "Be holy, because I am holy."*

Are you willing to commit to following Jesus whole-heartedly and to take God's word seriously? Start reading the Bible with this determination in mind. If you need a place to start, start with I Peter 1:15-16 and Romans 12:2. Then, use a concordance to look up verses for issues with which you are dealing. How does God say to handle them? Journal your thoughts, responses, and discoveries.