Nathan and King David
Based on 2 Samuel 12:1-23
By Ted Kober

Summary: Although King David thought he covered up his affair with Bathsheba, the only one really deceived was David himself. God sent the prophet Nathan to confront the king about his sin, and when David confessed, to proclaim God’s forgiveness. This powerful example of announcing God’s grace is taken directly from 2 Samuel 12. Illustrates how to confront sin and declare God’s forgiveness. This skit complements the skit “The Latest Buzz.” Uses two actors and a narrator. Takes about 4 minutes. NOTE: You can watch this skit on the DVD Responding to Sexual Temptation in a High Tech Society.

Audience: Teens and adults

Actors: Narrator
King David
Prophet Nathan

Note to Actors: Read 2 Samuel 12:1-23 in preparing for this skit.

Props: Chair (throne)

The scene takes place in the king’s throne room. As it opens, King David is sitting on the throne.

Narrator: Sometimes when we fall into temptation, we deny it to everyone, including ourselves, and we refuse to acknowledge our sin. That’s why God calls each of us to hold one another accountable in love. In Galatians 6:1, St. Paul instructs: “Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted.”
In King David’s case, he did everything he could to cover up his many sins. He gave in to his idolatrous cravings. He feared what would happen if he was honest about his sins. He judged and condemned others in order to cover up what he had done. He denied his sin to everyone, but mostly he deceived himself. At the end of 2 Samuel 11, however, we read the Lord’s response to David’s sins: “But the thing David had done displeased the Lord.”

Thus, in 2 Samuel, Chapter 12, we read that the Lord sent the prophet Nathan to restore David. Nathan gently confronts David about his sin and pronounces God’s judgment. What David thought was kept secret is exposed by Nathan’s message.

As soon as David repents and confesses, however, Nathan proclaims God’s forgiveness. We pick up the story where Nathan approaches King David.

Nathan enters and bows, waiting for David’s invitation.

David: Nathan, my dear friend and the Lord’s prophet. Please come. [Motions with hand for Nathan to enter.]

Nathan: [Bowing low again as he approaches the throne.] Thank you, my King. The Lord be with you.

David: And also with you. What brings you to see me today?

Nathan: My Lord, a terrible injustice has occurred in your kingdom, and I come to seek your help in making it right.

David: Well, by all means, tell me about this crime.

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

David: [Thoughtfully reflecting, rubbing his chin.] I had some pet lambs when I was a shepherd boy. I understand his love for her.

Nathan: Now a traveler came to the rich man, but the rich man refrained from taking one of his own sheep or cattle to prepare a meal for the traveler who had come to him. Instead, he took the ewe lamb that belonged to the poor man and prepared it for the one who had come to him.

David: [Rising from his throne in anger.] Unbelievable! Outrageous! How dare this rich