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The Latest Buzz

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Based on 2 Samuel 11

By *Ted Kober*

Summary: We often strive to cover up our sin, sinning even more. When King David had his affair with Bathsheba, he became desperate to hide his secret. But he involved so many others that he really only deceived himself. In this skit, three fictional servants come together to gossip about the latest buzz in the kingdom. The story they put together about David's affair reflects the biblical narrative in 2 Samuel 11. Demonstrates how we deceive ourselves when we try to hide our sin. This skit complements the skit "Nathan and King David." Uses three 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
Hannah, a servant girl of King David
Mara, a servant girl of King David
Rueben, Joab's messenger to King David

Note to Actors: Read 2 Samuel 11 in preparing for this skit.

The scene takes place in a corner hallway of the King's palace. No one is present as the Narrator begins.

Narrator: In 2 Samuel 11, we learn about one of the Lord's most beloved servants who fell into a common temptation. Instead of confessing his sin, however, he tried to cover it up – not just once, but many times. When trying to cover up our sins doesn't work, we often become desperate to find new ways to justify our sin and



protect ourselves. King David was no exception.

In this scene, King David has just announced his upcoming marriage to Bathsheba, and the whole palace is gossiping about it behind the king's back. Bathsheba's husband, Uriah, recently died in battle, but some in the palace are questioning the circumstances. King David is highly regarded in all Israel. The people love their king. He has not only proven his courage and wisdom, but he also is revered for his devotion to the Lord, his musical talents, and his beautiful psalms. And yet the king's recent announcement has the whole place buzzing.

Three of the king's servants speculate on what happened as they compare their gossip. Both Hannah and Mara are servant girls who work in the palace. Rueben, a messenger for the King's General Joab, is a cousin to Mara. Rueben is home on a short leave from the battlefield, and he is visiting his cousin and her friend Hannah to compare stories on the latest buzz in the kingdom.

As you listen to these three people gossip about the king and what has happened, consider how you and I also fall into temptation, and what consequences follow when we deny our sin. Think of the secret sins that we commit, and how we believe that no one else either knows about them or is impacted by them. Also, reflect on how David's initial sinful desires grew into a complex web of misuse of God-given authority, sexual sin, lies, and murder. At several points, David could have stopped his downward sinful spiral through confession and avoided hurting even more people. But instead, he used desperate means to cover up his sin.

The three actors enter the scene, watching to see if anyone else has noticed them.

Rueben: Mara, are you sure that this is a safe place to talk?

Mara: Yes, Reuben, everyone has gone to their morning duties. We're alone here.

Rueben: So, what have you two heard about the king's supposed affair with his new bride?

Mara: Well, we heard that she's pregnant for one thing, and by the King!

Rueben: What makes you so sure?

Mara: Hannah's sister is a friend to Bathsheba's neighbor, and she saw some things and talked to Bathsheba about what happened.

Hannah: That's right. Not only that, Mara and I were in the palace court the night that the King called for Bathsheba. He sent Levi as a messenger to find out who was this beautiful woman on her roof. David had watched her bathe from his roof.

