**Bible Study Outline -** THE MIND-BOGGLING FORGIVENESS OF GOD (1 John 1.9)

**I. The Foundation of Forgiveness — 1 John 1:9**

*"If we confess our sins… He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."*

**A. What Confession Really Means**

- To "confess" means *"to say the same thing, agreeing with God that what we confessed is a sin and conceding you are guilty."*
- Confession is not informing God — it is aligning with God.
- Confession is not minimizing sin — it is naming sin.

**B. God's Faithfulness and Justice in Forgiving**

- *"He is faithful and just… ('If we are faithless, He remains faithful for He cannot deny Himself')."*
- God forgives because His character demands it.
- God cleanses because His holiness requires it.

**C. God's Cleansing Work**

- *"'Create in me a clean heart.'"*
- Forgiveness removes guilt; cleansing removes residue.

**Discussion Questions**

- What does biblical confession require that mere apology does not?
- Why is God's forgiveness described as both *faithful* and *just*?
- How have you experienced God's cleansing after confession?

**II. The Anatomy of a Fall — 2 Samuel 11**

This section follows the narrative of David's sin, temptation, and cover-up.

**A. David at the Peak of His Powers**

From the document:

- David is in his 50s — *"your sweet spot… the peak of your powers."*
- *"Then it happened…"* — a warning that success can breed spiritual carelessness.
- Proverbs 16:18 — *"Pride goes before destruction."*

**B. Vulnerability Through Neglect**

- David stayed home *"at the time when kings go out to battle."*
- Neglect of duty creates opportunity for temptation.
- Luke 4:13 — Satan waits for "an opportune time."
- 1 Peter 5:8 — the adversary "seeks someone to devour."

**C. The Threefold Temptation (1 John 2:16)**

From the document:

- Pride of life — David walking on the roof
- Lust of the eyes — "he saw a woman… very beautiful"
- Lust of the flesh — "David sent and inquired about her"

Note the same pattern in:

- Genesis 3:6
- Matthew 4 / Luke 4

**D. The Devil Can Tempt You, But He Cannot Make You**

From the document:

- James 1:14–15 — sin is conceived by *our own lust*.
- *"The devil made me do it"* is a lie straight out of hell. The devil cannot make you do anything.
- Lack of confession keeps the enemy in control.

**E. God's Warning Signs**

From the document:

- The unnamed "someone" who warns David — often God's voice through people.
- *"When I would do good, evil is right there with me,"* However, what is also true is: Psalm 23:6 — *"Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me…"*
- God throws up warning signs: *"danger ahead… wrong way… high voltage…"*

**F. The Cover-Up**

- Bathsheba's pregnancy
- David's manipulation of Uriah
- David's orchestration of Uriah's death

- *"Your coverup is never really a coverup… somebody knows, but more importantly, the Lord knows."*

**Discussion Questions**

- Why is success often spiritually dangerous?
- What warning signs has God used in your life to stop you from sin?
- Why do people choose covering sin instead of confessing it?

**III. The Faithfulness of God in Discipline — 2 Samuel 11:27 & 2 Timothy 2:13**

*"But the thing that David had done was evil in the sight of the Lord." "If we are faithless, He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself."*

**A. God's Discipline Proves We Belong to Him**

From the document:

- Hebrews 12 — God disciplines His children.
- If we are without discipline, "we are illegitimate."

**B. God Is Too Faithful to Let Us Get Away With Sin**

- God's discipline is not rejection — it is restoration.
- David is king, but God still holds him accountable.
- Psalm 51:4 — *"Against You, You only, have I sinned."*

**C. God's Justice Is Comforting**

- Even when earthly powers refuse to hold people accountable, *"there is a King of kings and a Lord of lords… the moral arc of the universe is long, but bends toward justice."*

**Discussion Questions**

- How does God's discipline reveal His love?
- Why is divine justice comforting in a world where human justice often fails?
- What does it mean that God "cannot deny Himself"?

**IV. The Grace of God in Restoration — 2 Samuel 12**

**A. God Confronts Before He Restores**

- God speaks through someone
- God speaks through circumstances
- God sends Nathan the prophet

- David responds: *"I have sinned against the Lord."*

**B. God Forgives Fully and Immediately**

*"There is nothing so flagrant, that if you bring it to God, God can't forgive!"*

- Psalm 51 — David's confession
- Psalm 32 — God's answer

**C. God Forgives, But Consequences Remain**

- Division in David's house
- Public exposure of his sin
- Death of the child
- *"God could not bless this mess."*

**D. God Uses Consequences to Heal Unfaithfulness**

From the document:

- Jeremiah 3:22 — God heals unfaithfulness
- David never sins this way again
- Bathsheba becomes queen
- David never marries another wife after her

**E. God Can Rewrite Your Story**

*"God can close that chapter… change you to the point where if you told somebody what you did, they wouldn't believe you."*

*"You don't look like what you've been through… you don't look like what did."*

**Discussion Questions**

- Why does God sometimes allow long-term consequences?
- How does Psalm 32 help us understand God's forgiveness?
- What does true repentance look like in David's life?
- How have you seen God rewrite your story?

**V. The Cross and the Empty Tomb — The Ultimate Proof of Forgiveness**

**A. The Cross Shows God's Love**

- *"The cross is God's love that forgives sin."*

**B. The Cross Shows God's Righteousness**

- *"The cross is also God's righteousness that judges sin."*

**C. The Grave Shows the Consequence of Sin**

- Sin leads to death.

**D. The Empty Tomb Shows God Gives Us "Again"**

*"God's forgiveness and judgment of sin can give us an again!"*

*"The cross will always represent the love God had for me… Jesus came and did it just for me!"*

**Discussion Questions**

- How does the cross reveal both love and justice?
- Why is the resurrection essential to understanding forgiveness?
- What does it mean that God gives us "an again"?

**Key Takeaway for the Study**

**God's forgiveness is mind-boggling because it is rooted in His character, not our performance. He forgives fully, cleanses deeply, disciplines lovingly, and restores beautifully.**