



## 2 Samuel 12:16–24 NLT

*“David begged God to spare the child. He went without food and lay all night on the bare ground. The elders of his household pleaded with him to get up and eat with them, but he refused.*

*Then on the seventh day the child died. David’s advisers were afraid to tell him. “He wouldn’t listen to reason while the child was ill,” they said. “What drastic thing will he do when we tell him the child is dead?”*

*When David saw them whispering, he realized what had happened. “Is the child dead?” he asked.*

*“Yes,” they replied, “he is dead.”*

*Then David got up from the ground, washed himself, put on lotions, and changed his clothes. He went to the Tabernacle and worshiped the LORD. After that, he returned to the palace and was served food and ate.*

*His advisers were amazed. “We don’t understand you,” they told him. “While the child was still living, you wept and refused to eat. But now that the child is dead, you have stopped your mourning and are eating again.”*

*David replied, “I fasted and wept while the child was alive, for I said, ‘Perhaps the LORD will be gracious to me and let the child live.’ But why should I fast when he is dead? Can I bring him back again? I will go to him one day, but he cannot return to me.”*

*Then David comforted Bathsheba, his wife, and slept with her. She became pregnant and gave birth to a son, and David named him Solomon. The LORD loved the child”*

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### The Path to Peace - March 30, 2014

#### **Accept what cannot be changed.** (vv. 22-23)

*David said, “I fasted and wept while the child was alive, for I thought perhaps the Lord would be gracious and let the child live. But why should I fast when he is dead? Can I bring him back again?”*

#### **Take care of yourself.** (v.20a)

*Then David got up from the ground, washed himself, put on lotions, and changed his clothes. I will go to him one day, but he cannot return to me.*

### The Path to Peace *continued*

#### **Refocus on God through Worship** (v.20b)

*Then he went to the Tabernacle and worshiped the Lord.*

#### **Do something productive** (v.20c)

*After that, he returned to the palace and ate*

#### **Keep on loving even in your pain.** (v.24)

*Then David comforted Bathsheba, his wife, and slept with her. She became pregnant and gave birth to a son, and they named him Solomon.*

#### **Remember it’s not the end of the story.** (v. 23b)

*I will go to him one day, but he cannot return to me.*

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#### Study Questions:

1. At some point in our grief we all need to say, “Lord, I believe. Help my unbelief” (Mark 9:24). What can help a person keep from being stuck in the present - to move from the past into the future?
2. We all experience loss. Share briefly with the group a loss you have experienced. How did you find hope in that situation? How did surrendering to the Lord help you find peace?
3. Another step in surrendering is to do something productive. In 2 Samuel 12:20, we read that after David took care of himself and began to worship the Lord, he returned to the palace, his place of work. Discuss in your group the importance of productivity even though you are still mourning loss.
4. David was a man who knew pain and loss. This became the basis for many of his psalms. In Psalm 73:16-17, we get a glimpse of how God works when we don’t understand our life’s situation—David went to the temple to worship. What can we learn from David’s example?
5. Grief can cloud our view of God, but one thing that helps is getting outside or going to a place that reminds us of God’s glory, greatness, and grace. Share a memory of a time that getting away with God helped you get through a hard time.
6. David took in dealing with his deep pain and grief was to accept what couldn’t be changed. Read aloud the background story from 2 Samuel 12:16-24. What had David lost? What did David say in verse 23 to indicate he realized that this horrible tragedy was not the end of the story?
7. How is Jesus the “greater David” who gives us hope in suffering and loss? How does the Gospel help us to trust God and surrender ourselves to Him?