





## Sermon Summary

Continuing our “Better Together” relationship series, this week’s sermon examines the relationship of King David and the prophet Nathan. Pastor Wesley teaches us that we all need a Nathan in our life who can rebuke us when we’re living a lifestyle out of the will of God. It’s important to remember that rebuke is not punishment. Instead, it’s protection: it saves us from something that could destroy us. While we learn to appreciate the value of rebuke, we also have to ensure that rebuke is coming from the right source. In the example of Nathan, we see three dynamics of God-ordained rebuke.

## Key Points

Three dynamics that identify Godly rebuke:

1. Godly rebuke is preceded by relationship (*See 2 Samuel 7*)
  - a. Nathan has a relationship with God
  - b. Nathan showed support for David
  - c. Nathan proved his humility
2. Godly rebuke produces repentance
  - a. Nathan does not expose David in public, threaten him or create unhealthy fear in David
  - b. Nathan uses the art of storytelling to expose David to himself to lead to self-conviction then repentance
3. Godly rebuke proclaims redemption
  - a. Nathan does not rebuke David just to make him guilty and hopeless
  - b. Nathan remains focused on the purpose of the rebuke - redemption through forgiveness, mercy, grace and love

# Notes for Facilitators:

Be sure to dedicate time in this first Village gathering of the season to the icebreaker introduction and review of the Village covenant. Once you have established those key guidelines for the group, you can begin sermon discussion. Next week, we will have a lengthier curriculum guide including curated questions for all of our specialty Villages.

## Getting To Know You Questions:

What has been your experience with rebuke? What about what you've experienced mirrors or differs from what you've heard in the sermon today?



# Into The Bible Questions:

In 2 Samuel 12:1, the Bible says plainly: “The Lord *sent* Nathan to David.” How have you been able to tell when you have had a human desire versus when you’ve been *sent* to provide rebuke?

# Life Application Questions:

1. In what area of your life could you benefit from having a Nathan right now? How has this changed or remained the same over the years? How did you react when you experienced Godly rebuke?
2. Sometimes receiving rebuke can be hard but we know from the sermon that it can be necessary.
  - a. Describe a time when you’ve had a Nathan give you Godly rebuke, but you refused it.
  - b. What caused you to turn away from their advice?
  - c. How can we prepare our minds and hearts to receive Godly rebuke?
3. Out of the three characteristics of a Nathan, which do you display most often and which least characterizes how you show up in rebuke? Does your strategy change in different kinds of relationships (sibling, friendship, parental, romantic, professional, etc.)?



## "Can I Push It?"

1. Think of a time when you have misused favor or been the target of someone else's misuse of favor. What do you wish you had done differently? What would you do differently now?
2. When someone in authority over you crosses a boundary, what advice would you offer regarding rebuke? What is the godly way to handle folks in authority that need to be rebuked?

## Spirit Work:

Has there been a time when you provided guidance to someone, but like Nathan, God later spoke to you through prayer, and you realized later that you were wrong? What did it look like for you to come back and repair the situation or admit that you were wrong? Take a moment this week and think about how you might go back to someone in your life and make a plan for what you might say.



# Activity:

## *Juridical Parable*

In the sermon, Pastor explains that Nathan leads David to repentance through a juridical parable (a story that disguises a real-life situation in order to make the guilty party pass judgment on themselves and become self-convicted). In groups of 3-4, resolve one of the four following scenarios by creating a juridical parable.

1. Your co-worker and best friend have bullied Sheila since the day Sheila came to your job because Sheila got the job your best friend wanted. How would you rebuke this friend?
2. You are the chair of a church committee and one of the members has not been showing up to meetings since the recent elections for co-chairs. The committee that member wanted to co-chair is being led by a rival. How would you rebuke the disgruntled member?
3. You are head of the PTA at your elementary school. A new parent, who is not as well-off financially as the other members, joins the committee. You have been called into a meeting by two of the members who want to ask Karen, the new parent, to leave because she is not "pulling her weight." How do you rebuke the two members?
4. You are the eldest child of three. Two of your siblings have been fighting over a family heirloom left by a relative two years ago. They each have a story of how the relative left it to them. You know that the dispute goes deeper than that to childhood stuff. The middle sibling has decided to take the younger sibling to court. How do you rebuke them both so the case does not go to court?

