

## ***I AM - The Greatest Battle of Your Life***

### **Unit 6: God's Dream**

#### **Lesson 7:** Filling Voids

##### **The Cave of Wisdom**

##### **The Burning Bush:** Idle Hands Equals Poor Defense

The Cave Opening:

Welcome back to the cave of “Idle Hands”. While we all need rest from our work occasionally, too much open time can and usually does leave open trouble. Rest is one thing, but idleness opens the door to laziness, boredom, and often sinful nature. Paul warned the new Christians about this poor defense from Satan in his letters to the Thessalonians: “If a man will not work, he shall not eat.”

**God's Dream:** Never tire of doing what is right.

***Scripture: 2 Samuel 11 and 12: 1-25; 2 Thessalonians 3:6-15***

**Biblical Character:** David and Nathan

Have David appear in front of the Tree of Darkness. Act the part of David standing on his palace rooftop and seeing Bathsheba on her rooftop.

David: “I don’t know why I wasn’t with my men at war. I should have been. Joab, my general of the armies of Israel, had destroyed the Ammonites and laid siege to Rabbah. But I stayed in Jerusalem in my new palace. It was a lovely place

built with cedar logs given to me by Hiram, king of Tyre. Hiram sent carpenters and stonemasons and they built my palace. It was big and needed to be as I had many concubines and wives to live there.

Life was good in Jerusalem and the palace, perhaps too good. I was a warrior, had defeated the Philistines and slain Goliath, the giant. Peace was too boring for me and I became restless. One night during the siege of Rabbah, I went for a walk on the rooftop of the palace. It was a lovely night, but a loneliness came over me that conquered my self-control. Idleness was a weakness in my defense and sin was able to enter into my mind.

As I was walking on the rooftop, as looked out over the beauty of Jerusalem and saw on another rooftop a beautiful woman. The moonlight made her especially beautiful. I swallowed the lump in my throat and summoned my servants to send them to find out who this beautiful creature might be. She could be a great addition to my household and maybe even queen. My idleness had gone from loneliness to desire.

But this beautiful woman was not free to be mine. My servants told me she was Bathsheba, the wife of Uriah, one of my best soldiers, engaged in the siege of Rabbah. My desire quickly grew to envy of Uriah. Why should he have a wife more beautiful than the king's wives? I became so jealous of Uriah that I couldn't allow him to keep the woman. I sent my servants to bring her to me.

Bathsheba was even lovelier in the daylight than the moonlight. Whatever it took, I would have her as my wife!

Idleness had opened me to loneliness, desire, envy, jealousy, and now one of the evil darkness to covet my neighbor's possession. It was then that I took action to obtain that which was not mine to have: I took Bathsheba to bed with me. It was a wonderful night, but the dawn brought problems.

What happened in darkness would be seen in the light. Bathsheba became pregnant. Unless Uriah thought he was the father, he could legally have Bathsheba stoned, and I would have to give the command. I couldn't bring myself to do such a thing! What was I to do now? You understand my dilemma, don't you? I am the King of all Israel. I should have the best. I've earned the best. I brought Uriah back from the battle and told him to go home and be with his wife. But he refused to go home while the other men were in the field. He sure made it hard on me to save Bathsheba.

Uriah was just a soldier, not even a leader of troops. I lose men in every war. Why should Uriah not be one of them? All that was needed was a bloody battle for Uriah to be lost, and Bathsheba would not be stoned. And besides, we needed to capture Rabbah and end the siege. Seemed like a reasonable decision to make: have Joab launch a major attack on the gates of Rabbah with Uriah in the front as a great warrior.

I wrote a command letter for Joab concerning the attack and the placement of Uriah in front and sent it to Joab with Uriah on his return to the field. Uriah didn't know he was carrying his death sentence! Joab did as commanded and Uriah was killed in battle, an honorable way to die. Problem solved. I took Bathsheba into the palace and made her my wife.

But life doesn't always work out as we plan. Idleness had now taken me to murder. No, I didn't actually kill Uriah with my own sword. The enemy killed Uriah. I had nothing to feel guilty about. Besides, if Uriah had gone home to be with his wife as I told him to do, the battle would not have been needed. It was his fault! I am innocent, or so I thought."

Have Nathan appear in front of the Burning Bush dressed as a priest.

Nathan: "You were not innocent. God sent me to your palace to confront you with the evil you had done. You killed Uriah with the sword of the Ammonites. The Lord declared that one very close to you would take up the sword against you and embarrass you before all of Israel."

David: "I have sinned against the Lord!"

Nathan: "The Lord loves you so much He has forgiven you, taken away your sin, and spared your life. But the child will die!"

David: "I pleaded with God to spare the child. But the child died after seven days. But God is truly merciful. Bathsheba

bore a second son named Solomon. He would take my place as king and do even greater things than I had done.”

Show the video *“Tribute to King David”* in Appendix 2.

### **Modern Character(s): Dr. Jane Goodall**

Jane Goodall spent over fifty years living and working with apes. Her life was not one with voids. Living in a jungle had few comforts of modern life. But Jane knew the dream for her life and she filled it to overflowing. In *2 Thessalonians 3:6-15*, Paul tells the church to work and warns to beware of idleness.

#### **Warning Against Idleness**

*<sup>6</sup> In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we command you, brothers and sisters, to keep away from every believer who is idle and disruptive and does not live according to the teaching<sup>[a]</sup> you received from us. <sup>7</sup> For you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example. We were not idle when we were with you, <sup>8</sup> nor did we eat anyone’s food without paying for it. On the contrary, we worked night and day, laboring and toiling so that we would not be a burden to any of you. <sup>9</sup> We did this, not because we do not have the right to such help, but in order to offer ourselves as a model for you to imitate. <sup>10</sup> For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: “The one who is unwilling to work shall not eat.”*

*<sup>11</sup> We hear that some among you are idle and disruptive. They are not busy; they are busybodies. <sup>12</sup> Such people we command and urge in the Lord Jesus Christ to settle down and earn the food they eat. <sup>13</sup> And as for you, brothers and sisters, never tire of doing what is good.*

*<sup>14</sup> Take special note of anyone who does not obey our instruction in this letter. Do not associate with them, in order that they may feel ashamed. <sup>15</sup> Yet do not regard them as an enemy, but warn them as you would a fellow believer.*

Show the video: “Jane Goodall”

**Tom Hodgkinson:** Show the video on the Idler in Appendix 2, for this lesson.

***The Tribe:*** Idleness leads to the dark side.

**Craft:** “Helping Hands Bookends”

See Appendix 8 Craft for instructions and material for this craft.

**Recreation Activity:** Teach the Idler Song and have the tribe sing along with Jack Pedlow video. Words may be found in Appendix 6 Recreation.

Show the video: “The Idler’s Song by Jack Pedlow”.