

Discuss

The second key to putting the last 15 months behind us: Take Off Your Mask. When King David “worked from home” he was hiding behind a mask. Being at home left him undisciplined and without any accountability that led to an entrenched shadow life - he was hiding behind a mask.

“In the spring of the year, when kings normally go out to war, David sent Joab and the Israelite army to fight the Ammonites. They destroyed the Ammonite army and laid siege to the city of Rabbah. However, David stayed behind in Jerusalem. Late one afternoon, after his midday rest, David got out of bed and was walking on the roof of the palace. As he looked out over the city, he noticed a woman of unusual beauty taking a bath. He sent someone to find out who she was....” ([2 Samuel 11:1-3a, NLT](#))

“Put Uriah in the front line where the fighting is fiercest. Then withdraw from him so he will be struck down and die.” ([2 Samuel 11:15, NIV](#))

- Do you have disciplines in your life that help keep you healthy mentally, physically, emotionally and spiritually?
- How have the past 15 months affected your discipline(s)?

There are four reasons we have found people hiding behind masks: depression, addictions, crisis mode living and sin. The church is a place for others to love and support each other, no matter what is behind our masks; but, we have to take our masks off first. God took David's off through a prophet:

“But God was not at all pleased with what David had done, and sent Nathan [a prophet] to David. Nathan said to him, ‘There were two men in the same city — one rich, the other poor. The rich man had huge flocks of sheep, herds of cattle. The poor man had nothing but one little female lamb, which he had bought and raised. It grew up with him and his children as a member of the family. It ate off his plate and drank from his cup and slept on his bed. It was like a daughter to him. One day a traveler dropped in on the rich man. He was too stingy to take an animal from his own herds or flocks to make a meal for his visitor, so he took the poor man's lamb and prepared a meal to set before his guest.’ David exploded in anger. ‘As surely as God lives,’ he said to Nathan, ‘the man who did this ought to be lynched! He must repay for the lamb four times over for his crime and his stinginess!’ ‘You're the man!’ said Nathan.” ([2 Samuel 12:1-7, Msg](#))

- Do you have people that you are accountable to and allow to speak into your life?
- Do you regularly try to encourage and support others as well? If not, how can you?

Even though what David did with Bathsheba and Uriah was wrong, what he did do right was owning his sin and asking God to forgive him for it. When we own what is behind our masks, we can then take steps for healing and change. And when it comes to sin, Jesus is waiting to meet us with love and forgiveness, and a brand new face.

“Then David confessed to Nathan, ‘I’ve sinned against God.’” ([2 Samuel 12:13. Msg](#))

- What keeps you from taking off your mask(s) and being vulnerable?
- Are you wearing any masks that you need to take off?
- What is it like to know God meets us where we are and is ready to give us new life?

Next Steps

Honestly reflect on the past 15 months of your life. Are there any masks? Take it off this week. Call a friend to share with them. If it’s unconfessed sin, confess it to God (you can use the prayer below if you’ve never confessed before and entered into a relationship with Him).

June 17: [Celebrate Recovery Online](#)

June 19: [Habitat for Humanity Serve Day](#)

June 27: [Starting Line](#) & [Game Time](#)

Continued Reading

Read 2 Samuel 11: [1-3a](#), [15](#); 12: [1-7](#), [13](#).

Prayer

God, thank you for allowing us to take off whatever mask we are wearing in your presence, and know that you’ll meet us with love and grace. Help us to be honest with others and you about any mask that we are wearing, and meet us with healing and forgiveness.

Are you ready for a relationship with Jesus? You can use the prayer below if so.

Dear Jesus, I know that I need your forgiveness. I believe that you came to earth, died for me, and rose again. And now I can have new life. I want to ask you to come into my heart and life. I want to trust you as my Forgiver and follow you as my Leader.

Did you pray this prayer? Or do you have questions about this? [Let us know!](#)