

This discussion guide is designed for Saylorville Church Community Groups as they live and learn together each week. The sermons and guides can be found at [www.saylorvillechurch.com/sermons](http://www.saylorvillechurch.com/sermons).

### CONNECT WITH YOUR GROUP (10-15 MINUTES)

- Talk about a time in your past when you were confident you were going to succeed but you failed miserably - an exam, an athletic competition, a job interview, a home project, etc. What happened?
- Have you ever watched someone's talent, charisma, or success get undermined by pride or character issues? Tell the story.

### APPLY THE BIBLE (45-60 MINUTES)

- **Remember** what you talked about last time. Is there anything you need to **follow up** on this week?
- **Review** your Sermon Notes together. What is **one thing** that sticks out to you about what you learned?
- **Read** this week's passage together. In his message, Pastor Pat used David's lament in Psalm 55 to teach us how to pray when pain is personal.

### Context:

- All throughout this sermon series, we've noted that the Bible doesn't "airbrush" the failures of its heroes, like David. Who are some other Bible characters that you can relate to because of the way Scripture portrays their faults and failures?
- **Read 2 Samuel 14:25 and Proverbs 16:18.** Absalom was admired for his appearance, influence, and popularity, but pride shaped his character. Where do we see pride in Absalom's life? Why is pride often difficult to detect in ourselves?
- **Read 2 Samuel 13:20-22.** When Amnon assaulted Tamar, David became angry but did nothing, so Absalom later took matters into his own hands. What are some ways unresolved anger or injustice can grow into bitterness? Have you seen that in your own life?
- **Read 2 Samuel 18:9.** Absalom was literally caught in a tree and suspended between heaven and earth. It's a picture of the human condition - entangled in sin and unable to free ourselves. What are some ways that humans try to "free" themselves from the clutches of sin? Does that work?

### Since the wages of sin is death:

1. **Are you proud?**
  - Where might pride be quietly growing in your life?
2. **Are you sowing seeds of bitterness in those closest to you?**
  - Is there a relationship in your life that needs repentance, humility, or reconciliation?
3. **Are you hanging between heaven and earth?**
  - Is there a sin or struggle you've been avoiding bringing fully to Christ? What would repentance or obedience look like this week?

**Receive and Respond: What will I do because of what I just heard?**

### PRAY TOGETHER (5-15 MINUTES)

- As a group, pray together for: Humility and freedom from pride; healing from bitterness or relational wounds; courage to bring hidden sin to the light; and gratitude for Jesus, who bore our sin on the cross.

