

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

MARCH 17-18

“#MeToo”

By Rev. Keith Herron

What Is This?

This brief guide is intended for use individually, or in small groups. It's your chance to dive deeper into the issues raised in the weekend sermon and to connect a Biblical story with your daily life.

Revisit the Text

Psalm 51:1-12; <https://goo.gl/9DN2Jt>

Big Ideas Raised

- Old Testament scholar Walter Brueggemann says it's the verbs that give this story away: David arose and walked and saw (and oh by the way, doesn't the Bible make an obvious point to tell us she was beautiful?), he sent, he inquired, he sent, he took, he lay, and she returned. There's no mention anywhere of Bathsheba's feelings because they don't matter. She's no more than property and King David takes what belongs to Uriah because he is the king and he has the almighty power to do so.
- King David gave in to his broken self that needed her to satisfy him. Sex was the language he used to speak of deeper issues of a broken interior life. He built truth around a lie and set in motion a whole series of other lies in order to protect his fragile self.
- When the facts came out in the light of day, King David was reduced from the heights of power where he felt invincible from the weak and powerless and he learned he too was powerless and morally bankrupt. It's in that moment that David launched himself upon the truth of God's forgiveness exhausted from all the efforts expelled in keeping his sins as secrets.

Questions Meant to Dig Deeper

- The shadow of the #MeToo movement is wide in identifying abusive sexual practices of men who troll women and even women who cull out men who work in subservient roles in relationship to these powerful leaders. This movement is a public conversation that has exploded by holding perpetrators responsible and challenging the cycle. What has made this movement become so powerful?
- There's no untouched realm ... schools, churches, work, community. Since this is not unique, how can we make these gathering places safer for children, for women and for men? Are we doing enough? Are you aware we have a policy, Keeping God's Children Safe, to protect our children and youth from abuse?
- How does forgiveness work? How can we be cleansed from our sin?

Revisit the Sermon

For a recording or a manuscript of this weekend's sermon, please visit:

<https://www.stlucasucc.org/sermons-resources>