

“Frogs, Dave, and Hot Water”

by Carol Duerksen

MATERIALS AND ADVANCE PREPARATION:

- 1 Bring a plastic (or real) frog and a pot of water
- 2 Copies of the skit for readers
- 3 A National Enquirer magazine
- 4 A tiny ceramic or plastic frog for each student (check in stores that sell miniatures for shadow boxes); or another frog item—one for each student
- 5 Bibles for each student

FOCUS:

Have the pot of **warm** water in the center of a table. Begin by dropping the frog into the water. If it is a real frog, he will try to get out of the water because it is too warm. If you are using a plastic frog, explain what would happen if it was alive: it would try to get out.

Say: *If you put a frog into a pot of hot water, it will leap out right away to escape the danger. **But**, if you put a frog in a kettle that is filled with water that is cool and pleasant, and then you **gradually** heat the kettle until it starts boiling, the frog won't realize there's a problem until it's too late.*

The frog's survival instincts are geared towards detecting sudden changes, but if the changes are gradual, it doesn't realize what's happening.

Ask: *What does the frog in hot water story have to do with sex and dating?*

CONNECT TO THE CONTENT:

Do the drama “Dave Gets in Hot Water”.

This story is found in 2 Samuel 11 and 12:1-24. Read it together from the Bible. Discuss:

- Why do you think David gave in to the temptation to have sex with Bathsheba?
- How did one sin lead to another?
- How was David haunted by his mistakes?
- How did God bless David?

REFLECT:

Tear apart the pages of the National Enquirer magazine and give each student one sheet. They are going to be curious about reading their sheet, so allow a few minutes for them to do so, and if you want to, allow them to share what they read. Then say:

I'd like for you to see this page as a symbol for your life. Are you someone who is curious about what other people are doing in their sex and dating lives, and you are at times quite judgmental of others? Are you someone who has secrets that nobody knows? Are you someone whose life has been revealed more than you would like it to? Are you someone who has nothing to do with "this kind of stuff"? Where are you at in your life when it comes to getting into hot water? You do? You don't? You care? You don't care?

Take some time to think about this.

RESPOND:

Hand out the frog items to each student. Ask students to think about what kind of frog they are—one that jumps out quickly when trouble looms, or one that might stay in the water too long. Give them time to pray silently about this, asking for God's presence and strength to know when and how to get out of a "hot water" situation.

Close with this prayer:

God, it happened to King David, and we know it can happen to us.

We get into situations that will not be good for us—that can actually be quite dangerous. We get into trouble. We sin.

Help us to know when the water is getting hot.

Help us to jump out before our conscience dies a slow death.

Forgive us our sins, and help us to forgive others.

Lead us away from temptations and into the power of your presence.

In the name of Jesus, who faced temptations just like we do,

Amen.

“DAVE GETS IN HOT WATER”

Characters:

Reporter for the National Enquirer magazine

President Dave

Reporter: Excuse me, President Dave, I'd like a quick word with you.

Dave: Uh ... sure.

Reporter: I'd like to talk to you about how you and your wife got together.

Dave: That was a long time ago. I don't really see the point in digging into my personal past.

Reporter: But that's what we do! We love to hear all about the lives of the rich and famous. How did you and your wife meet?

Dave: Look, it was a long time ago.

Reporter: Did you see her next door in her hot tub?

Dave: You got a problem with that?

Reporter: Not at all. So ... you saw Bathsheba in her hot tub next door, and you thought she was the hottest woman you'd ever seen. Right?

Dave: Yes.

Reporter: And so ... my sources tell me ... you asked her over to your house and you hooked up?

Dave: Yes.

Reporter: You knew she was married?

Dave: Look, everybody makes a mistake now and then.

Reporter: Big mistake, right President Dave? Especially when Bathsheba sent word to you a month later that she was pregnant.

Dave: Bad luck. Just plain bad luck.

Reporter: Bad luck, bad choice, bad deal. But you had a plan to try to cover your tracks, right?

Dave sighs loudly: Look, I don't understand the point of dragging up all this dirty laundry.

- Reporter: You had a plan. Bathsheba's husband was in the military. You had him sent home immediately, hoping they'd have sex and it would look like the baby was his. But he didn't cooperate. He felt that if his military buddies couldn't be home with their wives, he wouldn't be with his either.
- Dave: Stupid guy.
- Reporter: So you tried one more time. You got him drunk and thought surely he'd go home to Bathsheba. But he didn't. And then you arranged to have him killed.
- Dave: He was serving in the war. He got killed.
- Reporter: You made sure he was on the front lines. You had him killed.
- Dave: Whatever.
- Reporter: With her husband gone, Bathsheba was available to marry you, and she gave you a son.
- Dave: If you know this story so well, why do you need to be talking to me?
- Reporter: Just confirming the facts, just confirming the facts.
- Dave: Ha! That would be a first for your magazine.
- Reporter: I'll choose to ignore that comment. As I was saying, she gave you a beautiful son.
- Dave buries his head in his hands.*
- Reporter: Your beautiful baby boy died, and you were heartbroken.
- Dave: Look! Why do we have to talk about this?
- Reporter: Because it's part of your past. Inquiring minds want to know.
- Dave: Well it's something I want to forget ... but as much as I want to, I can't. I can't forget the son that I lost. And I can't forget the fact that I was responsible for having a man killed.
- Reporter: Any final words for our readers?
- Dave: God has forgiven me, and God has blessed me tremendously. My life is good now. I've learned from my mistakes. It's better not to make the mistakes. There can be sad, bad consequences. But God is with you when you do mess up.
- Reporter: Thank you, President Dave.