Bible Stories for Adults
Absalom's Rebellion
1 Samuel 13 - 18

Opening
Gathering: Give an example where someone's desire for something led to them adding evil upon evil.

Today's Focus: David's poor discipline of his sons led to their poor discernment and pursuit of their desires with evil.

Key Verses: If I find favor in the Lord's eyes, He will bring me back… But if He says, "I am not pleased with you," then I am ready; let Him do to me whatever seems good to Him. 2 Samuel 15:25-26

But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ. Ephesians 2:13

Opening Prayer

Lesson
Amnon and Tamar  (2 Samuel 13:1-22)

What preoccupied the thoughts of David's oldest son, Amnon?
2 Samuel 13:1-2

What advice did Amnon take from cousin Jonadab to get Tamar into his house?
2 Samuel 13:3-5 (3-10)

How did Tamar respond to Amnon's advances after making bread for him?
2 Samuel 13:11-13

How did Amnon respond to Tamar's pleas?
2 Samuel 13:14-16 (14-18)

How did this change Tamar's life?
2 Samuel 13:19-20

How did David and Absalom feel about what had happened?
2 Samuel 13:21-22

Why didn't David respond with strong discipline for Amnon?
2 Samuel 12:9

Absalom Kills Amnon  (2 Samuel 13:23-39)

When and how did Absalom get his revenge on Amnon?
2 Samuel 13:23, 28 (23-28)

How was this action interpreted by Absalom's brothers and the people?
2 Samuel 13:29-31

Why would the rumor spread that Absalom was killing all of the princes?
2 Samuel 3:2-3 (3:2-5; 5:14-15)

Who understood what had really happened and why?
2 Samuel 13:32-33 (32-36)

Where did Absalom flee?
2 Samuel 13:37-38

Who was Talmai?
2 Samuel 3:3b
A Woman in Need (2 Samuel 14:1-17)

Did David remain bitter against Absalom?
  2 Samuel 13:39
Who devised a scheme to convince David it was okay to let Absalom return?
  2 Samuel 14:1-3

What story did the woman give David?
  2 Samuel 14:5-8, 11 (4-11)
In what situation had a similar tactic been used with David?
  2 Samuel 12:1-7a

How did the woman use David's faith to convince him to bring Absalom back?
  2 Samuel 14:13-14 (12-18)
Was the woman correct in saying that God does not support capital punishment?
  Genesis 9:6
Was the woman correct about God finding ways to reconcile the banished?
  Romans 5:6-11 (Ephesians 2:13)

Absalom Returns (2 Samuel 14:18-33)

How did David respond to this woman trying to manipulate his actions this way?
  2 Samuel 14:19a (19-20)
Did David accept the argument?
  2 Samuel 14:21, 23-24 (21-24)

Did Absalom want to see his father?
  2 Samuel 14:28-31
Why did Absalom want to see David so badly?
  2 Samuel 14:32
Did Absalom receive the full forgiveness he wanted?
  2 Samuel 14:33

King Absalom (2 Samuel 15:1-12)

As the oldest prince of Judah, could Absalom be sure he would become king?
  1 Samuel 23:16-17
How did Absalom make himself appear to the people as the heir apparent?
  2 Samuel 15:1
Did Absalom look like a king?
  2 Samuel 14:25-26
What did Absalom do to win the people's hearts?
  2 Samuel 15:2-4
  2 Samuel 15:5-6

How long did Absalom prepare for his coup and where did he begin his reign?
  2 Samuel 15:7, 10 (7-10)
Were Absalom's supporters knowing accomplices to his coup?
  2 Samuel 15:11-12
Why was it important for Absalom to enlist Ahithophel?
  2 Samuel 16:23
David Flees (2 Samuel 15:13-37)

- How did David react when he heard of Absalom's actions?
  2 Samuel 15:13-14 (13-22)
- How did the people react when they saw David and his entourage leaving?
  2 Samuel 15:23, 30
- Why didn't David take the ark of the covenant with him?
  2 Samuel 15:24-26
- What lesson had David learned from the past?
  1 Samuel 4:3, 10-11

Who's On My Side? (2 Samuel 16:1-14)

- Was anyone happy to see David leave?
  2 Samuel 16:5-8
- Was Shimei's cursing justified?
  2 Samuel 9:3, 7
- Why didn't David let Abishai (Joab's brother) kill Shimei?
  2 Samuel 16:9-12 (9-14)
- How did Mephibosheth show his support for David during this time of crisis?
  2 Samuel 16:1-4
- How did Mephibosheth later explain his actions to David?
  2 Samuel 19:25-26 (24-28)
- How did David deal with these conflicting stories?
  2 Samuel 19:29

Absalom's First Act as King (2 Samuel 16:15-23)

- What was Absalom's first act to secure his kingship?
  2 Samuel 16:15, 20-22 (15-22)
- Who had been accused of claiming the kingdom by taking Saul's concubine?
  2 Samuel 3:6-7 (6-11)
- How did this fulfill David's punishment for killing Uriah to get Bathsheba?
  2 Samuel 12:11-12

David's Spy Network (2 Samuel 17)

- What kind of spy network did David set up in Jerusalem?
  2 Samuel 15:27-28
  2 Samuel 15:31-37
- Was Hushai successful in frustrating Ahithophel's advice?
  2 Samuel 17:6-7, 14 (1-14)
- How did Ahithophel react when Absalom took Hushai's poor advice?
  2 Samuel 17:23

- Did Hushai follow his role as spy for David?
  2 Samuel 17:15-16
- How were Jonathan & Ahimaaz nearly caught before getting word to David?
  2 Samuel 17:17-20
- Where did David go after receiving Hushai's message?
  2 Samuel 17:21-22, 24, 26 (21-29)
The Battle (2 Samuel 18:1-18)

Why didn't David march out with the troops to battle Absalom?
2 Samuel 18:2-4 (1-4)

What command did David give to the troops before the battle?
2 Samuel 18:5

How did God give victory to David?
2 Samuel 18:6-8

What happened to Absalom?
2 Samuel 18:9

Why didn't the soldier who saw this kill Absalom?
2 Samuel 18:10-13

Did Joab keep David's command and bring Absalom in safely?
2 Samuel 18:14-16

What monument did Joab erect for Absalom?
2 Samuel 18:17

Was this the kind of monument Absalom would have wanted?
2 Samuel 18:18

David's Reaction (2 Samuel 18:19-19:8)

What was David's first concern after being told of his victory?
2 Samuel 18:31-32 (19-32)

Did David celebrate his victory?
2 Samuel 18:33

How did this affect the people who had fought for David?
2 Samuel 19:2-3 (1-4)

Why did this upset Joab so greatly?
2 Samuel 19:5-7

Did David understand Joab's concern?
2 Samuel 19:8

Closing Prayer

Response - Consider and meditate on one each day this week

1. When have I wanted something so badly that I sinned to get it?
2. How have my actions reflected good within me? How have my actions reflected evil within me?
   (2 Samuel 13:20-22, 23-29; Proverbs 20:11; Matthew 12:33-37; Galatians 5:16-6:10)
3. When have I shown acceptance for evil by not responding to it?
   (2 Samuel 13:22, 37-39; 1 Kings 1:6; Proverbs 13:24; 1 Corinthians 5)
4. What have I done to purposely invoke praise from others?
5. Who do I look to for counsel and advice?