

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

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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

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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)

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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 Samuel 13:1-19; Matthew 5:27-30; Mark 9:43-48; James 1:14-15)
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?
(2 Samuel 15:1-6; Proverbs 25:27; Matthew 6:1-18; Luke 14:7-14; Romans 12:3)
5. Who do I look to for counsel and advice?
(2 Samuel 15:31; 16:20-23; 17:14; 1 Kings 12:24; 22:1-28; Psalm 73:24)