

Absalom's Rebellion

2 Samuel 13:30 - 18:33



The Story

Introduction:

Has anyone ever sinned against you? Did you forgive them? Who have you sinned against? Who have all of you sinned against? What do we deserve because we have sinned against God? Are you forgiven? How do you know? What does this make you also want to do? Were you punished because of your sin?

Background:

After David's great fall into sin with Bathsheba, the Lord announced that he would experience some great trials in his family. David had sinned against God by taking another man's wife (Uriah's wife, Bathsheba) and sending Uriah to the front lines of a battle where David knew he would be killed. God sent His prophet Nathan to show David his sin and to proclaim God's curse on David for what he had done. The Lord said that there would always be killing in David's family because he had sinned against God and some of his own family would be his enemies. This curse came true, as do all of God's promises.

Chapter 13:

David had many sons and daughters. He had more than one wife. In this chapter we hear about Absalom, Tamar, and Amnon. Absalom and Tamar were brother and sister. Amnon was another brother from a different wife of David. Amnon loved Tamar. She was very beautiful. We read how Amnon defiled Tamar, and then sent her away. When David heard what had happened, he was very angry. Absalom didn't do anything at first, but two years later he made a plan and killed Amnon. David, his sons, and servants all mourned for Amnon. Absalom fled to Syria and stayed there for three years.

Chapter 14:

King David was concerned about

Absalom and wanted to go and see him. Joab, David's commander in chief convinced David to permit Absalom to return to Jerusalem in peace. Although Absalom returned, David did not see him for two years.

Absalom was a very handsome man and was admired by all the people. He had a lot of very beautiful hair.

Absalom finally wanted to see his father David again. He urged Joab to arrange for a meeting. David kissed Absalom when he finally saw him.

Chapter 15:

Absalom wanted to be king instead of his father David. He said that he would do a better job for the people. A lot of people listened to Absalom. After a while Absalom thought that he had enough people who trusted him that he could take his father's kingdom away.

David and his followers were afraid that they would be attacked and didn't want people to die in Jerusalem. They crossed the brook called Kidron, and climbed the Mount of Olives. David's followers cried as they went and David cried when he climbed the Mount of Olives.

Chapter 16:

Even though David was going through some tough times, he trusted that the Lord would help him and might bless David and deliver him from all of his troubles.

Chapter 17:

A spy for David named Hushai advised Absalom to send his army to go out and fight David's army. He also told Absalom to go out with the army to fight.

Meanwhile men from around the area brought David and his army food to eat.

Chapter 18:

When David's army went out to fight, he wanted to go with them, but the people didn't want him to die so they asked him to stay. Before the his army went to fight David told them to treat Absalom gently.

Many people died in the battle. David's army won the battle. When Absalom was fleeing from the battle on a

donkey, he rode under a tree and his head got caught in the tree. Then the commander of David's army stuck three spears in Absalom's heart and a group of men killed Absalom. Later Absalom was buried in a pit under a pile of stones. The rest of Absalom's army fled.

When David found out about Absalom's death he cried bitterly.

Activity One - Answer the following questions about the story together in class.

1. David was punished for killing Uriah. How did God punish David for his sin?
2. Why did God punish David?
3. How were Absalom and Tamar related? How were Absalom and Amnon related? How were Amnon and Tamar related?
4. After Amnon disgraced Tamar, David and Absalom were angry with Amnon. What did David do?
5. What did Absalom do? Where did Absalom flee?
6. David was concerned about Absalom. Who helped Absalom get back into Israel?
7. Did David forgive Absalom when Absalom returned to Israel? How do you know?
8. Why did Absalom tell the people that he would do a better job as king than his father?
9. Why did David flee Israel? Where did David and his followers go?
10. What did David do as he climbed the Mount of Olives? Why?
11. Why did Absalom decide to go and attack David?
12. How did David tell his army to deal with Absalom?
13. Which army won the battle?
14. What happened to Absalom after he tried to flee?
15. How did David react to the news of what had happened to Absalom? Why?

Absalom rebelled against his father, David, and tried to steal the kingdom from him.

Activity Two - Draw and color the comic strips below using the suggested story. The comic strip has two possible endings to show two ways God will deliver Billy or Sally from evil.

<i>Billy or Sally playing with ball.</i>	<i>Ball bounces into street he/she chases it.</i>	<i>Car is approaching from behind him/her.</i>
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Ending 1:

<i>Car stops in time.</i>	<i>Billy/Sally go back to playing.</i>	<i>Parents give hug to him/her.</i>
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Ending 2:

<i>Parents sad.</i>	<i>Billy/Sally in hospital.</i>	<i>Billy/Sally on crutches.</i>
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Just like David, we don't always know the way God will choose to deliver us, but we know that He will fulfill His promise and deliver us from evil.

The Lord will deliver us from all evil.

Passages

Matthew 26:41 Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation.

7th petition – Deliver us from evil.

2 Timothy 4:18 And the Lord will deliver me from every evil work and preserve me for His heavenly kingdom.

Hymn - TLH 428 v. 1, 6

I am trusting Thee, Lord Jesus,
Trusting only Thee;
I am trusting Thee for full salvation,
Great and free!

I am trusting Thee, Lord Jesus;
Never let me fall.
I am trusting Thee forever
And for all.

Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father,

We face all sorts of temptation from the devil, the world, and our flesh. Whenever we fall into temptation, call us to repentance and bring us back to You. Whenever various troubles and struggles come our way, give us the strength to face our troubles and stay strong in our faith. We are confident that You can and will deliver us from every evil. In Jesus' saving Name we pray. Amen.