

Absalom's Rebellion

2 Samuel 13:30 - 18:33

What would you do if you had a son who was rebelling against you?

What measures can you take to raise your children as children of God?

Prayer

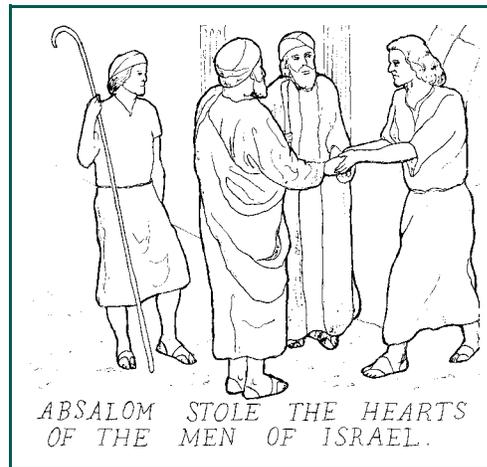
Dear Lord,

Although our lives are filled with many difficulties, we take great comfort in knowing that we can turn to You for help.

Thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus Christ, to help us

with our biggest problem, sin. Help us to concentrate on

today's lesson, as we learn about how You delivered King David from the problems which he faced. Amen.



The Story - 2 Samuel 13:30 - 18:33 (Paraphrased)

King David's son, Absalom, ran away from home after killing his half-brother Amnon. When David heard that his son, Amnon, had been killed, he tore his clothes because he was very disturbed by the news. After this took place, David did not see Absalom for three years.

The king's general, Joab, saw that the king was concerned about Absalom. So Joab made arrangements for them to meet again. David was very happy to see his son again. But when Absalom returned, he wanted to take his father's position as king.

In order to steal his father's position, Absalom tried to win the hearts of the people. He did this by taking over the king's job of settling legal complaints. His goal was to get people to question

whether King David cared about their legal problems. Absalom also bowed down to the people and kissed them in order to gain their favor. Eventually, more and more people followed Absalom instead of King David.

Finally, Absalom declared himself king when he was away in Hebron. King David saw that Absalom's rebellion was a threat to his safety and his people's safety, so he decided to get out of Jerusalem along with his servants. He also did not want to see the city of Jerusalem destroyed by war. David then crossed the Brook Kidron and went up to the Mount of Olives, where he wept bitterly.

While David was traveling, one man came out to bless David. However, there was also a man named Shimei who came out to curse and throw stones at David. One



of David's followers, Abishai, recommended that this man be killed for his cursing. However, David responded, "Let him alone, and let him curse; for so the LORD has ordered him. It may be that the LORD will look on my affliction, and that the LORD will repay me with good for his cursing this day" (16:11-12).

Meanwhile, Absalom took control of Jerusalem. Then he asked his advisor, Ahithophel, what he should do next. Ahithophel advised that an army of 12,000 men chase David and kill him. Instead of going along with Ahithophel's plan, Absalom asked another advisor, whose name was Hushai. Hushai recommended a different plan, and Absalom liked it better. However, Absalom did not know that Hushai was actually on King David's side. Because Absalom chose to follow Hushai's advice, Hushai was able to warn David about the plan. David then gathered his army for battle. He wanted to go along and lead the army, but his people convinced him to stay behind. Before sending his army to battle, he told them to "Deal gently for my sake with the young man Absalom" (18:5).

During the battle, David's army crushed Absalom's army. While riding on his mule, Absalom's head got stuck in a terebinth tree. Going against King David's instructions, Joab and his men killed Absalom while he was still hanging in the



tree. Then they threw his body into a pit in the woods and piled stones on top of him.

When King David was told that his son had been killed, he was very sorrowful. He cried out, "O my son Absalom - my son, my son

Absalom - if only I had died in your place! O Absalom my son!" (18:33).

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

What the Story Tells Us - Answer the following questions from the lesson.

1. What did David do when he found out that Amnon had been killed? Why did he do this?
2. What did Joab do when he realized that David was concerned about his son?
3. What did Absalom do to try to steal the hearts of the people?

4. Why did he want to steal the hearts of the people?
5. Why did David flee from Jerusalem after Absalom declared himself king? Why didn't he want Jerusalem to be destroyed? How was it different from other cities?
6. Why did David weep bitterly when he was at the Mount of Olives?
7. Why was David not upset when he was cursed by Shimei? (16:12)
8. How did Hushai's advice to Absalom help King David?
9. Why didn't King David's people want him to lead them into battle? (18:3-4)
10. What was David's instruction to his soldiers regarding how they should deal with Absalom?
11. What happened to Absalom and his army?
12. Who was responsible for Absalom's death?
13. What was David's reaction to Absalom's death?

Inner Aim - The Lord will deliver us from all evil.

What God Tells Decide whether each statement is (T)true or (F)alse.

1. _____ God allows evil to happen to believers as punishment for their sins.
2. _____ Jesus can help us to make it through any trouble that we have.
3. _____ The suffering which we bear on earth is for our good.
4. _____ When a person suffers affliction, it is usually a sign that he or she has done something bad to deserve suffering.
5. _____ God doesn't allow bad things to happen to believers.
6. _____ We can be like David when we do not retaliate against those who call us names and harm our bodies.
7. _____ We have problems in our life because we are sinful people living in a sinful world.

Your Turn - Use ideas from the story, passages, and hymn to help you complete the following activities.

Describe another Bible account which shows how the Lord has delivered someone from evil?

In what ways do we rebel or go against our parents and superiors? How does Jesus want us to treat our parents and superiors?

Passages

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

1 Peter 1:5 - who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

Psalms 27:1 - The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

Psalms 37:39 - But the salvation of the righteous is from the LORD; He is their strength in the time of trouble.

Hymn - TLH 428 v. 1, 2, 6

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

I am trusting Thee for pardon;
At Thy feet I bow,
For Thy grace and tender mercy
Trusting now.

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

Prayer

Dear Lord,

In today's lesson, we learned that You delivered King David from his troubles with Absalom. But King David had a bigger problem and it's the same problem we all have. This problem is sin. In our life on earth, we face all sorts of temptation from the devil, the world, and our sinful flesh. Whenever we fall into sin, call us to repentance and restore us unto Your fold. Give us strength to endure all the various trial and tribulations that come our way. We know that You can and will deliver us from every evil. In Jesus' saving Name. Amen.