

STORY

Absalom's Rebellion - II Samuel 13:30 - 18:33

TEACHER PRAYER

Lord God, heavenly Father, bless the students entrusted to my spiritual care. Strengthen their faith through

Your holy Word and Spirit and lead them in the path of faith and righteousness. Whenever they fall into temptation, call them to repentance and graciously restore them to Your fold. In Jesus' saving Name. Amen.

VOCABULARY**OUTER AIM**

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

INNER AIM

The Lord will deliver us from all evil.

BACKGROUND

(Rupprecht, Bible History References, Vol. 1, pp. 317-323)

The Word of the Lord came true concerning David and his royal house. Much intrigue, quarreling, fighting, and even killing were going on.

Chapter 13

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

Chapter 14

King David was concerned about Absalom. Joab, David's commander-in-chief, devised a clever scheme to get David to permit Absalom to return to Jerusalem in peace. The king granted Joab's request; Absalom returned, but David never saw Absalom face to face for two more years.

Absalom was a very handsome man and was admired by all. He had such beautiful hair and lots of it. He had three sons and one daughter (Tamar), who also was very beautiful.

Finally, Absalom desired to see his father again. He urged Joab to arrange for a reconciliation. David kissed his son when he finally saw him.

Chapter 15

Absalom coveted his father David. He endeavored to steal the throne from him. He sought the support of the people. He made all sorts of promises and tried to steal their hearts and get their support. After some time, Absalom thought he was strong enough to overthrow his father. The conspiracy grew stronger and stronger; more and more people followed Absalom. David and his army



and his followers fled Jerusalem, fearing an attack. He had hoped to spare his beloved city as much pain and suffering as possible. He crossed the Brook Kidron with his people and climbed the Mount of Olives. He wept as he went.

Chapter 16

A servant of Jonathan's son Mephibosheth came out in support of David. Shimei, a man from Saul's house, came out to curse David. At that point David made a beautiful confession of his faith and hope (vs. 12). Absalom and his people took control of Jerusalem.

Chapter 17

Ahithophel, David's former counselor, was now serving Absalom. Absalom asked him what he should do. Ahithophel told him, but Absalom followed the counsel of another man, David's friend Hushai. Hushai pretended to follow Absalom, but secretly he was still loyal to David. Absalom consulted with Hushai and preferred his advice. Feeling betrayed and rejected, Ahithophel left Absalom, returned home, and killed himself.

David and his army crossed over the Jordan River and were befriended by the Ammonites.

Chapter 18

David prepared his army for battle. He himself remained behind. He ordered his generals to deal gently with Absalom. Absalom and all Israel attacked David and the men of Judah. Absalom's army was defeated, and Absalom fled on his mule. His long hair became entangled in the branches of a tree, and he hung there while his mule kept on going. Joab and his men killed Absalom and buried him. The remnant of Israel's army fled.

David was informed of the outcome of the battle and the death of his son. He wept bitterly.

STUDENT 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 restore us to Your fold. Whenever various trials and tribulations come our way, give us the strength to persevere and endure. We are confident that You can and will deliver us from every evil. In Jesus' saving Name. Amen.

PRESENTATION

- After David's great fall into sin, the Lord announced that he would experience some great trials within his family. "Thus saith the Lord, behold I will raise up evil against thee out of thine own house." These words were fulfilled when David's son Absalom rebelled against his father and tried to steal the kingdom from him.
- There were earlier situations within his family which also brought David much grief.
- Absalom was very handsome and had beautiful hair, but he was very vain and proud. His inner character was severely blemished.

APPLICATIONS

1. David mourned for his son Absalom, not only because he was dead but also because he had died in his sins and unbelief.
2. There are places in this lesson where David serves as a type (or symbol) of Christ-his weeping over Jerusalem and crossing the Kidron and ascending the Mt. of Olives. There are other aspects of his life which parallel Christ's as well.

PASSAGES

These passages can be assigned as memory work or simply discussed in class as to how they fit the lesson.

Lower

Matthew 26:41 - Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.

Acts 14:22 - We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God.

I Corinthians 10:12 - Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.

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

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

I Peter 5:8-9 - Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith.

Middle any of the above...

Upper any of the above...

HYMN CHOICES

“Oh, That The Lord Would Guide My Ways” (TLH #416)

“I Am Trusting Thee, Lord Jesus” (TLH #428)

“Every Morning Mercies New” (TLH #537)

“Now The Shades Of Night Are Gone” (TLH #538)

“I Am Jesus’ Little Lamb” (TLH #648)

“Beautiful Savior” (TLH #657)