

Lesson 84

Absalom Rebels

Absalom tried to take the kingdom from his father, David.

Studying God's Word

Lesson Time

Don't forget! Review the Optional Supplements and determine where you can use them.

Have the students assemble in a circle away from the tables—either on the floor or in their chairs.

Bring your stuffed animal, Bible, Flip Chart, and any items you prepared for this lesson.

Prayer

This prayer time is designed to help the students begin to understand some simple concepts about prayer and to encourage them to pray.

We start our Bible lesson with prayer. Turn to the Flip Chart Prayer Page. Briefly review the different types of prayer presented there.

Today let's say prayers of supplication and ask God for help.

I'll start. Dear God, would you please . . . (insert personal prayer here).

Pass a special stuffed animal—prayer bear—around the circle, giving all the students an opportunity to pray, or choose a volunteer to stand beside you and pray.

Very good! Now let's put our stuffed animal away, and we'll answer our Bible Truth questions.

I love you prayers—Adoration
I'm sorry prayers—Confession
I'm thankful prayers—Thanksgiving
Please prayers—Supplication

Bible Truths

These four questions will be repeated each week to help the students learn foundational truths.

Who is in control of all things, even when we have to wait a long time? God.
What word means God is in control of everything? Sovereign.
When we know we've sinned, what should we do? Confess our sins.
What is the beginning of wisdom? The fear of the Lord.

Bible Treasure Hunt

Before Bible Treasure Hunt, place a sticky note in your Bible to mark the first passage to be read.

Each week before class, hide your Bible somewhere in the room. Use different methods each week to keep the students excited about finding the Bible. For example, you might set a timer, play music while the students search, tell students when they are getting warmer and colder, or choose a student to hide the Bible and let you or classmates find it.

We are going to start out today by looking into God's Word, the Bible. God's Word is true, and we can always trust what it says. It's like a great treasure that tells us about who God is and what he has done for us. But where is this treasure? You will have to help me with that. We're going to go on a Bible Treasure Hunt. Somewhere in this room, I've hidden the Bible. When I say "Go," you will need to look for it. Whoever finds the Bible must bring it back to their seat and hold it very carefully until it is time to look in it. When it is time to read, you can bring it to me, and we'll open it to see what we are going to talk about today! Explain the method you chose for today. Ready? Set! Go!

Pre-K Lesson

K-1st Lesson

Pre-K Lesson

Review

Refer to Lesson 83 Flip Chart. In the last lesson, we learned how David sinned when he wanted Bathsheba for his wife. She was already married to one of his soldiers named Uriah. David had Uriah killed to cover up his sin. God was very displeased with David and sent Nathan the prophet to tell David a story.

What was the story that Nathan told? A rich man with many flocks took and killed the pet lamb of a poor man to feed a traveler.

Nathan told David, "You are the man!" David understood that he had sinned just like the rich man in the story. He told God he was sorry for his sin and begged God to forgive him.

God forgave David, but there would be consequences for what he did. David and Bathsheba's baby son died. But God told David that he would also have troubles in his family. Today we'll see how some of those troubles came through David's son Absalom.

Absalom's Rebellion

Absalom was David's third son, and his mother was a princess. When Absalom was a young man, he became angry at his oldest brother and decided to have him killed.

Absalom did the same sin as his father, who killed Uriah. But remember how David was sorry for his sins and asked God to forgive him? Well, not Absalom. He didn't seem sorry at all. Let's find out a little more about him.

2 Samuel 14:25

Refer to the Books of the Bible Poster. I'm going to read about Absalom from 2 Samuel chapter 14. Have the student bring up the Bible and open it to the sticky note. Read 2 Samuel 14:25.

How did Absalom look? Was he handsome? Yes. He was handsome.

Absalom Interview Skit

Have Absalom enter here and continue with the skit.

Absalom: (Enter.) Are you talking about me? It's true, I am the most good-looking man in all Israel. (Strike a modeling pose.)

Teacher: Oh! Hello, Prince Absalom. I've heard it said that you're perfect from your head to your feet.

Absalom: (Smile proudly.) That's me—handsome from head to toe.

Teacher: Is it true that you only cut your hair once a year?

Absalom: (Adjust lines for long-hair wig or no wig.) Yes. Actually, I (will be cutting or have just cut) my hair (tomorrow or yesterday). (Ask proudly.) Did you know that when I cut it, it weighs 5 pounds? (Toss head with wig or run fingers through hair without wig.)

Teacher: That's a lot of hair to weigh that much!

Absalom: Yes. I'm proud of my hair and good looks. In fact, I think I'm so great—I should be king of Israel.

Teacher: But your father, David, is king.

Absalom: (Act annoyed.) Yes. I know he is. But I'm working on that.

Teacher: What do you mean?

Absalom: Well, for one thing, I make sure everyone notices me when I go out. I ride in my own chariot and have 50 men run in front of me to clear the way.

Teacher: I guess everyone knows when you're coming, don't they?

Absalom: Of course. Not only that, but I'm making friends with as many people as possible, including these fine young people. (Shake hands with a few students.)

Teacher: So you're being kind to the people of Israel?

Absalom: Sort of. I tell them that I am their friend and greet them like I would greet my own family.

Teacher: That must make them feel good.

Absalom: Yes. It makes them think I like them. (Laugh in a not-so-friendly manner.)

Teacher: You mean you're tricking them?

Absalom: Why, yes, I guess you could say that. I tell them that if I were king, I would do a much better job than my father, David.

Teacher: So you really are trying to take the throne from your father?

Absalom: Yes. That's what this is all about. (Rub hands together gleefully.) I must go now. I shall steal the hearts of the people of Israel and rule over them all! (Exit with a flourish.)

End of Skit

Show the Lesson Flip Chart. Point out picture of Absalom in top corner. It sounds like Absalom sure let people know he was a royal prince. What kind of man does he seem to be: proud of himself or humble and kind? Allow discussion.

Absalom was up to something. And it wasn't something good! Absalom acted very friendly to the people until many of them started thinking that maybe Absalom really was better than King David. The Bible tells us that Absalom "stole the hearts of the people" from David.

Absalom was trying to take the throne from David so he could be the king! When David heard what was happening, he took his family and his fighting men and left the city of Jerusalem. This was a sad and scary time for David. He was forced to leave his home. David knew Absalom and his men would chase him and try to kill them all!

But who do you think David turned to for help during this terrible time? God.

Yes! David prayed for help, and God protected David and those with him as they escaped.

Absalom's Defeat

Some of David's friends stayed in Jerusalem as spies. God used these men to help David by sending him messages as Absalom got ready to fight.

Meanwhile, David also gathered an army. He had a lot of strong soldiers known as "mighty men," and David could trust them.

When it was time for battle against Absalom and his army, David's commanders wouldn't let him go with them. They didn't want David to get hurt or killed. So

David's three commanders led their men out against Absalom and his army. The battle had begun!

Who thinks Absalom and his men will win the battle? Show of hands.
Who thinks David's men will win? Show of hands.

They fought the battle in a forest. It was so thick with trees that many men died chasing each other through this forest!

Refer to the Flip Chart. But what about Absalom? Remember, we talked about how he only cut his hair once a year. Well, his long hair (or maybe his neck) got caught in the branches of a great oak tree, but his mule kept running, leaving Absalom hanging there helplessly! David's commander Joab hurried to the tree with some of his men, and they killed Absalom. The battle for the kingdom was over, and David was still the king.

God saved David from Absalom's evil plans. But David was extremely sad that his son had to die. Remember, God told David he would have trouble in his family as a consequence of his sin.

Absalom had sinned, too. But he didn't turn from his sin or ask God for forgiveness like David did. Instead, he let sins like coveting, pride, and hatred grow in his heart until, finally, God used this battle to punish his sin.

Continue with the Lesson Review Game below.

K-1st Lesson

Review

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What was the parable, or story, that Nathan told? A rich man with many flocks took and killed the pet lamb of a poor man to feed a traveler.

Nathan told David, "You are the man!" David understood that he had sinned just like the rich man in the story. He confessed his sin and begged God to forgive him and cleanse his heart.

God forgave David, but David still faced consequences for what he did. David and Bathsheba's baby son died. But God told David that he would also have troubles in his family. Today we'll see how some of those troubles came through David's son Absalom.

Absalom's Rebellion

Absalom was David's third son, and his mother was a princess, the daughter of the king of another country. When Absalom was a young man, he became

angry at his oldest brother, Amnon, for hurting his sister. Absalom decided to punish his brother by having him killed.

Absalom committed the same sin as his father, who killed Uriah. But remember how David was very sorry for his sins and asked God to forgive him? Well, not Absalom. He didn't seem sorry at all. Let's find out a little more about him.

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End of Skit

Show the Lesson Flip Chart. Point out picture of Absalom in upper corner. It sounds like Absalom sure let people know he was a royal prince. What does this show us about the kind of man Absalom was? Does he seem proud of himself or humble and kind? Allow discussion.

Absalom was up to something. And it wasn't something good! Absalom acted very friendly to the people until many of them started thinking that maybe Absalom really was better than King David. The Bible tells us that Absalom "stole the hearts of the people" from David.

Finally, it was time to make his move against his father. Absalom wanted to steal the throne from David so he could be the king!

When David heard what was happening, he took his family and his fighting men and left the city of Jerusalem. This was a sad and scary time for David. He was forced to leave his home. He and all those with him cried as they left. David knew Absalom and his men would chase him and try to kill them all!

But who do you think David turned to for help during this terrible time? God.

Yes! David prayed for help, and God protected David and those with him as they escaped.

Absalom's Defeat

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Meanwhile, David also gathered an army. He had a lot of strong soldiers who had fought with him for many years. These men were known as “mighty men,” and David trusted them.

When it was time for battle against Absalom and his army, David’s commanders wouldn’t let him go with them. They didn’t want David to get hurt or killed. So David’s three commanders led their men out against Absalom and his army. The battle had begun!

Who thinks Absalom and his men will win the battle? Show of hands.
Who thinks David’s men will win? Show of hands.

2 Samuel 18:6–9

Let’s see who’s right! Listen to 2 Samuel 18. I’ll read verses 6 through 8. Read only verses 6–8.

Where did they fight the battle? Verse 6. In the forest of Ephraim.

David’s men won the battle. Absalom’s army lost.

What does this say killed, or devoured, more people: the sword or the forest? Verse 8. The forest.

Some men were killed by other soldiers with swords. But the forest was so thick with trees that more men died just trying to run through this forest!

But what about Absalom? Listen to what happened to him. Read verse 9. He was riding on his mule, and his head got caught in an oak tree.

Refer to the Flip Chart. Remember, we talked about how Absalom only cut his hair once a year. Well, his long hair (or maybe his neck) got caught in the branches of a great oak tree, but his mule kept running, leaving Absalom hanging there helplessly! Commander Joab hurried to the tree with some of his men, and they killed Absalom. The battle for the kingdom was over. David was still the king.

God saved David from Absalom’s evil plans and gave his men a great victory. David was extremely sad that his son had to die. But God told David he would have trouble in his family as a consequence of his sin.

Absalom had sinned, too. But he didn’t turn from his sin or ask God for forgiveness like David did. Instead, he let sins like coveting, pride, and hatred grow in his heart until, finally, God used this battle to punish his sin.

Lesson Review

We all learn best with review and repetition! We encourage you to play a lesson review game.

Basket Toss

Students give the correct answer and toss the beanbags to see how many points they can collect for their team. Each basket has greater points.

Materials

Review Questions (included in lesson)
Two beanbags
Three laundry baskets or boxes
Masking tape

Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Use masking tape to make a tossing line. Bring in three laundry baskets or boxes. Set the baskets in a line, making each one a little farther away from the tossing line. Label the baskets with 5, 10, and 25 points so the farther away it is the higher the score.

Divide the class into two or more teams depending on size. Have the teams line up at the tossing line. Take turns asking the first students in line from each team a review question. When a student answers correctly, he will have a chance to toss a beanbag into a basket then go to the end of the line. If the beanbag misses, there are no points scored. If someone does not answer correctly, he may ask his teammates for help. Keep track of the scores for each team on the board. Continue until all the questions have been answered. Repeat questions if necessary.

Bible Baseball

Students will answer questions and run the bases!

Materials

Review Questions (included in lesson)
Three chairs set out for bases
Optional: gift wrap tube and a large balloon

Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Set out chairs as bases. Have the students line up by the home base area facing you (at the pitcher's mound). Each student up to "bat" will have a chance to answer a review question. If he can answer it correctly, let him run the bases. If he can't answer correctly, give the answer and ask him to go to the end of the line and try again.

You may want the students to sit on the chair at each base while they wait to run to the next base or have them run all the way around and return to the line. Repeat the questions until all the students have run around the bases.

For some added fun, you can use a gift wrap tube as a bat and toss a large balloon for students to hit after they answer each question.

Board Game

Teams will answer questions and make their way to the finish on the Game Board.

Materials

- Review Questions (included in lesson)
- Game Board
- Dice, numbered cards, or spinner
- Buttons or other small items as game pieces for each team

Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Divide the class into teams.

Team members will take turns answering the review questions. If they answer correctly, they will roll the dice, spin, or draw a numbered card and move that number of spaces on the Game Board. Follow the directions on the spaces to move ahead, fall back, or switch places with another team. If someone does not know or does not answer correctly, he may ask his teammates for help. Alternate between teams as long as time permits, repeating questions if necessary. The first team to make it all the way to the Finish wins.

Bowling

What do you do with extra water bottles and softballs? Go bowling, of course. Students will answer questions then bowl for points.

Materials

- Review Questions (included in lesson)
- Six to ten empty water bottles
- Softball or other small playground ball
- Masking tape
- Optional: dried corn or beans

Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. If available, pour a small amount of dried corn or beans into the bottom of each water bottle (to add weight) and tighten the lid. Set out the bottles on one end of the room. Use masking tape to form a "lane" from the bottles to where the students will line up across the room.

Divide students into teams. Have students line up. Ask the first student a review question. If he answers correctly, let him roll the ball down the lane toward the bottles. Each bottle that is knocked down is worth 1 point. A strike (knocking down all the bottles) is worth 20 points. Take turns asking questions of each team. If a student gives an incorrect answer or does not know the answer, he can ask his teammates for help. Keep track of scores.

Goofy Golf

Hit the sock with the noodle? Teams must work together to answer the questions and putt to get a hole-in-one in this crazy golf game!

Materials

- Review Questions (included in lesson)
- Swimming noodles or rolled up newspapers
- Rolled up socks
- Masking tape
- Ten sheets of paper
- Markers

Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Use the markers to number sheets of paper 1–10 (use more or less depending on class size and time). Tape down the sheets of paper around the room in a random pattern to form a golf course. You may want to add chairs as obstacles in the path.

Divide the class into teams. Give each team a rolled up sock and a swimming noodle. Ask the first student a review question from the lesson. If he answers correctly, allow him to use the noodle to drive the rolled up sock toward the first sheet of paper labeled #1. Continue with the next team. Take turns allowing team members to answer questions and continue putting the socks along the course to each hole, continuing from where the last teammate left off. The sock must touch or roll over the sheet of paper to consider it in the hole. The first team to reach the tenth hole wins.

Racetrack

Who will reach the checkered flag first? Teams will race to the finish by answering review questions.

Materials

- Review Questions (included in lesson)
- White board or chalkboard
- Markers/chalk
- Optional: paper cutouts for each team (cars, animals, circles, etc.), tape/poster putty

Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Draw a racetrack on the board. It may be as simple as a straight horizontal path or a curvy circle. Label "Start" and "Finish" (with a checkered flag) at either end of the track. Add numbers along the track (e.g., 1–10) at equal intervals between Start and Finish. The numbers will be used as placement points for the racers as they progress along the track.

Divide the class into teams. You may draw a different symbol (e.g., stick figure, circle, X or O) to represent each team at the Start, or use paper cutouts as team markers and stick them to the board with tape/poster putty.

Ask the first team a review question. If they answer correctly, move their marker or redraw their symbol along the track at #1. If they answer incorrectly, give the next team a chance to answer and move to the first number. If they do not know, give the answer and ask that question again later. Continue to alternate asking review questions and moving teams' markers along the racetrack according to the numbers along the track. The first team to reach the Finish wins!

Toss for It

How many points? Toss for it! Students answer the questions and toss the beanbag to earn points for their team.

Materials

- Review Questions (included in lesson)
- A deck of numbered cards, or numbers and "wild" written on index cards
- One beanbag
- Masking tape
- Two baskets or containers for cards

Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Place several rows of numbered cards facedown with a few inches between them to form a grid pattern (make sure to put several wild cards or Jokers down, too). Use the masking tape to make a tossing line several feet from the cards.

Divide students into teams and have them line up behind the tossing line. Ask the first student a review question. If he gives the correct answer, have him toss the beanbag onto a card. Turn the card over to reveal the points he receives for his team. Face cards or word cards are 10 points each. Wild or Jokers are also 10—plus another turn. All other cards are face value.

Have the student pick up his card and put it in the team's basket to be counted at the end of the game. Next team's turn. If a student gives an incorrect answer, he should go to the end of the line. Give the answer and repeat that

question later. Continue taking turns until all the questions have been answered. Add more cards to the grid if necessary.

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Bible Version

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