



K-Ist 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 parable.

- ? 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.

2 Samuel 14:25

Refer to the Books of the Bible Poster. I’m going to read what Absalom looked like 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

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 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

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 against his father.

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.

Absalom stole
the hearts of
the people.



God saved David from Absalom.