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## Absalom

Tony Murrow, September 26, 2021  
*Small Group Discussion Questions*

### Getting Started

Take some time to catch up and connect as a group. Pray before discussion. Expect God to move through your time together!

### Pacing Your Group

Move quickly through “observation” leaving enough time for “reflection”, “discussion”, and “surrender.”

### Scripture Reading

Re-read the scripture passages as needed when you discuss the questions.

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### Observation: *What does this scripture passage say?*

*The story of Absalom is told in 2 Samuel 3:3; 13-19.*

As you think about the broader story of Absalom, keep these main events in mind:

David’s adultery with Bathsheba.	The birth of Solomon.	Absalom’s advisors.
Uriah’s death arranged.	Amnon rapes Tamar.	David informed of Absalom’s plans.
Nathan’s parable and David’s repentance.	Absalom murders Amnon.	Absalom’s defeat.
The death of Bathsheba’s son.	Absalom restored to David.	Absalom’s death.
	Absalom’s revolt.	

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### Reflection and Discussion: *What are some first thoughts flowing from the scriptures?*

*Talk together about how the scriptures connect to everyday life.*

1. Define “sins of commission” and “sins of omission”. Which causes more relational damage over time? Why?
2. How do humility and vulnerability work in relationships? Is the risk of humility and vulnerability worth the risk? Why?

### Tony defines relational “rogue waves” in his sermon:

*When someone in power thinks a relationship is going okay, then the other party comes against them suddenly.*

### Tony also provided these examples of “rogue waves”:

- David thought things with Absalom were going okay, then there’s an insurrection.
  - When a husband thinks things are going okay in the marriage, then the wife comes to him and asks for a divorce.
  - You think things are okay at work, then five employees resign together in protest of your terrible management
  - When your 22-year-old tells you that you’re a toxic person she no longer wants in her life and she’s going to be limiting contact with you for the sake of her mental health. You thought it was good, now it’s a crisis.
3. Read this “rogue wave mitigation checklist,” and identify a question that grabs your attention. Talk about it.
    - Do you have unresolved conflict with anyone? (fights that never finished, just kind of died off)
    - Is there anyone who might feel you treat them unfairly?
    - Can you name three people who are allowed to criticize you, and do?
    - Do you regularly confess and deal with your sin?
  4. Read this “rogue wave response checklist,” and share an action step you might be willing to take. How can this group hold you accountable this week in taking action?
    - Are you already in conflict with someone? (Maybe the person that came to mind during the sermon?)
    - What thing could you do to take a risk, and make amends to a person who you have wronged, or who has wronged you?

### Surrender: Responding to God’s voice.

5. What is one thing God is saying to you through this study and discussion?

**\*\* Take some time to pray for one another in response to what has been discussed today \*\***

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### We’re here!

We would love to hear about how things are going in your small group!

Reach out any time with questions, ideas, thoughts, or concerns.

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