

ABSALOM REBELS

2 SAMUEL 14:25-26, 15:1, 15:5-6, 15:13-14, 18:6-9

LEARN THE WORD

Psalm 32:5

I acknowledged my sin to You, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

- David's son Absalom killed his brother and tried to take the throne. David relied on the Lord, and God gave him the victory.
- When David sinned, he confessed it and asked God for mercy. But Absalom did not repent, and God allowed him to die in battle.

WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

OUTWORD FOR FAMILY DISCUSSION

Suppose your friend says that because she's a child of God, it doesn't matter how much she sins because God has forgiven her.

What could you say?

It's wonderful to be a child of God and know that your sins are forgiven. But when you're a child of God, you should want to obey God's commands. When God's children sin, He will punish them because He wants them to repent and stop sinning. And God's children still face the consequences of sin here on earth. The Bible is full of examples of godly men, like David, who experienced terrible consequences when they sinned. As God's children, we should avoid sin and want to please God.

Activity: Sin can cause a tangled mess of problems! Follow the lines to find the consequence for each sin on the left then write the letter in the blank.

Sin

___ 1. David murdered Uriah

___ 2. Absalom murdered his brother Amnon

___ 3. Absalom plotted to steal the throne

___ 4. Absalom was proud and rebellious

Consequence

A. Caught in a tree and killed

B. Army defeated and death of 20,000 men

C. Run away to live with relatives

D. Trouble in David's family

Answers: 1) D, 2) C, 3) B, 4) A

HOMEWORD

FOR PARENTS

It wasn't long until David's sons committed the same sins as their father did with Bathsheba and Uriah, but without his repentance. David's son Absalom had his servants kill his oldest brother Amnon for a wrong done to his sister, Tamar. Absalom fled, and David eventually brought him back to Jerusalem and forgave him. But Absalom used his father's mercy to steal the hearts of the people. Absalom used his good looks and popularity to gain supporters (2 Samuel 15:1-6). Absalom made his move for the throne, forcing David and his household and loyal guards to flee from Jerusalem.

Absalom gathered an army and crossed the Jordan River to face his father's army. The battle took place in the forest of Ephraim, a dense forest that claimed more lives than the sword (2 Samuel 18:6-8). Absalom got caught in the branches of an oak tree. His mule ran out from under him, leaving him dangling helplessly. David's commander Joab and his armor-bearers found Absalom and killed him (2 Samuel 18:14-15). David lost two sons, almost lost his kingdom, and struggled to reunite the tribes when he was restored to the throne.

David not only faced the consequences of his sin with Bathsheba, but he also faced punishment for his decision to count the fighting men of Israel (2 Samuel 24). Given the choice of famine, enemies, or pestilence, David chose pestilence from God. The plague killed 70,000 men, and David begged God to punish him instead of the people. God stopped the plague, and David built an altar and offered sacrifices where the plague ended. The land David bought to build the altar is where the temple would be built by Solomon.