

# Loving Hearts & Working Hands



Lesson 11

## David's Son Absalom

**Theme:** Obedience — Recognizing the consequences of sin

### Memory Verses

“David said to Solomon, ‘Be strong, therefore, and show yourself a man. And keep the charge of the Lord your God, to walk in His ways ... according to what is written in the law of Moses, that you may succeed in all that you do and wherever you turn.’”

1 Kings 2:2-3

### Daily Bible Readings

- 1 2 Samuel 15:4-6, 10-15, 24-26, 30-34
- 2 2 Samuel 16:5-8, 11-14
- 3 2 Samuel 17:1-7, 11-14, 23
- 4 2 Samuel 18:5-7, 9-15, 32
- 5 2 Samuel 19:1-8, 21-23

**T**hrough the prophet Nathan, God explained that David's sin would bring trouble to his family. One way this happened was that David's son Absalom tried to be king and take David's throne.

### Absalom Tried to be King

Absalom tried to get people to support him by

### 2 Samuel 15:4-6, 10-15, 24-26, 30-34

True or False? David's son, Absalom, got people's loyalty by promising he would treat them better than David.

When Absalom made his move to become king, what did David do?

- left town
- had Absalom killed
- gave Absalom his crown



making them think he would treat them better than David. Absalom planned to take his father's throne and become king of Israel. When Absalom thought the time was right, he came to Jerusalem to be king. To protect themselves, David and his family and soldiers left Jerusalem. David trusted God to do what was best for him and his people.

David asked Hushai to stay in Jerusalem and pretend to be Absalom's advisor while actually spying for David. Hushai advised Absalom and sent word to David about what Absalom was doing.

David got his army ready for battle and asked that his son Absalom, if captured, be treated gently. Absalom's army was no match for David's army. While riding a mule through the forest, Absalom's hair got caught in the branches of an oak tree, and he was left hanging. Joab, the commander of David's army,

thrust three spears through Absalom's heart and killed him.

David's army won the battle, but David was sad about Absalom's death. David tried to encourage his men and returned to Jerusalem as king. David treated men who had been against him with kindness.

### David Trusted the Lord

David trusted God, even when most people did not. When people were leaving

### 2 Samuel 16:5-8, 11-14

How did Shimei, of Saul's relatives, treat David as he left Jerusalem?

*Circle all correct answers.*

- cursed David
- threw stones at David
- poisoned David's men
- took their water jugs

True or False? David allowed Shimei to speak against him because he knew it may be from God.



### 2 Samuel 17:1-7, 11-14, 23

Both Ahithophel and Hushai gave Absalom advice.

*Match the following:*

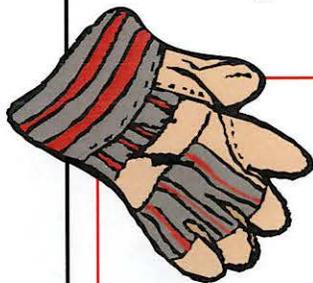
Ahithophel            said he was working for Absalom but was really a spy for David

Hushai                was working for Absalom

Whose advice did Absalom follow?

Ahithophel

Hushai



were leaving Jerusalem, Zadok the priest brought the ark of the covenant, thinking David would want the ark with him. David said to leave the ark at the temple. He trusted God to do what was best. David was prepared to accept the outcome, even if it was not what he personally wanted.

### Lessons We Can Learn

- Sin has consequences.
- Parents' actions influence their children's actions.
- We hurt ourselves by leaving God out of our lives.
- We should trust the Lord and do His will even when it is hard.

### 2 Samuel 18:5-7, 9-15, 32

Once David divided his troops to fight against Absalom's troops, what did David say about Absalom?

- make sure you kill him
- deal gently with him
- bring him back to me

How did Absalom die?

What did David say when he learned about Absalom's death?

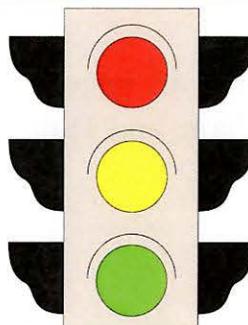


### 2 Samuel 19:1-8, 21-23

How did David treat men who had not been loyal to him?

- let them live
- put them to death

I think I need to solve all my problems by myself, without God's help.



Put an X in the light that best describes you.

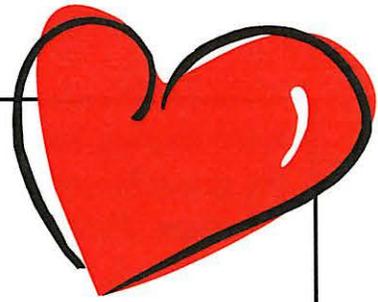
**Red — always**

**Yellow — sometimes**

**Green — never**

## Think About It ...

David was extremely sad about Absalom's death. His sadness discouraged the soldiers under his command. Think this through. Why would David's sadness discourage his men?



## Working Hard on Bible Facts

Which book of the Old Testament is about returning to Jerusalem and rebuilding the temple?

From Matthew 5:1-12, write the Beatitudes on cards you can carry with you. Take the cards and work on memorizing the Beatitudes. Ask a parent to sign here if you have worked on this project. Be ready to say the Beatitudes in class.

Find on a map inside the back cover the major areas of Canaan: Southern Region or Negev, Hill Country, Coastal Plain, and Transjordan. Be able to point to these areas on a blank map.