

# 2 SAMUEL 16-21

## WEEK IN REVIEW + FAMILY GUIDE

### WEEK IN REVIEW

As we have seen so far in 2 Samuel, this book is all about the life of David! David had a lot of wins at the beginning of the book as he was appointed as a king and made a covenant with the Lord. However, even though David was known as a man after God's own heart, he made some pretty tragic mistakes. These mistakes had big consequences to them as we have seen played out in the previous chapters. This was conflict and violence in his family, he was disgraced in public, and his baby sadly passed away. This can be summarized as: wives, sword, and baby. The division in his family takes place in these chapters and they have all been about David's son Absalom.

Absalom was one of King David's sons. He was handsome and well-liked, but he made some terrible choices. He hurt his family. Absalom took **revenge** on his brother instead of trusting God to bring justice. Revenge is trying to hurt someone because they hurt you first. That caused a lot of pain in his family. He disrespected his dad, the king. Absalom secretly talked to people and tried to convince them he would be a better king than his father, David. He tricked people. He stood by the city gate and told people their problems wouldn't be solved unless he was in charge. He also started a rebellion. Absalom didn't wait his turn to lead the people. He took matters into his own hands and sought his own selfish desires. He gathered an army and tried to take the throne from his own father. This caused a war, and many people were hurt or killed.

Absalom died in the battle. David was very sad about this. Even though Absalom hurt him, David still loved his son. David showed **mercy**. Mercy is when God doesn't give us the punishment we deserve for doing wrong. David showing mercy to his son Absalom, even though he did not deserve it, shows us an imperfect picture of our perfectly heavenly father. All of us have turned our own way and run from God, because we all have sinned. We have betrayed God's way and thought that our way is better. However, even in our sin and brokenness, our Father runs towards us with reckless love. In this messy and broken situation we have seen played out in 2 Samuel, we see a glimpse of the Father's heart to bring people back into relationship with Him!

## FAMILY GUIDE

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| <b>BIG IDEA:</b>      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>David shows mercy to his son who rebelled against him</li> </ul>   |
| <b>KEY STORIES:</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>David is cursed and Absalom rebels</li> <li>Absalom Defeated</li> <li>Kingdom Restored to David</li> </ul>   |
| <b>KEY VERSES:</b>    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>2 Samuel 19:4</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>"The king covered his face and cried aloud, 'O my son Absalom! O Absalom, my son, my son!'"</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>2 Samuel 20:2</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>"So all the men of Israel deserted David to follow Sheba... But the men of Judah stayed by their king..."</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>2 Samuel 21:1</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>"During the reign of David, there was a famine for three successive years; so David sought the face of the Lord."</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |
| <b>WORDS TO KNOW:</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Revenge</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Revenge is trying to hurt someone because they hurt you first. That caused a lot of pain in his family.</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Mercy</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mercy is when God doesn't give us the punishment we deserve for doing wrong.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>   |

## Reflection Questions

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| <b>1.</b> | What were the consequences for David's sin?               |
| <b>2.</b> | What were some of the bad choices that Absalom made?      |
| <b>3.</b> | What was David's response to Absalom's death?             |
| <b>4.</b> | What does this show us about the heart of God towards us? |