

# Absalom

2 Samuel 13-19



Old Testament 6  
Part 2: David and Sons

## SUNDAY MORNING

Old Testament 6 [Class Attendance Sheet](#) provided in activity sheets (NOTE: The document is interactive, allowing the teacher to type in the Class, Teacher, and the children's names.)

### SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

2 Samuel 13-19; Ephesians 5:1-5

### MEMORY WORK:

YOUNGER CHILDREN: "Beloved, do not imitate what is evil, but what is good"  
(3 John 11).

OLDER CHILDREN: "Beloved, do not imitate what is evil, but what is good. He who does good is of God..." (3 John 11).

### SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS (SEE END OF LESSON FOR WORDS):

A [song book](#) and [audio recordings](#) of many of the curriculum songs are available on the curriculum Web site.

- "[Be Unselfish](#)"
- "[Absalom](#)"

### LESSON VISUALS AND TEACHING AIDS (NOTE ANY DISCLAIMERS):

- See [AP's Pinterest page](#) for ideas on bulletin boards, visuals, crafts, etc. [DISCLAIMER: Pins may sometimes need to be adjusted to be Scriptural.]
- [King David and His Sons](#) Bible fact cards (provided under "O.T. 6 Bible Facts" on curriculum Web site)
- "Summary of the Bible" from "[Kids Prep](#)" CD by Jeff Miller
- Pictures of animal babies following their mothers, such as ducklings following mother duck, to illustrate the importance of following the right examples (to stay away from danger, to learn the right things, etc.)
- David the King A Beka Flash-A-Card Series (DISCLAIMER: use the cards, *not the lesson book*; card 2.1: No one knows what the cherubim looked like, other than having wings; card 5.6: The text says that Absalom's head was caught. Whether it was by his hair or neck is unknown.)
- "Absalom Rebels Against King David" pictures: <http://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/david-absalom/>



## PERSONAL APPLICATION:

I should be careful about trying to be like other people. The only perfect example (role model) for me to follow is Jesus.

## LESSON STARTS HERE

## INTRODUCTION:

The Bible tells us a lot about David. He was a very brave shepherd when he was young, and he grew up to be a very brave king. He wrote many of the songs in the book of Psalms. He loved God very much, but sometimes he made bad choices and was not a good example to his children.

## POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. King David had 19 sons and one daughter (1 Chronicles 3:1-9). His third son was named **Absalom**. [Absalom was born at Hebron during David's 7½-year reign there.] Absalom's mother was a princess, the daughter of the King of **Geshur** (2 Samuel 3:3). So Absalom was not only the **son** of a king, he was also the **grandson** of a king.



**NOTE:** **Absalom** is also called Abishalom, meaning “father of peace.” **Geshur** was a district in the northeastern part of Bashan.

2. Absalom was handsome, charming, and very popular with the people of Israel (2 Samuel 14:25-26). He was raised in a great palace with a large group of kids who had the same father, David, but different mothers. David apparently did not show each of his children the same love and affection and probably did not spend as much time with them as he should have. So other people, like their mothers (who were often from idol-worshipping people) had more influence on them. Absalom grew up seeking and getting approval from other people, instead of from his own father.
3. [For younger children, skip the details of the next three paragraphs. Tell the children that Absalom's brother did something terrible, and Absalom decided to get back at his brother. Absalom made a wrong decision too. He ran away to his grandfather's palace and did not see his father David for three years.]
4. Absalom had a beautiful sister named Tamar. One day Tamar was attacked and mistreated by their half-brother Amnon. Absalom was very angry but waited until the “right time” to seek vengeance (pay Amnon back). Two years later, Absalom invited all of King David's sons to come to a feast where his sheep-shearers were. David did not want all of his sons to go to Absalom, so Absalom requested that only Amnon come. At first David seemed surprised by this request, but eventually agreed to let Amnon and his other sons go to the feast.
5. On Absalom's orders, his servants killed Amnon at the feast, and Absalom ran away to his grandfather, the King of Geshur. The entire family of David was grief-stricken by Amnon's death (2 Samuel 13:36). But David was just as sorrowful that his handsome and talented son Absalom had plotted to kill his own brother. For three years Absalom stayed with his grandfather, and during that entire time, David mourned for Absalom.

6. Joab, the captain of David’s army, persuaded David (2 Samuel 14) to bring Absalom home, possibly against his will (2 Samuel 14:32). David agreed, and Joab brought Absalom home to Jerusalem. This was a sign to everyone that King David would not punish Absalom, nor would the King allow anyone to seek revenge for Amnon’s murder. Absalom came back to Jerusalem, but he did not see or talk to his father David for two more years. When David agreed to see Absalom again, they had an emotional reunion (2 Samuel 14:33).
7. But Absalom did not show respect for his father as the King of Israel. He was so “full of himself” that he could only see things were not going his way. After regaining David’s confidence, he began plotting again—this time to take over the kingdom David had built. Absalom used his personal appearance, charisma, and personal appeal to gain supporters from the people. He worked hard, “politicking” among the people until he “stole the hearts of the men of Israel” (2 Samuel 15:6). Even one of David’s closest advisors, Ahithophel, joined Absalom. Absalom went to Hebron where he gathered men for his own army, declared himself to be King, and then went to Jerusalem to forcibly take away the kingdom of Israel from his father.
8. David and all his followers, including the 600 loyal men who had been with him in the wilderness (1 Samuel 23:13; 25:13), hurriedly left Jerusalem (much like the refugees from war-torn countries we see on TV). This mass of people (thousands, according to 2 Samuel 18:1) fled from Jerusalem to Mahanaim, east of the Jordan (a city of the Levites). David regrouped his soldiers and prepared to defend his people. Absalom and his troops (mainly defectors from David’s army) pursued David and his followers across the Jordan River.
9. Joab and two other trusted friends of David led the Israelite army to fight against Absalom’s forces. But David did not want his son Absalom harmed. “Deal gently for my sake with the young man Absalom,” David said repeatedly. The battle did not go well for Absalom’s army; 20,000 men died that day! (If that many died, consider how large his army must have been!) Many died trying to run away through the forests (2 Samuel 18:8), including Absalom.
10. As Absalom was riding his mule, he rode under an oak tree, and his head (either his beautiful thick hair or his neck) got caught in a branch. He hanged there, suspended in the air, until Joab came along with ten other men (armor bearers for Joab) and killed him with spears.
11. When Absalom’s soldiers heard that he was dead, they all ran away. Joab and his men buried Absalom’s body in a pit in the forest and covered the pit with a large mound of stones. When David got the news of Absalom’s death, he was heartbroken once again.



**NOTE:** Read 2 Samuel 18:33 together. Remind the older children that years before, when David took another man’s wife, God told him, through Nathan the prophet, that his family would always be plagued by problems because of his sin.

12. David was called “a man after God’s own heart” in his earlier days. He respected authority. He was humble and loved God very much. He was not a perfect man, but he was eager to repent and do right when he sinned. But most of his sons (just like those of Samuel and Eli) did not learn to live for God as he did. Absalom was a young man who showed no respect for his father; he was arrogant and self-centered, more interested in what **he** wanted than in doing what was right.
13. Much like Absalom, there are many in our world today who are young, popular, famous, rich, handsome, or pretty. Too often we look up to actors, athletes, models, and others who are popular. We need to be careful about following the example of anyone else but Jesus, the Perfect Example. As the apostle Paul said, “Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ” (1 Corinthians 11:1). [With

school-age children, discuss people they look up to and why. Using Ephesians 5:1-5, see if role models measure up to God’s standards.]

**PRE-CLASS ACTIVITIES/LEARNING CENTERS (TO BE USED AS CHILDREN ARE ARRIVING—BEFORE CLASS, AND UP TO THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES OF CLASS; OR AS HOMEWORK):**

- Click here for complete [Activity Book](#) and [Answer key](#).

**Ages 2-5:**

- “[Absalom Coloring Sheet](#)” (provided in activity sheets)
- “Simon Says” or “Follow the Leader” game to illustrate what it means to imitate someone else.
- Fishing for Answers Game: Write review questions on fish cutouts. Put a magnet or piece of magnetic tape on the back of each fish. Put the fish in a large tub or bowl. Attach a string with a magnet on the end to a long stick or fishing pole. Have children “fish” for review questions. ([Fish cutouts](#) provided in activity sheets)
- Doing What Is Good Craft: Give each child a cutout of a boy or girl. (Cutouts can be purchased in tablets or packets from teacher’s supply stores or Teacher’s Discovery catalogs or found online. [Boy](#) and [Girl](#) cutouts also provided in activity sheets.) Let the children decorate their cutouts to look like themselves, then glue their cutouts onto a colored piece of construction paper on which you have written, “I will do what is right” (3 John 11).

**1st-2nd Graders:**

- “Simon Says” or “Follow the Leader” game to illustrate what it means to imitate someone else. Talk about people the students want to imitate and why.
- Fishing for Answers Game: Write review questions on fish cutouts. Put a magnet or piece of magnetic tape on the back of each fish. Put the fish in a large tub or bowl. Attach a string with a magnet on the end to a long stick or fishing pole. Have children “fish” for review questions. ([Fish cutouts](#) provided in activity sheets; [O.T. 6 Review Questions](#) also provided)
- “[Absalom Word Search](#)” (provided in activity sheets)
- Write the memory verse on cards, with one or two words on each card. Scramble all the cards on the table and ask the children to put the words in order. (Younger children may need to look at the verse on the board; older children can look it up in their Bibles.) You can also put magnetic tape on the back of each card and scramble them on a magnetic board. (“[Memory Verse](#)” cutouts provided in activity sheets)

**3rd-4th Graders:**

- “[Absalom Word Search](#)” (provided in activity sheets)
- Write the memory verse on cards, with one or two words on each card. Scramble all the cards on the table and ask the children to put the words in order. You can also put magnetic tape on the back of each card and scramble them on a magnetic board. (“[Memory Verse](#)” cutouts provided in activity sheets)
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- Provide Bible concordances for the students to work in pairs or small groups. Ask them to find Scriptures where the word “evil” is used. **Or** ask them to think of one or two Bible characters who were evil or good, then use the concordances to find Scripture(s) about those characters.
- Have the children read 2 Samuel 13-20 (as well as 11-12, if they have not done so this quarter). [This could be assigned Sunday, to be completed by Wednesday.] Print out copies of the 2 Samuel 11-15 and 16-20 quizzes from AP’s [Advanced Bible Reader](#) site for the children to take.

## SONGS:

### “BE UNSELFISH” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Jeff Miller

(Tune: “Mary Had a Little Lamb”)

Jesus taught *a-gap-e* love, *a-gap-e* love, *a-gap-e* love.  
Jesus taught *a-gap-e* love: be unselfish!

### “ABSALOM” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Jeff Miller

(Tune: “London Bridge is Falling Down”)

Absalom was David’s son, his  
Brother’s name, was Amnon.  
Absalom ha-ted Amnon.  
So, he killed him.

Absalom then ran away,  
For three years, to Grandpa’s place.  
When he came back he did take,  
David’s kingdom.

Soon a battle had begun, and  
A tree caught, Absalom.  
Joab killed him while he hung.  
David missed him.

\*Author Unknown: Please contact us through the feedback button for this lesson if you are aware of any copyright information for this song.

\*\*\* IF YOU HAVE SUGGESTIONS PERTAINING TO THIS LESSON, PLEASE CLICK THE “SUGGESTION” BUTTON BESIDE THE BUTTON FOR THIS LESSON ON THE CURRICULUM WEB SITE.







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2 Samuel 13-19



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## WEDNESDAY EVENING

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## PERSONAL APPLICATION:

I should be careful about trying to be like other people. The only perfect example (role model) for me to follow is Jesus.

## INTRODUCTION:

Review [O.T 6 Bible Fact Flash Cards](#) (provided under “O.T. 6 Bible Facts” on curriculum Web site)

## POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

Review Sunday’s lesson. (See [O.T. 6 Review Questions](#) for example questions.).

Talk more about good role models and also the devastating effects of pride. With OLDER CHILDREN: Discuss Proverbs 16:18 (“Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.”).

## PRE-CLASS ACTIVITIES/LEARNING CENTERS (TO BE USED AS CHILDREN ARE ARRIVING—**BEFORE** CLASS, AND UP TO THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES OF CLASS; OR AS HOMEWORK):

See Sunday morning’s lesson.

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