



# The Grove

BIBLE CHAPEL

• TAMPA •

## LIFEGROUP RESOURCES: 05.04.25 Pulpit Curriculum

### God, Sovereign Over All

Main passage: 2 Samuel 17

#### 1) Ahithophel's Counsel Offered (v. 1-4)

- David commits adultery with Bathsheba and arranges the death of her husband Uriah, leading to chaos and severe consequences in his household. His son Absalom later rebels against him, seizing the throne and forcing David to flee Jerusalem, sparking a civil conflict within Israel (2 Sam. 11–16; Ps. 63). Absalom seeks counsel on how to defeat David from Ahithophel (Bathsheba's grandfather), who is esteemed by David and seen as giving godly advice (2 Sam. 16:33). Ahithophel provides artful, military counsel that is informed by his personal desire for vengeance and would likely lead to David's downfall. After hearing Ahithophel's advice, Absalom wants a second opinion.
- A. When you're faced with advice or influence from others, how can you discern whether it's wise and godly or driven by hidden agenda?
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#### 2) Hushai Defeats Ahithophel (v. 5-13)

- Absalom seeks counsel from Hushai. Absalom is unaware that, after David fled Jerusalem, he sent Hushai back to pretend loyalty to Absalom. Hushai secretly remained loyal to David and used his position to gather intelligence and subtly undermine Absalom's plans. In 2 Sam. 15:31, David prayed that Ahithophel's counsel would be foolishness. Hushai plays on Absalom's ego/pride and counsels him to gather troops and lead them into battle so that he can experience the glory for himself, and in so doing, Hushai defeats Ahithophel.
- B. How can you guard your heart against flattery and make decisions rooted in wisdom rather than ego? \_\_\_\_\_
- C. When faced with difficult choices or influence from others, how can you seek God's wisdom before acting? \_\_\_\_\_

#### 3) God's Powerful Protection v. 14

- God is working and being faithful to His covenant with David (2 Sam. 7:1-16). God promised to protect David and to establish His kingdom through him. David demonstrates a whole-hearted passion for God despite his inclination toward sin (Ps. 3, 41, 55, 63). God is faithful to His promises (1 Sam. 28:17; 2 Sam. 3:18, 5:2, 7:12-16).
- D. How does God show that He is keeping His covenant promises to David?
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- E. What's one way you can respond to God's faithfulness this week—with trust, obedience, or worship? \_\_\_\_\_



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## 4) David's Friends Help v. 15-29

- David's friends were faithful and loyal to him in his time of crisis. Despite his failures, his friends stood by him at great personal risk to protect God's purposes that would be accomplished through David (e.g. Zadok, Abiathar, Jonathan, Ahimaaz, the servant girl).
  - Ahithophel commits suicide, tragically ending the life of a man who had been honoring God only a few chapters prior. He took care of the matters of the world ("set his house in order") but neglected the matters of the soul (2 Sam. 17:23).
- F. How did the loyalty and actions of David's friends contribute to protecting David and furthering God's plan? \_\_\_\_\_
- G. What are practical steps you can take this week to better care for matters of the soul that you have been neglecting? \_\_\_\_\_

## 5) God's Sovereignty

- It was David who prayed and worked, but God who willed and chose. God's will is the final arbiter and authority on what is ordained. God is at work in and through the free acts of man, but His will is the final cause of everything that happens. It is all superintended and activated by the divine purposes of God.
  - Compatibilism- the interplay between the sovereignty of God and the responsibility of man. It is God's working together with man's true moral agency to accomplish His sovereign will without God purposing sin or violence done to man's moral agency. (Acts. 2:23, 4:27-28; Job 42:1-2)
  - Sovereignty verses
    - Deity is sovereign- Ps. 103:19; 115:3
    - Over the small stuff- Prov. 16:33
    - Over nature- Is. 46:9-11
    - Over human affairs- Dan. 4:35
    - Sovereign in salvation- Rom. 9:15, 16
    - Sovereign over all- Eph. 1:11
  - Faithful responses
    - Be realistic- humble yourself
    - Refuse to stiffen your neck- submit
    - Rest- relax and wait (Ps. 11:7; Col. 1:27)
    - Rely- trust
- H. How does the concept of compatibilism explain how God's will was accomplished through the actions of David, Absalom, and others? \_\_\_\_\_
- I. How does the truth of God's sovereignty give you comfort and security, knowing that even in uncertain or difficult circumstances, He is still in control? \_\_\_\_\_
- J. How can you respond to God's sovereignty in your own life by aligning your choices with His will and trusting that He is ultimately in control, even when outcomes are uncertain? \_\_\_\_\_