



# The Grove

BIBLE CHAPEL

• TAMPA •

## LIFEGROUP RESOURCES: Pulpit Curriculum (05.25.2025)

### Factions, Forgiveness, and Friends

Main passage: 2 Samuel 19:8-43

#### 1) Factions within Israel Start to Form (v 9-15, 41-43)

- God's design for the church is for us to be in unity through much diligence (Eph 4:3). Although David's original ascent to the throne was through the southern tribes (Judah, Benjamin) and confirmed through all Israel (2 Sam 5), his return was met with difficulty from Judah. David had engaged in high handed sin, and the natural consequences of sin followed. As a result of David's sin, he lost the respect of the people, was internally jeopardized, and lost the advocacy of the Lord.
- A moment of sinful pleasure is not worth the lifetime of consequences. Additionally, factions are also sinful and frowned upon in the scripture (Prov 6:19; 16:27-30; Gal 5:14-15, 19).

- A. Consider Ephesians 4:3. What are some ways one can be diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace? \_\_\_\_\_
- B. When someone claims to be a believer, how does unrepentant sin mute their testimony? \_\_\_\_\_
- C. What are some indicators of factions or factious people? When we see this in the church, how should we respond? Why is it important to go up the ladder to leadership? \_\_\_\_\_

#### 2) Forgiveness shows God's grace (v 16-23)

- As David previously fled from Absalom, Shimei cursed and threw down stones at David as he departed Jerusalem (2 Sam 16). Shimei knew what he did was wrong, sought David to repent, and pleaded for David's mercy.
- Shimei's Example of Repentance
  - Heartfelt (v18) – he was sincere and showed godly sorrow (2 Cor 7:10)
  - Ownership (v19) – he took responsibility for his actions
  - Plain (v20) – he didn't try to sugarcoat - he sinned
  - Energetic (v20) – he did not shy away from the truth, but faced it head-on
- For a relationship to be restored, genuine repentance needs to encounter a forgiving spirit. In order to foster a spirit of forgiveness, we must get out of our own



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way, be aware of our own failures, & be unoffendable. We must know that with God, we can handle the offense, and not judge the motive of people's hearts. Too often we find ourselves sitting on the judgement seat instead of the mercy seat.

- D. Describe in your own words the difference between godly sorrow and worldly sorrow. \_\_\_\_\_
- E. Our walk as Christians is a life of repentance and reliance on the Person, work, and words of Jesus Christ. Why is repentance as vital to newborn and mature Christians alike? \_\_\_\_\_
- F. Repentance is not merely fleeing from sin, but pursuing Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior? What burden are you carrying that you need to repent of? Who can you share that with this week? \_\_\_\_\_

### 3) Friends are faithful to David through it all (v 24-40)

- Mephibosheth (v24-30): Mephibosheth was the son of Saul. David made a foolish judgement based on Ziba's deceit (2 Sam 16:1-4), and David still falls short in making it right. Sometimes we are quick to make judgements without patiently weighing information, which is what David did in this case (Prov 18:13, 17). Despite David's hasty oath with Ziba, Mephibosheth forgives David and was pleased the king had returned safely.
- Barzillai (v31-40): Barzillai provided for David and his men in Mahanaim as they were fleeing Absalom (2 Sam 17:27-29). Barzillai was old in age and did not want to burden the king. David blessed Barzillai and honored his request to take Chimham in Barzillai's place to Jerusalem.

- G. Have you ever been quick to judge a situation with a friend or loved one? What are some lessons we can apply from Proverbs 18:13, 17 when this happens? \_\_\_\_\_
- H. The predication of all ministry is built on relationship – Intimate Christian Friendships. Who are your intimate Christian friends that you can call when you are battling sin? What could cause believers to refuse developing Christian friendships? \_\_\_\_\_