



# The Grove

BIBLE CHAPEL

• TAMPA •

## LIFEGROUP RESOURCES: 11.10.24 Pulpit Curriculum

### Absalom's Rise

Main passage: 2 Samuel 15

#### 1) Absalom's Politics (v 1-6):

- Absalom was brought back to Jerusalem into public life, beginning with a show of force upon a military procession of chariots. Absalom placed himself at the gate, the center of the public social life among the people. As a false image of being with the people, he slandered his father, the king, undermining David's authority. Absalom's politicking exposed David's weakness for his own benefit to win the hearts of the people. Four observations related to "after this": (1) he devises a means to betray his own father (2) it was unnecessary because he was heir apparent (3) he was impatient (4) and he had a vengeful spirit, twisting the good will of David to bring Absalom back for his own good. We should let all bitterness be put away from us and make no provision for the flesh (Eph 4:31) without gossip and murmuring slander (Prov 26:20-22; 16:9)

A. How does gossip and murmuring sew discord and disunity in the church? How should we respond to bitterness from within? \_\_\_\_\_

B. How do you bring something consequential to church leadership? What does it mean to take it "up the ladder"? \_\_\_\_\_

#### 2) Absalom's Betrayal (v 7-12)

- Absalom lies to David (father and king), invoking the name of the Lord in vain as a cover to initiate his insurrection, fulfilling a promise from God to David (2 Sam 12:11). We should not use the name of the Lord to support our own agenda, presenting ourselves in a godly way as a veneer to cover wickedness. Despite David's trouble in light of Absalom's betrayal, David cast all his anxieties on God (Psalm 3). In order to have the peace of God, we must have peace *with* God in salvation through repentance and faith.

C. What are some dangers when others invoke God while serving their own needs? How can we respond? \_\_\_\_\_



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D. How do you generally respond when you are overwhelmed? What is your sin pattern when under pressure? Take time to meditate on David's response to Absalom's betrayal (Psalm 3): \_\_\_\_\_

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E. How do you know that you know that you and God are on good terms? Take time to reflect, pray, and share about God's providence in your own life. \_\_\_\_\_

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### 3) David's Retreat (v 13-37)

- David knew his guilt and exemplified a heart of tenderness toward others in the face of this trial. His departure from Israel is drawn into 5 vignettes.
  - Household (v 13-17) – David did not want to drag his family through a conflict with his own son
  - Warriors (v 18-23) – Ittiah the Gittite and the warriors from Gath displayed more loyalty than Absalom, his own son
  - Priests (v 24-28) – Abiathar and Zadok offer to bring the Ark, but David appeals to keep the Ark safe in Jerusalem. He knew that he didn't need the Ark that represented God, but the advocacy of God Himself in his life. David appealed to God's providence
  - Hushai (v32-37) – David prayed that God would turn the counsel of Ahithophel to foolishness AND relied upon his godly friend Hushai to defeat Ahithophel's counsel.
  - David (v 23, 30, 31) – David is broken. The brook of Kidron means "place of darkness, shadows, and sorrows." Jesus would walk the same path of sorrow on the night He was betrayed.

F. Who are your loyal (OTWATR) relationships? Describe them for your LG and how they are life giving? \_\_\_\_\_

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G. How is your relationship with God characterized (by circumstances, what you know, or what you do)? Is it characterized by a desire to know God and finding joy in his normal means of grace despite the circumstances? What are some practical ways can you know God better? \_\_\_\_\_

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