

# ABSALOM: David's Wayward Son

study #10



## THE LIFE OF DAVID: Cultivating a Heart for God

David's relationship with his son Absalom and the events surrounding the rebellion make up perhaps the most painful years of the King's life. He "survived" his sins, but the consequences of his mistakes were to wreak havoc upon his family life. In David we see mirrored the struggles of every man who has a family that is out of control.

**O** my son  
Absalom!  
My son, my son  
Absalom! If only  
I had died  
instead of you -  
O Absalom, my  
son, my son!"

### Read 2 Samuel 3:3

- ◆ Where was Absalom born?
- ◆ To whom?
- ◆ What was unusual about the mother?
- ◆ What does "Absalom" mean?

| Chapters in<br>2 Samuel                     | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Major<br>Events:<br>what happened?          |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| What does this<br>tell me about<br>Absalom? |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| What does this<br>tell me about<br>David?   |    |    |    |    |    |    |



Read **Psalm 3**.

How did it feel for David to be running from his own son?

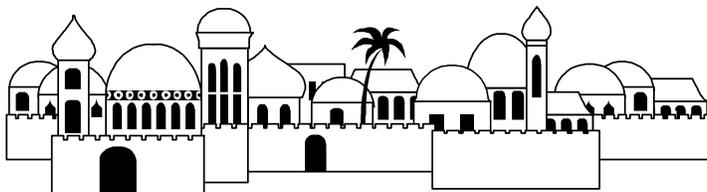
How does all of this relate to God's response to David's sin with Bathsheba and Uriah?

*“The tragedy in the life of King David was no more evident than in the sorrows his own sons heaped upon his head. And it was in Absalom that he reaped the bitterest harvest of all.”*

Charles Gulston,  
David: Shepherd & King

What do you notice about David's style of relating to his family, especially to his sons?

Although we realize that none of us is perfect, do you think David could have done a better job of dealing with Absalom? How could he have been more of the father Absalom needed?





**LIFE RESPONSE:  
What Does it Mean to Me?**

“Children today are tyrants. They contradict their parents, gobble their food, and tyrannize their teachers.”

Socrates,  
400 BC

- ◆ Of all of life’s hardships, personal relationships probably have the potential to be the most painful. What relationships have caused you the most heartache?

- ◆ Likewise, relationships in one's own family probably have the potential to affect us most. Do you see any lessons to be learned (positive or negative) from David’s pain?

*“Making the decision to have a child is momentous. It is to decide forever to have your heart go walking around outside your body.”*

Elizabeth Stone

- ◆ David sought refuge in God when he hurt, and often his outlet was to write a psalm. Try your hand at writing a poem about your longings to be a better father, or spouse, or for God to heal the wound of some broken relationship.

