



A DAY WITH THE
KING

This week we will study about the lives of some of David's children and the consequences of sin.



Torchlight

"The prosperity of Israel under David had been due to the blessing of God rather than the ability of her king or the strength of her armies. But the increasing of the military resources of the kingdom would give the impression to surrounding nations that Israel's trust was in her armies, and not in the power of Jehovah." – Patriarchs & Prophets p. 747



A DAY WITH THE
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The King's Children



SUNDAY

LET'S PRAY Dear God, thank You for my family. Please help me to be kind and thoughtful to my brothers and sisters. I pray You will help me shine for You so people can see Jesus in me. In Jesus' name, Amen.

MEMORY VERSE - EPHESIANS 2:4

“But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us.”

THERE'S **POWER** IN THE WORD!

LET'S READ:

2 Samuel 12:24-25
& 13:1-33



LET'S THINK ABOUT THIS

Even though Solomon was born into a controversial situation, God loved him and he was given the special name 'Jedidiah' that meant 'Beloved by the LORD'. God is so merciful. He can always bring something good out of something bad. Because David had lots of children from different wives, the children were always in conflict with one another. Our reading in chapter 13 is not a pleasant one. One of David's wives named Maacah had two children, a boy named Absalom and a daughter named Tamar. Now Tamar apparently was a beautiful girl. Tamar's half-brother, Amon, who was David's first-born son to another wife, fell in love with Tamar. Verses 2 and 12 tell us this was not the right thing for Amon to be thinking. Tragically, Amon raped his half-sister, which brought much shame and grief to Tamar. Their father, king David, was very angry when he found out the news, but he did not



discipline his son, as he should have. In fact, he was not good at disciplining any of his sons. Two years passed in which time Absalom brooded and plotted revenge on his half-brother for what he did to his sister. An opportunity presented itself and Absalom had his brother Amon murdered by his servants. As prophesied, Amon was David's second son to die.

Amon had been given a two-year period after his crime to think about what he had done and repent but he chose not to. Like his father, David, if he had asked God to forgive him for his sin God would have forgiven him. God asks us to repent of our sins. Look at *Ezekiel 18:30*.

FIND A WORD

In our reading today how many times did the word 'brother' appear?

WHAT DID YOU LEARN TODAY WITH THE KING?





MONDAY

LET'S PRAY Dear Lord, please forgive me for my sins and help me to forgive others. Help me to trust that You will take care of the troubles in my life. I love you Lord. In Jesus' name, Amen.

MEMORY VERSE - EPHESIANS 2:4

“But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us.”

THERE'S **POWER** IN THE WORD!

LET'S READ:

2 Samuel 13:34-39

& 14:23-33



LET'S THINK ABOUT THIS

After Absalom killed his half-brother, he fled to Gershur and stayed with his grandfather, King Talmi. David was in a difficult position. He wanted to see his son Absalom, but, at the same time, as a punishment for killing his half-brother Amnon, Absalom needed to stay in exile. So Absalom remained in Gershur for three years. Joab, David's commander, could see David's distress and decided to enlist the help of a wise woman to encourage David to bring Absalom back to Jerusalem. However, there was a condition – Absalom was not allowed to see his father. The Bible tells us that Absalom was a very handsome man and was known for his beautiful hair. After two years had gone by, Absalom had still not seen his father. Absalom tried on two occasions to see Joab to find out why he could not see him. Absalom, tired of no response from Joab, set Joab's field on fire, which brought Joab immediately to Absalom. Absalom requested an audience with his father, which Joab organized and, after five years, reconciliation finally happened. However, for Absalom it was only superficial. During the previous five years Absalom had become bitter and plotted ways in which could take his father's throne. Absalom probably thought he was doing the right thing and that it would make things better if he killed his half-brother for the criminal act he did to his sister Tamar. Things did not get better but only worse. God's wisdom is much better than our own human wisdom. I think there is a lesson there for us!



FIND A WORD

In today's Bible reading how many times did the name 'Gershur' appear? _____

WHAT DID YOU LEARN TODAY WITH THE KING?





TUESDAY

LET'S PRAY Dearest Heavenly Father, help me to understand what I read in the Bible today. Please help me to make wise decisions today so the choices I make are the right ones. Thank You for loving me so much.
In Jesus' name, Amen.

MEMORY VERSE - EPHESIANS 2:4

“But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us.”

THERE'S **POWER** IN THE WORD!

LET'S READ:

2 Samuel 15:1-37



LET'S THINK ABOUT THIS

Our reading today tells us that Absalom started to undermine David's leadership as king of Israel. Absalom would stand at the city gate and would greet the people and would tell them that, if he were king, he would do a better job than his father. Verse 6 tells us that Absalom stole the hearts of Israel. Absalom rallied support at Hebron, just south of Jerusalem, pretending that he was going to Hebron to pay a vow to God. Verse 12 mentions a man named Ahithophel, who was one of David's wise counsellors. In revenge for what David did to his granddaughter, Bathsheba, he went to support David's son Absalom instead. On hearing that his son was plotting to take his throne, David fled Jerusalem with his family, servants and army so his beautiful city would not experience the bloodshed of war. David walked out of Jerusalem in bare feet and his head covered and grieving greatly for what was occurring. The priests Zaddok and Abiathar with the Levites joined David's procession with the Ark of the Covenant. But David sent them back to Jerusalem as he knew that God had not instructed him to take the Ark with him. Hushai, another wise but trusted counsellor, also wanted to join David but David sent him back to offer his wise experience to his son Absalom and to counteract any suggestions of the traitor Ahithophel. What a mess. David could have saved himself from a lot of heartache and trouble if he had only walked away from temptation with Bathsheba. It's something for all of us to think about!



FIND A WORD

In today's reading how many times does the word 'king' appear?

WHAT DID YOU LEARN TODAY WITH THE KING?





WEDNESDAY

LET'S PRAY Dear Father, please send the Holy Spirit to help me discern right from wrong. Please help me to claim the promises in the Bible as I know there power is in the Word. Guide and direct me today.
In Jesus' name, Amen.

MEMORY VERSE - EPHESIANS 2:4

“But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us.”

THERE'S **POWER** IN THE WORD!

LET'S READ:

2 Samuel 16:5-23
& 17:1-4



LET'S THINK ABOUT THIS

Today we read that sometime during David's escape from Jerusalem a man named Shimei, a Benjamite from the house of Saul, came and cursed David and his travelling companions. The Bible tells us that he threw stones at them and falsely accused David saying that all this tragedy which had now come upon him was because of what he did to Saul. We know this to be false because our previous devotionals tell us that David had opportunity to kill Saul twice but refused to do so. Even through all the persecution that Saul had heaped upon David, David had chosen not to harm Saul, who had been anointed by God to be king. One of David's servants offered to kill Shimei for treating David so terribly. David humbly refused to allow harm to come to this man. He would leave the situation in God's hands.



Meanwhile, Absalom and the rebel army entered Jerusalem with no resistance. David had left ten of his wives in his palace in Jerusalem when he fled. The first piece of evil advice Ahithophel gave Absalom was to bring terrible shame on David's wives. This was prophesied back in 2 Samuel 12:11-12 after David's sin with Bathsheba. Ahithophel also advised Absalom to go immediately after David and capture him in his weakest moment. David wrote a psalm, or song, of his experience when he fled Jerusalem. Read it in *Psalms 3:1-8*.

FIND A WORD

In today's Bible reading how many times did the name 'Absalom' appear? _____

WHAT DID YOU LEARN TODAY WITH THE KING?





THURSDAY

LET'S PRAY Dear God, I praise You for the blessings You have sent me today. Help me to be kind to others, even when they have not been kind to me. Please help me to have a stronger relationship with You through praying to You more often. In Jesus' name, Amen.

MEMORY VERSE - EPHESIANS 2:4

“But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us.”

THERE'S **POWER** IN THE WORD!

LET'S READ:

2 Samuel 17:5-29
& 18:1-9



LET'S THINK ABOUT THIS

Our reading today tells us that Absalom also decided to seek advice from Hushai. Hushai knew if Absalom carried out Ahithophel's advice David would be destroyed. He therefore decided to buy David some time. Hushai advised Absalom to gather a bigger army from all over Israel and lead the battle in person. Miraculously Absalom liked Hushai's advice over Ahithophel's which gave Hushai time to send a message through the priest's sons to tell David to cross over the Jordan River immediately. Tragically, we read in verse 23 that Athithophel, seeing that his advice was not heeded, committed suicide. After crossing the Jordan, David and his large group went to seek refuge at the city of Mahanaim where they were kindly welcomed. Absalom followed over the Jordan not long after in pursuit of his father. David wanted to lead out in battle with his army but his people would not let him. So, he stayed behind. Before the army went into battle, David, with deep love in his heart for his son, asked his army to deal gently with Absalom. David's mighty army defeated Absalom's poorly trained army. The battle was fought in the woods and claimed many lives. Verse 9 tells us that Absalom got his head and beautiful hair caught in a tree and was left hanging in mid-air. What a fix Absalom found himself in. So far there is no record in the Bible that Absalom sought the Lord or talked and prayed regularly to God. Having a relationship with God is the most important thing you can do in Your life. Seek Him today!



FIND A WORD

In today's reading how many times was the name 'Jordan' mentioned? _____

WHAT DID YOU LEARN TODAY WITH THE KING?





FRIDAY

LET'S PRAY Dear Lord, thank You for taking care of me this past week. Please help me to be helpful to my family as we prepare for Your Sabbath. I pray that you please give me a joyful, happy heart. In Jesus' name, Amen.

MEMORY VERSE - EPHESIANS 2:4

“But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us.”

THERE'S **POWER** IN THE WORD!

LET'S READ:

2 Samuel 18:10-18, 33
& 19:1-18



LET'S THINK ABOUT THIS

When Joab was told Absalom was suspended in a tree he went and killed him as the soldiers were too scared to do it. When king David heard the news, he went off by himself and wept bitterly for his son. The soldiers, instead of coming back from the battle celebrating their victory, came back frightened of what David would say because of what happened to Absalom. Joab went to David and reminded him that he had to think of his people and country above the death of his son. He pointed out that his soldiers risked their lives to protect his kingdom. After this rebuke from Joab, David got up and dutifully welcomed his soldiers home in victory. David sent messages to the high priests Zadok and Abiathar to have them rebuke the leaders for not bringing their king back to Jerusalem. Then the elders of Judah invited David back to continue his rule as king. As prophesised, Absalom was David's third son to die. Even though David was aware of this it didn't make it any easier for him. It gave David great grief and pain to lose his sons knowing it was his sin that had caused it.



FIND A WORD

In today's reading how many times does the name 'Joab' appear?

WHAT DID YOU LEARN TODAY WITH THE KING?





SABBATH

LET'S PRAY Dear Father, thank You for the Sabbath Day. Help me get to know You better today as I spend time with You. Help me to be a blessing to someone today. In Jesus' name, Amen.

MEMORY VERSE - EPHESIANS 2:4

“But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us.”

THERE'S **POWER** IN THE WORD!

LET'S READ:

1 Chronicles 21:1-30



THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Our reading today tells us that pride moved on David's heart. David wanted to follow the customs of the countries around him by counting his people across the Israelite nation so he would know how many fighting men he had. Even Joab, David's commander, knew that it shouldn't be done. Our torchlight tells us that God wanted the nation of Israel to depend on Him to fight their battles. He didn't want them to depend on the numbers of their army. Verse 7 tells us that God was not happy with David's decision. David was convicted of his sin and repented. God sent the prophet Gad to David to give him three choices of punishment. David had to choose between three years of famine, three months of war with his enemy or three days' punishment from God. David decided to receive three days' punishment from God as he knew God was more merciful. Verse 14 tells us that God sent a plague which killed 70,000 men. An angel appeared with a drawn sword about to destroy Jerusalem but David, upon seeing this, bowed down before God in sackcloth and pleaded to Him on behalf of Israel saying it was his fault and that the people should not suffer because of him. David was directed by God to build an altar at the threshing floor of Ornan and offer burnt offerings to Him for his sin. This David did, and God accepted the offerings with fire. Verse 27 tells us that the Angel returned his sword to its sheath and Jerusalem was spared.



SABBATH QUIZ

1. Who was the prophet that God sent to point out David's sin in numbering the people? _____
2. Where did Absalom flee to after he killed his half-brother?

3. Whose fields did Absalom burn to get his attention? _____
4. Where did the battle occur between Absalom and David?

5. Whose threshing floor did David buy to build an altar to God?
