

ABSALOM REBELS

2 Samuel 14—16

Lesson Memory Verses: Ephesians 6:1-2 “Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. **Honor your father and mother;** (which is the first commandment with promise).” (Children in grades 1 and 2 only need to memorize the bold words.)

Lesson Aim: Children are to obey and respect their parents.

Lesson Plan: Use the KEY – HE – SEE – WE – BE plan (explained in the Introductory Notes).

KEY (for Attention): I am going to tell you a story about a boy whose father was very wealthy and lived in a large attractive home. The boy was handsome and very popular among his friends. He had some brothers, but none of them were as handsome or as popular as he was.

On a day that none of his family wants to remember, one of his brothers committed a serious crime and disgraced the whole family. His father was very angry with his son, but he did not punish him. He let him get away with a sharp scolding. This made the popular boy very angry; he felt his brother should have been punished more harshly for disgracing the family. He thought that his father was wrong and he told his father how he felt, but his father told him to forget it and let him handle his brother. Well, the son did not obey his father; he would not forget it. He thought that he was smarter than his father, so he made plans to punish his brother like he deserved. He caught his brother and whipped him until he was bleeding badly. This made his father very angry with him.

Now he began to hate his father. He felt that his father was unfair to him. To make himself feel better, he told lies about his father and his friends believed him. His friends agreed with him that his father was not a good man. They began to hate his father for the way he treated their friend. They became so hateful of him that they broke into his business place, stole some of his valuable equipment and set the building on fire. But that was not enough to satisfy their hatred of him. They wanted to hurt him for hurting their friend. They made plans to attack him as a mob and beat him with clubs. The police learned about their plans and saved the father from their attack. They were caught and after that they discovered that this boy and his friends were responsible for setting his father's business place on fire. They were convicted and sentenced to be in prison for several years. In prison the son felt the whole world was against him and he killed himself in his cell. His problems began when he disrespected his father.

HE (for Authority): Let's look at our memory verses for today and learn how we should treat our parents. First, I will read the verses and then I want you to tell me how children should treat their parents. (Obey them.) Why should children obey their parents? (It is the right thing to do.) How else should children treat their parents? (Honor them or respect them.) Why do you think they should obey and respect their parents? (The Lord will be pleased with them and they will have peace and joy in their lives.)

SEE (for Apperception) and WE (for Application): PLEASE do not read these comments until you have read the Scriptures for this lesson. First let the Holy Spirit teach you directly from His Word. Today's story will tell us how Absalom, David's son, rebelled against his father and tried to steal the kingdom from him.

I. Absalom Steals the People's Hearts (14:25 – 15:6)

Absalom was a very handsome young man, and he was proud of it. Everyone who saw him said he was the most handsome man in Israel (14:25). He grew so proud of himself that he decided to act like he was very important, even more important than his father. He hired 50 men to run before him in the streets, and rode a chariot wherever he went so that everyone would notice and admire him.

WE: We must not be proud, because it is a sin to be proud. The Lord will resist (oppose) a proud person, but He will lift up a humble person (1 Pet 5:5-6).

Absalom also impressed people by telling them things that they liked to hear about themselves. He also told the people how good he would be to them. He told the people with problems that his father had not appointed anyone to help them; but he would take care of them, if he were the king (15:3-4). By the end of four years, a lot of people believed Absalom and wanted him to be king instead of his father.

WE: If we lie about our parents, we are not honoring them; we think that we are better than them. This will not please the Lord; He will not bless us with His favor and rewards.

II. Absalom Steals his Father's Throne (15:7-12)

When Absalom decided that enough people were for him, he went to David and asked permission to leave Jerusalem and go to Hebron to pay a vow that he had made to the Lord. This was a lie. What he really did in Hebron was to proclaim himself as king over Israel. Then he gathered an army and started back to Jerusalem where he would overthrow his father and rule Israel.

WE: We must not lie. That is sin. It is a lie to tell your parents that you are going to a certain place to do something good, when you are going to some other place to do something bad. Tell them the truth and the Lord will be pleased with you.

III. Absalom Steals his Father's Home (15:13 – 16-23)

When David heard what Absalom had done, he knew that he had to leave Jerusalem or it would be destroyed in a battle with Absalom's soldiers. So he gathered together all those who were still loyal to him, and prepared to leave the city. His best soldiers went with him, and so did his friends. But David was wise, and left some of his friends behind to spy on Absalom so they could tell him the plans of Absalom against him. David even left one of his best counselors behind so that he could help David by giving Absalom bad advice. This man's name was Hushai.

After David left the city, a man began to follow him and attacked him by throwing stones at him. This was Shimei. Since David's own son had rebelled against him, Shimei must have thought it was all right if he rebelled against David, too.

WE: We set a bad example for our friends when we disrespect our parents and rebel against their right to rule over us. If we disobey our parents, we encourage others to disobey them, too. If we disrespect our parents, we can be sure the Lord will disrespect us.

Absalom reached Jerusalem a little while after David left it. When he saw that his father was gone he went to his father's house and claimed it as his own house.

WE: We are greedy if we would like to chase our parents away from their house and take their things. This would show that we do not respect them or care how they feel. We would show that we are cruel and selfish, which greatly displeases the Lord.

BE (for Action): We have seen how Absalom refused to obey and respect his father and this led him to rebel against him. Can you tell me some of the bad things Absalom did? (He was proud, selfish and lied to his father.) If we ever do any of these things to our parents, how does the Lord feel toward us? (He is not pleased with us and will oppose us.) How did Absalom rebel against his father? (He stole his throne and his house.) What does God want you to do? (Obey and respect your parents) If you have sinned against your parents, I want you to pray right now and tell God that you are sorry for acting this way and ask Him to help you treat your parents the right way. (Give the children an opportunity to pray. Close the lesson with your prayer for them.)