

## ABSALOM IS KILLED

## 2 Samuel 17 – 19

**Lesson Memory Verse: Romans 6:23 – “For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”** (Grades 1 & 2 memorize portion printed in **bold**.)

**Lesson Aim:** To know that sin brings death to our souls, which is eternal separation from God.

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

**KEY (for Attention):** One of the wonders of nature is the opoelet anemone, a beautiful looking creature which looks like a large, pretty flower in the water with many long petals of light red color, glossy as satin. The lovely petals move about in the water while the Opelet clings to a rock. How innocent and lovely it looks on its rocky bed! You wouldn't expect it to eat anything, but to drink water and absorb sunlight. But those beautiful waving petals provide food for its large open mouth, hidden deep down among the petals. The instant a foolish little fish touches one of the rosy petal tips, he is struck with a poison as fatal as lightning. He immediately becomes numb and in a moment stops struggling while the beautiful petals enfold him and bring him to the mouth of this creature.

In our story, we will see that sin appeared very good to Absalom, David's son. He thought it would give him what he wanted, but it had a terrible sting.

**HE (for Authority):** Our memory verse tells us that the wages of sin is death. What are wages? (Wages are what we get paid for doing some work.) If our work is sinful, the wages (what we get paid) is death. There are two kinds of death. There is the death of our bodies, which is when our spirit leaves our bodies. When that happens, we no longer can move about or breathe, so someone will bury our bodies in the ground. Then there is the death of our souls, which happens when we are separated from God. Since we are born in sin, we are separated from God at the beginning of our life. But Jesus paid for all our sins and will take them from our lives, if we hate them and ask Him to cleanse us from our sins. When He cleanses us, He makes us children of God and we are no long separated from Him. Then we will have eternal life. This is the best gift that God could give to us.

**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.** Absalom did a terrible sin when he rebelled against his father and took His throne. In today's story we will see that his sin caused his death. (The following alliterative outline is given to help the teacher remember the main parts of the lesson. It is **not** to be taught to the children. Teach the lesson as a story.)

### I. Wrong Advice for Absalom (17:1-14a)

Ahithophel advised Absalom to let him pursue David that very night with 12,000 men, attack him before he was prepared for a battle and he would kill him. Then Absalom asked Hushai for his advice. Hushai purposely gave bad advice to Absalom, because he wanted to help David. He told Absalom to gather a huge army from all over Israel and then personally lead the attack against David. Absalom liked Hushai's advice because it appealed to his pride. This plan allowed him to lead his army into battle, which he thought he would win without a doubt and it allowed him to kill his father with his own hand. Actually Hushai's plan helped David, because it gave him time to get ready for the battle.

**WE:** We can never be sure of the advice that others give to us, but we can always be sure of the advice that God gives to us in the Bible. God will give us the right advice all of the time. Live a godly life and trust the Word of God to tell you the truth. Then you will make the right decisions and be safe.

### II. Wise Appointment by the Lord (17:14b)

God appointed Hushai to give Absalom bad advice so he would be defeated in his attempt to kill his father. Absalom deserved to die, because he was a murderer in his heart. Hushai told Absalom that he should lead his soldiers into battle against his father's soldiers. He knew Absalom was proud and would like to do it. He also knew that no one could lead men on a battlefield like Joab, David's captain; he was very successful at it. This gave David's men a great advantage in fighting against Absalom's army. The Lord used this battle to give Absalom the wages of death for sinning against his father.

**WE:** We must guard against sins that come and remain in our lives. We will receive the wages of spiritual death or possibly a quick physical death, if we do not confess and turn away from them.

### III. Worthless Activity by Absalom (17:15 – 18:8)

Absalom's activity was worthless, because he not only was fighting against David, but he was fighting against God. God defeated him in two significant ways. First, God protected two messengers that Hushai sent to David who were to tell him about Absalom's plans. Absalom was not able to find these two men. A lad saw them leave Jerusalem and he told it to Absalom, but Absalom's men were unable to find them. When these two men realized that Absalom's men were searching for them, they found a woman that hid them in a dry well. After Absalom's men gave up their search for them, the two men climbed out of the well and hurried to give David their message. As a result David was taken to a walled city where he would be safe and Joab made plans for the upcoming battle. Second, God defeated Absalom by the woods where the battle was fought. More soldiers were killed by the woods than by David's soldiers. Absalom was fighting against David's men, but more than that, he soon learned that he was fighting against God. As a result, Absalom's plans and activity were worthless.

**WE:** If we are rebellious and deliberately sinning against the Lord, all our plans and activities will be worthless. We will be fighting against the Lord and we will be defeated.

#### **IV. Wages Against the Wicked (18:9-18)**

The wages of the wicked is death. As the battle was going on, Absalom rode on a mule under an oak tree with low branches. His thick head of hair got caught in the branches and his mule kept on going, leaving him hanging in the tree. When Joab saw Absalom hanging in the tree, he took three darts and killed Absalom. Joab disobeyed the king's orders when David told all the soldiers to spare the life of Absalom. Joab sinned, but Absalom deserved to die for his rebellion against his father. As our memory verse says, "The wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23). Sin will always destroy us. If Absalom had turned from his sin, he would have been saved, but he would not stop his rebellion. The Bible says, "Be not deceived, God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man sows that shall he also reap" (Galatians 6:7). There is a terrible place for all those who reject Christ and hold onto their sin. That place is Hell.

**WE:** We must turn from our sins and receive Jesus into our lives. He will save us from death and give us eternal life. Are you saved from the wages of your sins? You can be saved today. Do not wait until tomorrow. Tomorrow may be too late.

#### **V. Weeping Alone for Absalom (18:19-33)**

When the news of Absalom's death came to King David, he wept alone for the death of his son. David cried for his son who had sinned against him. Undoubtedly David knew that Absalom would receive the wages of his rebellion in Hell, because he died in his rebellion. He knew it was his fault. The Lord had told him that there would be sorrow in his family as a result of his sin with Bathsheba. Now he felt that sorrow once more. It was hard for David to accept the fact that his son was now in Hell forever. He would never be with him again. The Lord never rejoices when a sinner goes to Hell. The Lord is "not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (2 Pet 3:9). Jesus died on the cross and paid for the sins of everyone so no one needs to go to Hell. But God is just and must give the sinner the wages for his sins when he chooses to keep them.

**WE:** We need to weep for members of our family and weep for our friends that need to be saved from their sins. We need weep for them now before they die and receive the wages of their sins. We need to truly believe that these awful wages will be paid to them in Hell forever if they do not turn from their sin and receive Jesus as their Savior. We need to tell them that we care for them and want them to be saved.

#### **VI. Weakness of David (19:1-8)**

David's weakness was feeling sorry for himself. His continual sorrow for Absalom and failure to thank his army for saving his life and his kingdom showed this weakness. His army began to feel that he cared more for his rebellious son than he cared for them when they had risked their lives for him. When Joab told him this, David realized his weakness. He stopped weeping and showed his army that he was thankful for them. .

**WE:** We must not let the sorrow of our loss keep us from thanking those who risk their lives to help us.

**BE (for Action):** This lesson was about the wages (what we get paid) for our sins. What sins were talked about in our story? (Absalom's rebellion against his father and Joab's disobedience to David) Why should we turn from our sin? (Sin brings death) What should we do with our sins, if we are not saved? (Turn from our sins and ask Jesus to save us.) If you want to be saved, I will help you with that after class.