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"Let my TEACHING fall like RAIN...like SHOWERS on YOUNG PLANTS." (Deuteronomy 32:2)



Story: Absalom Rebels

Supplies Needed

You will need the following:

13 Sheets of Cardstock (8.5" x 11")
13 3 mil Laminating Film

Directions

- Print pages 2-27 two-sided on cardstock. Laminate the pages.
- Hold up the pictures while you read the story.

Illustrations courtesy of Free Bible Images
https://www.freebibleimages.org/



Before holding up the picture:

In our last lesson, David sinned. He thought no one knew about his sin, but who did know? *(God)* We saw that David repented and asked God to forgive him, but we also learned that forgiveness doesn't take away the effects of our sins. Do you remember what Nathan the prophet told David would be the consequences of his sin? *(There would be a lot of bloodshed in his family…Bathsheba's baby died)* Today's lesson continues with more death in David's family.

Hold up picture:

David had many sons and daughters by different wives. Amnon was David's oldest son and Absalom was his third oldest son. Absalom had a sister named Tamar. Amnon had been very cruel to Tamar and when Absalom found out what had happened to his sister, he plotted revenge against Amnon.



Hold up picture:

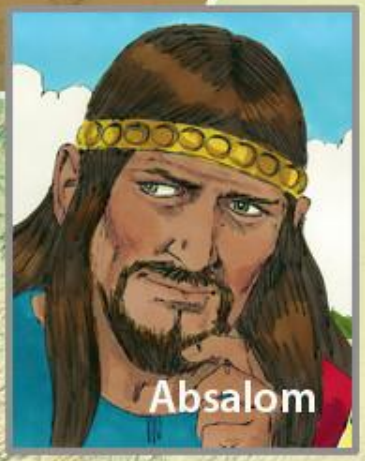
Absalom arranged a feast and all of David's sons came. Then Absalom commanded his servants to kill Amnon. The other sons ran back to David. When David found out, he tore his clothes and wept bitterly. David was very sad about the death of Amnon.

ISRAEL

IN THE TIME OF KING DAVID

Lake Galilee

Land of Geshur



Jerusalem

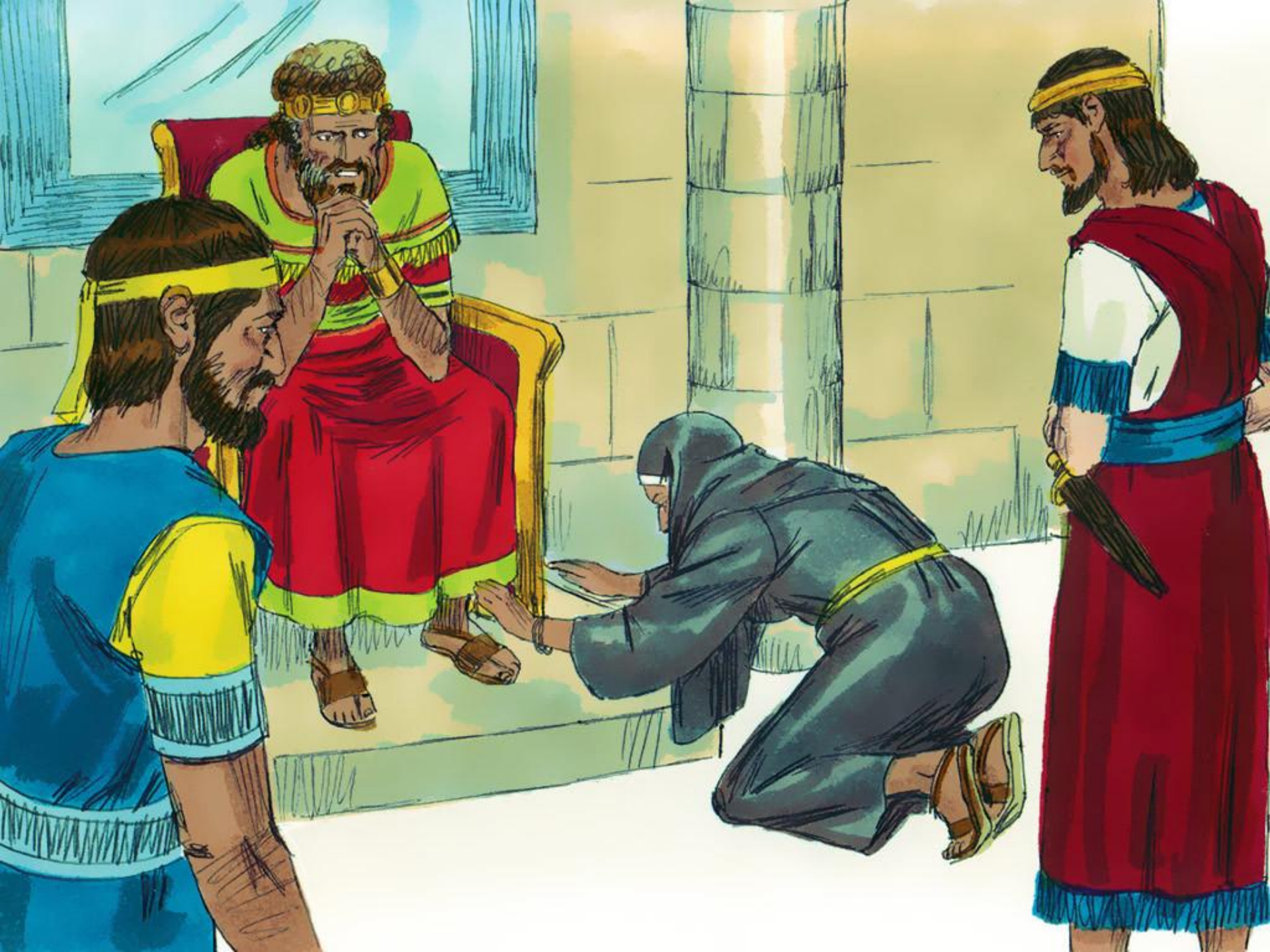
Dead Sea

0 10 miles

0 10 km

Hold up picture:

Absalom fled to hide in the land of Geshur for the next three years, but David began to miss Absalom. So Joab, the commander of David's army, decided to help resolve the problem by sending a wise woman to see David.



Hold up picture:

The woman was dressed as a widow in mourning clothes. She told David, “I had two sons, but they got into a fight and one killed the other. Now everyone is saying to hand over the son who murdered so we can put him to death for taking the life of his brother. But this son is all I have left.”

David said, “Go home and I will issue an order to stop them from killing your son.”

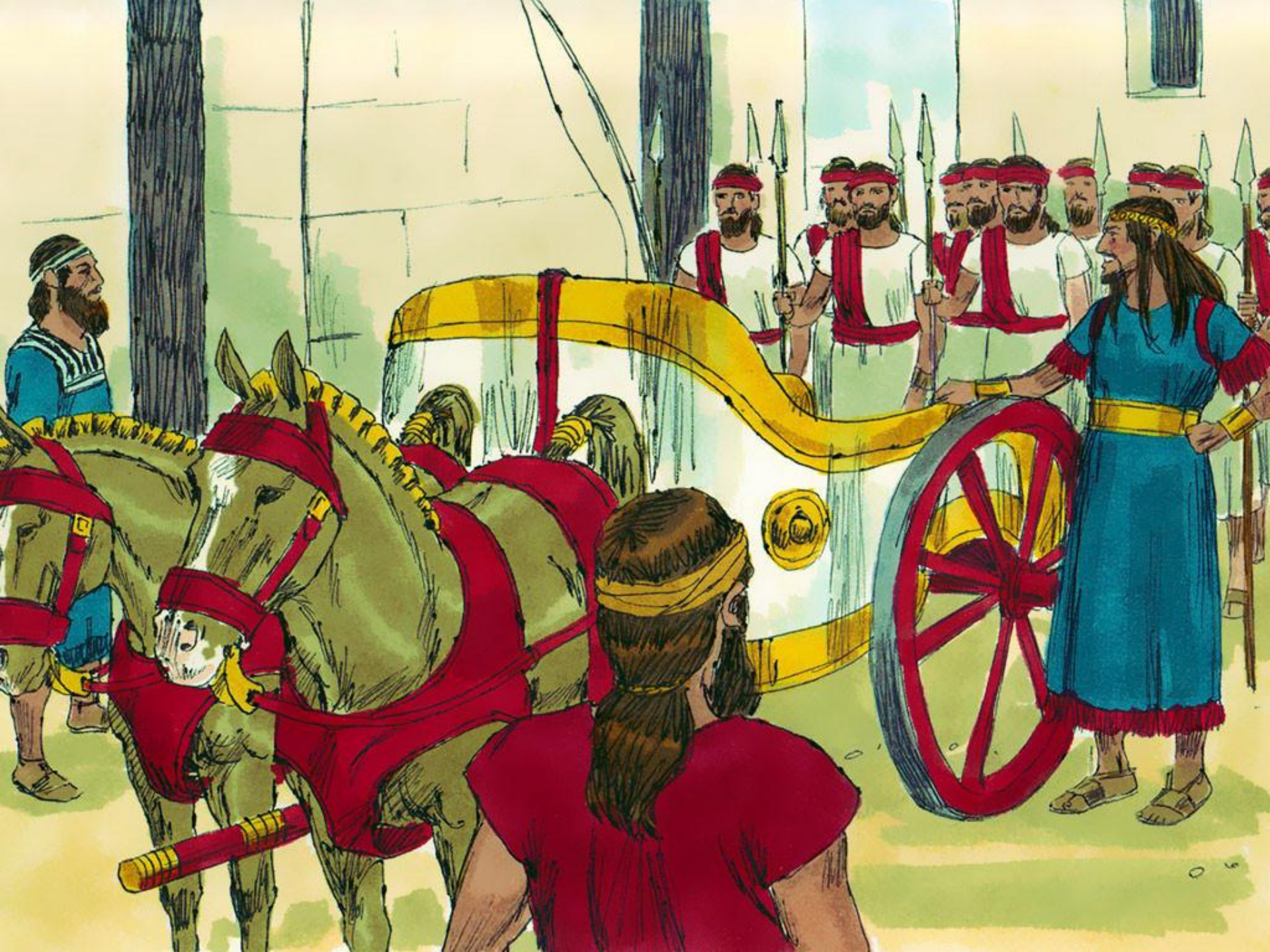
The wise woman then asked David, “Does the king not condemn himself, for you have not brought back Absalom?”

David then asked the wise woman if Joab had told her to tell this story to him. The wise woman said, “Yes, it was your servant Joab who instructed me to do this and who put all these words into my mouth.”



Hold up picture:

So David told Joab to bring Absalom back to Jerusalem. For two years, David did not want to see Absalom, but eventually Joab convinced David to let Absalom come to see him. When David finally summoned Absalom, he came in and bowed down with his face to the ground before the king, and then David kissed Absalom. Do you think David forgave Absalom for killing Amnon? *(It seems like it)*



Hold up picture:

Now Absalom was very handsome. In fact the Bible says, “In all Israel there was not a man so highly praised for his handsome appearance as Absalom. From the top of his head to the sole of his foot there was no blemish in him.” Absalom also had long, beautiful hair. But his hair would get so heavy, that he would cut it off once a year, and when they weighed it, it weighed 5 pounds. Everyone praised Absalom for his appearance and Absalom became very proud. He provided for himself horses and chariots and had fifty men to run in front of him.



Hold up picture:

Absalom began to sit outside the city gate. When people would come to see the king about a problem, Absalom would tell them the king was too busy to hear their case. Instead, he told people, “If only I were appointed judge in the land! Then everyone who has a complaint could come to me and I would see that they receive justice.”



Hold up picture:

Also, whenever anyone approached him to bow down before him, Absalom would reach out his hand, take hold of him and kiss him. Absalom behaved in this way toward all the Israelites who came to the king asking for justice. The people of Israel believed his lies and began to like Absalom more than David.



Hold up picture:

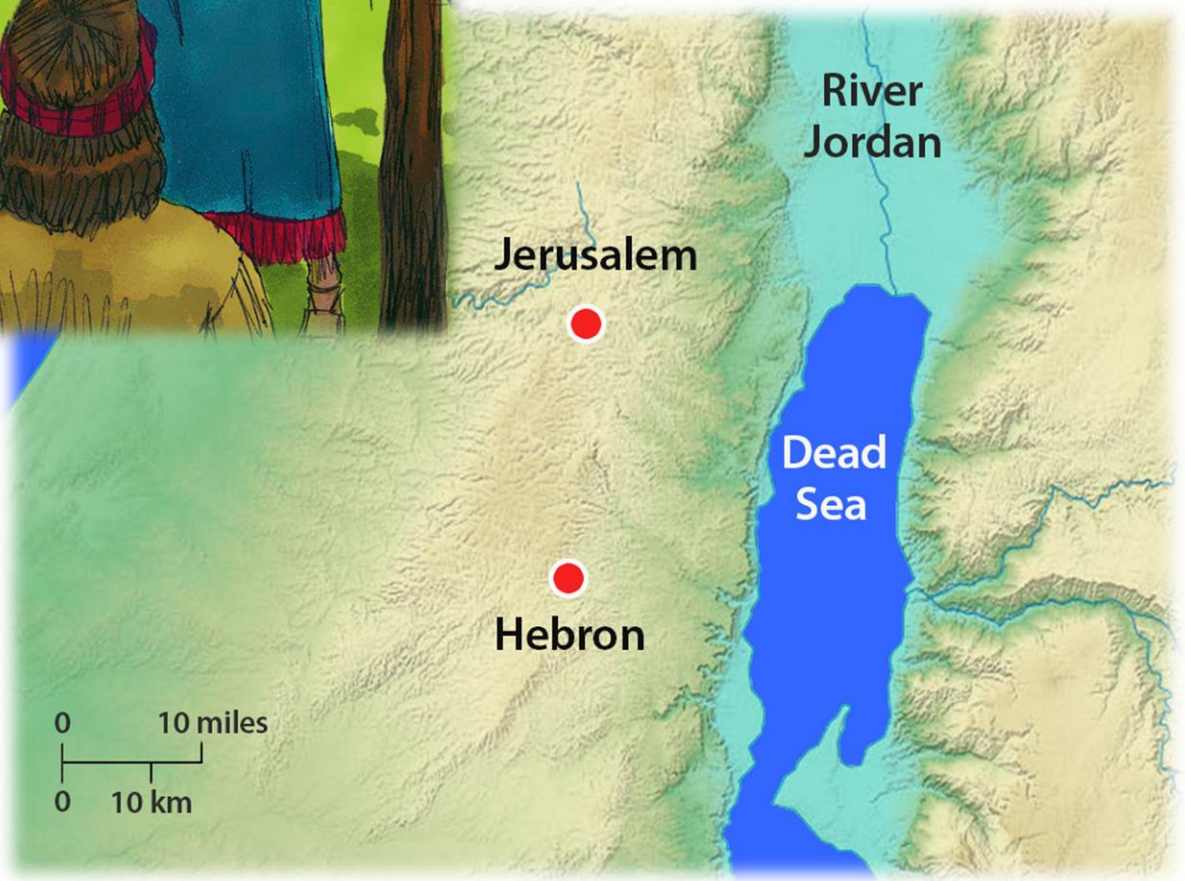
Do you remember the fifth commandment Moses received from God on Mt Sinai? "Honor your father and mother." Even though Absalom was an adult, he was still supposed to honor and respect David, who was his father and the king God had selected. Instead of doing what God wanted, Absalom began plotting to take the kingship away from his father David.



Hold up picture:

After four years of gaining popularity, Absalom went to King David and asked permission to go to Hebron to worship the Lord. David gave him permission to go, but Absalom was lying again! Instead of worshipping God, he planned to make himself king.




River
Jordan
Jerusalem
Dead
Sea
Hebron
0
10 miles
0
10 km

Hold up picture:

Absalom and 200 of his guests went to Hebron. When he got there he sent messengers to every part of Israel to announce, “When you hear the trumpets, you will know that Absalom has been crowned in Hebron.” Men started gathering to support Absalom’s rebellion. Absalom and his rebel army started marching towards Jerusalem.



Hold up picture:

A messenger soon arrived in Jerusalem to tell King David, “All Israel has joined Absalom in a conspiracy against you!” When David heard that his own son had rebelled against him, he was very upset.



Hold up picture:

But David didn't want there to be a battle between his men and Absalom's men, so David left Jerusalem. There was deep sadness in the city as the king and his followers left. David left barefooted and with his head covered as a sign of mourning and he wept as he walked away. The people with David covered their heads and wept also.

We will continue our story of Absalom in our next class, but what can we learn from today's part of the story? *(Answers might vary)* One thing we can learn is that we need to respect our parents and anyone that God has placed into positions of authority. We don't have kings in America, but what do we have? *(President, Governor, Mayor)* We should obey our government officials even if we don't like them or agree with them. We should always obey our laws and our parents, unless they tell us to do something that goes against God's laws.