aCURRYcreation.com

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



Story: Absalom's Death

Supplies Needed

You will need the following:

10 Sheets of Cardstock (8.5" x 11")
10 3 mil Laminating Film

Directions

- Print pages 2-21 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/



Hold up picture :

In our last lesson, David's third oldest son Absalom had killed his older brother Amnon. Then Absalom stole the hearts of the people and crowned himself king. As Absalom approached Jerusalem, David fled the city with his head covered.



Hold up picture:

Zadok, the priest, and all the Levites were carrying the Ark of the Covenant. They set down the Ark of God, and another priest, Abiathar, offered sacrifices until all the people had finished leaving the city. But David said to Zadok, “Take the Ark of God back into the city. If I find favor in the Lord’s eyes, He will bring me back and let me see it again.” So Zadok, Abiathar, and their sons return the Ark to Jerusalem with the king’s blessing.



Hold up picture:

Even though his own son was trying to steal the throne, David kept trusting God. In Psalm 3, we read the words that David wrote during the time he was fleeing from Absalom. David was confident that the Lord would help him. He wrote:

> But You, O Lord, are a shield around me,
> My glory, and the One who lifts my head high.
> I call out to the Lord,
> and he answers me from His holy mountain.

Instead of focusing on his enemies who were surrounding him, David was focusing on God. Notice that David says the Lord is a shield around him. At that time, a soldier's shield was for protection from whatever the enemy threw at you. No matter what happens to him, David is trusting God to help him.



Hold up picture:

When Absalom arrived in Jerusalem, he wondered what to do next. David's former advisor Ahithophel urged him to pursue David while he was tired and discouraged. However, David had left a loyal advisor named Hushai in Jerusalem to give Absalom poor advice. Hushai told Absalom not to chase after David immediately because he was a great fighter and there were mighty warriors with him. Absalom listened to Hushai's advice and David had time to make his escape.


ISRAEL
IN THE TIME OF KING DAVID
Lake Galilee
Forest of Ephraim
Mahanaim
Jerusalem
Dead Sea
0 10 miles
0 10 km

Hold up picture:

David and his followers made it to Mahanaim, a city on the opposite side of the Jordan River. The people living in the area brought food, milk, and bedding to David's men. David organized his army under the command of Joab, Abishai, and Ittai. They insisted that David not go into battle with them, so David told them, "Be gentle with Absalom for my sake." Absalom and his troops marched towards David and a battle broke out in the forest of Ephraim.



Hold up picture:

The armies fought a terrible battle and 20,000 men died. During the battle, Absalom came across some of David's troops and fled on a mule. Remember that Absalom had long, thick hair. As the mule went under the thick branches of a large oak tree, Absalom's hair got caught. He was left hanging in the air, while the mule he was riding kept on going. One of David's men saw him and told Joab.



Hold up picture:

Joab asked the man why he had not killed Absalom. The soldier replied, “We all heard the king say to you, ‘For my sake, please don’t harm Absalom.’” Joab said, “I will not wait.” Then Joab took three spears and plunged them into the heart of Absalom as he dangled from the oak tree. Do you think David will be happy that Joab killed Absalom? *(No, he disobeyed)*



Hold up picture:

Then Joab sounded the trumpet, and made the troops stop pursuing Israel. They took Absalom, threw him into a big pit in the forest and piled up a large heap of rocks over him. Meanwhile, all the Israelites fled to their homes.



Hold up picture:

A messenger was sent to David to bring him news of the battle. When he arrived he said, “My lord the king, hear the good news! The Lord has upheld you today by delivering you from the hand of all who rose up against you.” But David wanted to hear news about his son. He asked, “Is the young man Absalom safe?”



Hold up picture:

The messenger told the king that Absalom was dead. King David was very upset. He went up to his room and cried saying, “O my son Absalom! My son, my son Absalom! If only I had died instead of you!” As people heard of the king’s deep grief for his son, the joy of the victory was turned into deep sadness. David later returned to Jerusalem to reign as King of Israel once more.

Let’s think about that shield again. Ephesians chapter six tells us to “put on the full armor of God, so that you can stand against the devil’s schemes.” A part of that armor is called the shield of faith, which we can use to extinguish the flaming arrows of the evil one. Who is the evil one? *(Satan)* Are these real flaming arrows that the devil throws at us? *(No)* Satan uses evil things in the world to tempt us to do wrong, but having a shield of faith can help us fight off the devil’s temptations.

What else can we learn from this lesson? We can also learn about a father’s love. Although Absalom had rebelled and greatly disappointed his father, David still loved him. This is just like God our Father’s love for us. Can we do anything bad enough to make God stop loving us? *(No)* We may make mistakes and sin, but nothing can separate us from the love of God. (Rom. 8:38-39)