

After God's Heart

Lesson 12

2 Samuel 13-18; Ephesians 6:4

March 24, 2019

Family Disintegration

Introduction

David was a great leader of Israel. He was considered just and good. He was a man after God's heart. However, for all of his strengths as a leader of Israel, he was not a strong leader in his own home. His lack of discipline is noted in 1 Kings 1:6a about how he raised his son Adonijah: "His father had never rebuked him by asking, "Why do you behave as you do?" His lack of action to discipline his children led to sons who took what they wanted, deceived him, and killed.

Many parents make the same mistakes David made. Instead of dealing with their children's acts of disobedience, too often, parents look the other way. But, like David, parents who are not strong spiritual leaders in their homes, reap what they sow.

Memory verse: "Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord."—Ephesians 6:4

Pray and read 2 Samuel 13-18 and Ephesians 6:4. What questions or observations do you have about these passages?

What do the passages say?

1. What did Amnon do to Tamar and what was David's response? (2 Samuel 13:14, 21)

2. What did Absalom do to Amnon and what was David's response? (2 Samuel 13:29, 36, 39)

3. What was David's response when he saw Absalom again? (2 Samuel 14:33)

4. What did Absalom steal from the people of Israel? How did he do this? What was the result? (2 Samuel 15:4-6, 12)

5. What did David do when the messenger told him the "hearts of the people of Israel are with Absalom?" (2 Samuel 15:14-17)

6. Who cursed David in Bahurim? What did he say to David? What was David's response? (2 Samuel 16:7-8, 10-12)

7. What advice did Ahithophel give to Absalom? (2 Samuel 16:21, 17:1-3) What advice did Hushai give to Absalom? (2 Samuel 17:7-13)

8. Which advice did Absalom follow? Why? Which advice was better? Why? (2 Samuel 17:14-15)

9. What did Ahithophel do when he heard his advice had not been taken? (2 Samuel 17:23)

10. What was David's direction when his men marched into battle against Absalom? How did "one of the men" respond when he met Absalom? How did Joab respond when he met Absalom? (2 Samuel 18:5, 12-13, 14-17)

11. How did David respond to the runners? (2 Samuel 18:29, 32, 33)

What do the passages mean?

1. David did nothing when Amnon raped Tamar. (2 Samuel 13:21) David wanted to go to Absalom after he had killed Amnon. (2 Samuel 13:39) And, after three years, David greeted Absalom with a kiss, when they met again (2 Samuel 14:33). There was no discipline for the sinful actions of his sons. What does the Bible say about disciplining our children? (Proverbs 19:18, 22:6, 29:17)

2. Absalom was angered by his father's lack of action in response to Amnon's crime. (2 Samuel 13:22). And so, he sought revenge on Amnon himself. How did David's lack of discipline contribute to Absalom's sins? (Proverbs 10:17, 29:15; Ecclesiastes 8:11; Ephesians 6:4)

3. Through Nathan, the prophet, God forgave David for his sins against Uriah (2 Samuel 12:13), but Nathan also shared that David would be punished for this. (2 Samuel 12:7-12) How can our sins, despite being forgiven by God, come back to haunt us? (Proverbs 22:8; Galatians 6:7-8; Ephesians 5:6)

4. God disciplines David for his sins—as a father should. Why does God discipline us as His children? (Deuteronomy 8:5, Psalm 94:12-13; Proverbs 13:24)

3. Write a prayer asking God for guidance in providing discipline to those in your charge. Or write a prayer asking for God's forgiveness and grace as you face the consequences of your sinful action.