

The Story of Absalom

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Lesson Overview

Today, we're going to learn about an outrageous story in the Bible about King David and one of his many sons. David was first famous for killing the big giant, Goliath when he was just a kid. When David grew up, he became the powerful king of Israel and a dad to many kids. One of his sons, Absalom, was a very handsome guy that became very popular among the people. One day, Absalom decided that he should use his power to overtake his dad, David. He planned a rebellion and arranged for his dad to be killed! But here's where the story gets outrageous. When David heard about what Absalom tried to do, he didn't hate him or disown him. He still loved his son and was sad when he heard Absalom died in battle. David had outrageous love for his son even though he didn't deserve it and God has outrageous love for us!

Big Idea

God loves us even when we don't deserve it.

Key Question

How has Jesus proven his love for us?

Memory Verse

Romans 5:8 | "But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners."

Classroom Agenda

1. (5 min) **PLAY: Let kids start working on Activity Page #1. 2nd-5th puzzle key:** Absalom, David, Betrayal, Love. Message: God's love is outrageous.
2. (5 min) **WARM UP: Make a list of all the people you love. What can you do to show them your love this week?** (Tip: In the story today, we're going to learn about David's outrageous love for his son. And, we'll learn about God's outrageous love for us. Make sure you love the people in your life outrageously, too.)
3. (5 min) **PREVIEW: Write out the Big Idea, Memory Verse, and Key Question on a whiteboard.** Have the kids copy it down on Activity Page #1 (if applicable).
4. (20 min) **LARGE GROUP: Gather for songs and videos with other kids.** Then return to class to finish this guide.
5. (2 min) **RECAP: Read the Lesson Overview (see above).**
6. (3 min) **KQ: Answer the Key Question.** (Answer: **By dying on the cross for our sins.** (This is the most outrageous example of love ever in history! Jesus came to die in our place to pay for our sins. Even though we're the ones that sinned and deserved to be punished, Jesus took our punishment on himself by dying on the cross.))
 - **Bonus Questions:** Why do we deserve to be punished? What did Jesus do for us? **4-5th:** How can you show your appreciation to Jesus for all that he has done for you?
7. (5 min) **EXPLORE: Read Philippians 2:6-8. What does this passage say about all that Jesus gave up for us? Why did he do it?** (Answer: Jesus is God so he left heaven to come live among us. And, he gave up his privileges as God to live like a normal person. Jesus could have stopped any of the mistreatment any time he wanted but he chose to subject himself to all the humiliation in order to save us. He did it because he loves us and because he wanted to pay for our sins.)
8. (10 min) **PLAY: Choose a group activity from Activity Page #2.**
9. (5 min) **CLOSE: Share prayer requests and pray as a class.** Encourage kids to use the Family Guide at home with their parents - and remind them to go online to pursueGOD.org/kids to find this week's lesson video.

Teacher instructions: Choose an activity for your classroom.

OPTION 1: GOD LOVES ME HEART CRAFT

Instructions:

- Give each kid a heart template (page 5). **(Pre cut by only cutting along the dotted line at the top)**
- Give kids some colored tissue paper.
- Have kids rip up pieces of tissue paper and glue them onto the heart.
- As they work, remind the kids of the story of David and Absalom. Even though Absalom was a big jerk, his dad still loved him. That's how God loves us, too. God loves us even when we don't deserve it.

Supplies needed:

Heart template (pg. 5, pre cut just along dotted line, 1 per kid), Colored Tissue paper, Glue

Bonus Activity: "Memory Verse Game"

Say the memory verse as a class. Say it again while **hopping** on one foot. Say it again while **clapping**.

OPTION 2: MEMORY VERSE GAME

Instructions:

- Before class, put the words for the memory verse (page 6-7) in a bowl or basket.
- Have kids take turns coming up and pulling a word from the basket. Tape each word up on the whiteboard.
- Continue until all the words are up on the board. Then, work as a class to get the words in the correct order to say the memory verse.

Supplies needed:

Memory verse template (pg 6-7, pre cut, 1 set), Bowl/ basket, Tape

Bonus Activity: "Telephone"

Have kids sit in a circle. Whisper the **Big Idea** in the ear of one kid. Have that kid whisper it to the kid on their right. Continue around the circle. Last kid has to say the message they heard.

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As an adult, David became the greatest king of Israel. And he had lots of kids. One of his kids was named Absalom. Now kids, that doesn't mean he had a really long torso. That was just his name. So Absalom was a pretty good looking guy. In fact, he was the most handsome guy in all of Israel! He had long flowing hair that he only cut once a year and really really big muscles. But there's something else you need to know about Absalom.

Handsome Absalom Was _____ on the Inside

Absalom spent many years trying to get all the other people in Israel to really like him. Eventually it worked! But then he did something really mean. He convinced all those people who liked him to turn against his dad, David. He wanted the people to rebel against David and stop listening to him and even kill him! That doesn't sound like a good son does it?

David's Army _____ Against Absalom's Army

Guess what happened in the battle! Absalom's long flowing hair got stuck in a tree and he got caught. And then he died. David's army won, and the naughty son lost. Good ending! Right?

Nope. Here's the lesson in the story.

David's Heart Was _____ When Absalom Died

When David found out Absalom died he ran up to his room and cried. Even though Absalom was trying to kill him, David still loved his son. That's what good parents do. Even when kids are naughty, they still love them. David cared about his son, even when he was making really bad choices. That's outrageous!

And did you know that God is outrageous in the same way toward us? He loves us even when we make really bad mistakes. He doesn't want us to die for our sins, even though we deserve it! God loves you even more than David loved Absalom.

So kids, have you asked Jesus into your heart? If not, talk to a parent or teacher about it today!

Answers: Ugly, Fought, Broken

Parent Signature: _____

Questions:

1. What was your favorite part of the video? What is one thing you learned from the video?
2. Make a list of all the people you love. What can you do to show them your love this week?
3. What was David famous for doing? Who was Absalom?
4. What did Absalom do to his dad?
5. How did David respond to Absalom's betrayal?
6. Read [Philippians 2:6-8](#). What does this passage say about all that Jesus gave up for us? Why did he do it?
7. How will you apply this lesson to your life this week?

Instructions: Color the picture.

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Key Question

How has Jesus proven his love for us?

Memory Verse

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SERIES: OUTRAGEOUS FOR KIDS

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GOD LOVES ME TO PIECES



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