



# Absalom Rebels and Is Defeated

2 Samuel 15:1-12; 17:1-12; 18:1-18

First- and second-graders are still developing the capacity to empathize with others. Most kids at this stage of development are very self-centered, wanting to be first or have the best or get the most. Absalom's quest for power illustrates—in a way first- and second-graders can understand—that self-centered actions have tremendous effects on others. Through this lesson, your kids can begin to consider how their actions affect others.



**► Bible Point**  
A self-centered attitude hurts God and others.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>1</b> Getting Started	<b>Blind Walk</b> <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Practice being considerate of one another.		
<b>2</b> Bible Exploration	<b>Absalom's Heavy Steps</b> <i>(about 20 min.)</i> Hear Absalom's quest for the throne of Israel.	My Bible Fun, paper, colored pencils, scissors, CD player <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD: "Absalom's Mess" (track 8), "Absalom Rebels" poster from the Big Bible Poster Pack	Tear out the Lesson 4 pages from each My Bible Fun student book. 
	<b>Walk Humbly</b> <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Learn the Key Verse, and sing a song about being considerate.	Bible, CD player, copies of the lyrics page (at the end of this lesson) <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD: "Micah 6:8" (track 7)	

**Key Verse**  
"He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God" (Micah 6:8).

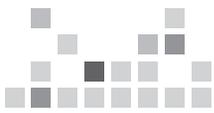
**Weaving Faith Into Life**  
Kids will be considerate of others rather than focused on themselves.





LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>3</b> Weaving Faith Into Life</p>	<p><b>A Better Way</b> <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Explore the difference between being self-centered and being considerate, and pray.</p>	<p>crayons, foot patterns from the “Absalom’s Heavy Steps” activity, markers, 18-inch pieces of colorful ribbon, hole punch <b>Teacher Pack:</b> “Soccer” poster</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>4</b> Lasting Impressions</p>	<p><b>Daily Challenges</b> <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Commit to a specific way of being considerate of others this week.</p>	<p>necklaces from the “Better Way” activity</p>	
	<p><b>Weaving Faith at Home</b> <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>		





# Absalom Rebels and Is Defeated

2 Samuel 15:1-12; 17:1-12; 18:1-18

BIBLE BACKGROUND  
FOR LEADERS

## David's Family Turmoil

It's important to know about certain events in the lives of David's other children in order to understand the context in which today's events took place. Amnon, one of David's sons, was attracted to Tamar, a daughter of David and half-sister to Amnon, and he raped her then turned against her. Absalom, Tamar's brother and another of David's sons, took her in. Two years later, Absalom had Amnon murdered and then fled from David and Israel. David mourned for Amnon and wished to be reunited with Absalom (2 Samuel 13:37-39).

## David Restores Absalom

After Absalom had been gone three years, Joab, David's trusted general, had seen enough of David's pain. He enlisted a "wise woman" to confront David and convince him to allow Absalom to return to Israel. David agreed, but apparently he was hesitant to fully forgive and restore Absalom, because he refused to see him after his return. It took setting Joab's field on fire two years later for Absalom to finally get the king's attention and be allowed to visit his father. Absalom bowed to the ground before David, and David kissed him, offering forgiveness.

## Absalom's Revolt

After that meeting, Absalom put a subversive plan into action. He would meet people coming into Jerusalem, criticize his father's system of administering justice, and promise a better one if he were made king. He treated the people as equals, not as if they were below him, as indicated in his response to those who bowed before him (2 Samuel 15:5-6). In this way, he won over large numbers of people.

Finally, Absalom decided to revolt openly, and he chose Hebron for his headquarters. David had been proclaimed king in Hebron, and Absalom had been

born there; it was a significant place of worship; it was the city David had abandoned when he moved his capital to Jerusalem. Absalom must have counted all these factors in his favor.

## Absalom Is Defeated

David must have realized that Absalom had gained quite a following, because when he heard of the revolt, he insisted on fleeing Jerusalem for safety. After receiving conflicting advice, Absalom decided not to attack David right away. The delay allowed David time to muster an army (2 Samuel 18:1).

In the ensuing battle, 20,000 died. In the end, Absalom was killed by Joab, and David again wept over the death of a son. Self-centered attitudes and actions had taken the life of yet another of the king's sons.

## The Jesus Connection

Jesus' selfless life made a world of difference for us. How can we keep our attitude Christ-centered? By looking at him, all the time.

How does a self-centered attitude affect relationships?

How could following Jesus' selfless example improve those relationships?

Thank God for sending Jesus, who leads us on to better relationships by showing us how to treat others with selfless love—the way he treats us. You can write your prayer here.

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## 1 GETTING STARTED

### Blind Walk

#### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Welcome kids warmly as they arrive, and ask them how their week went.

Say: **Today we're going to learn about someone in the Bible who wasn't considerate of others. Describe the difference between being self-centered and being considerate of others.**

After the discussion, tell kids that they're going to practice being considerate—or not. Have kids stand up right where they are. Then have them close their eyes and keep them closed as they take 10 steps in any direction.

Before you let them move, say: **As you move, you may run into one another. You have the choice whether or not to say "excuse me" while you play.**

#### Talk With Kids ■■■■

When kids have finished walking, lead them in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was it like when someone did or didn't say "excuse me"?
- How was that like or unlike being considerate of other people?
- Why do you think some people are more considerate than others at times?

Say: ► **A SELF-CENTERED ATTITUDE HURTS GOD AND OTHERS. Sometimes it's hard to see how being self-centered can hurt others. That's what we're going to learn about today in our Bible passage. Let's hear about King David and his selfish son Absalom.**

## 2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

### Absalom's Heavy Steps

#### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Open your Bible to 2 Samuel 15, and show kids the passage. Tell kids this is God's book. Point out the man with the large foot on the My Bible Fun page.

#### Absalom's Heavy Steps Supplies

My Bible Fun  
paper  
colored pencils  
scissors  
CD player

#### Teacher Pack

CD: "Absalom's Mess"  
(track 8)  
"Absalom Rebels"  
poster from the Big  
Bible Poster Pack

#### Absalom's Heavy Steps Easy Prep

Tear out the Lesson 4  
pages from each My  
Bible Fun student book.



Say: **This is Absalom, and our Bible passage today is about Absalom's self-centered actions. Absalom wanted to be king, and he didn't care who he stepped on to get there.**

Distribute the My Bible Fun pages, paper, colored pencils, and scissors. Have kids trace Absalom's footprint on the papers and then cut out the footprint.

Say: **We're going to listen to a recording about Absalom. Whenever Absalom does something, think about whether his actions are helping others or hurting others.**

Play the "Absalom's Mess" segment (track 8 on the CD). Each time you hear, "Hurry! Hurry! Make me king!" pause the CD for discussion.

The following discussion sections are labeled Section 1, Section 2, Section 3, and Final so you can keep track.

### Section 1 Discussion

Ask:

- What was Absalom trying to do?
- How did Absalom's actions affect his dad, King David?

Say: **Absalom wanted to be king, and he didn't care who he stepped on to get there.**

Have kids use the foot pattern they created to trace Absalom's footprint over the picture of King David on their My Bible Fun pages.

Continue playing the "Absalom's Mess" segment. Pause the CD at "Hurry! Hurry! Make me king!"

### Section 2 Discussion

Ask:

- What was Absalom trying to do?
- How did Absalom's actions affect the people he pretended to be friends with?

Say: **Absalom wanted to be king, and he didn't care who he stepped on to get there.**

Have kids use the foot pattern they created to trace Absalom's footprint over the picture of the people around the city gate on their My Bible Fun pages.

Continue playing the "Absalom's Mess" segment. Pause the CD at "Hurry! Hurry! Make me king!"

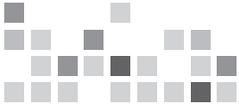
### Section 3 Discussion

Ask:

- What was Absalom trying to do?
- How did Absalom's actions affect the people of Israel?

Say: **Absalom wanted to be king, and he didn't care who he stepped on to get there.**





Have kids use the foot pattern they created to trace Absalom's footprint over the picture of the arguing Israelites on their My Bible Fun pages.

Continue playing the "Absalom's Mess" segment to its end at "Absalom's actions had left an awful mess."

Stop the CD.

### Final Discussion

Ask:

- What was Absalom trying to do?
- How did Absalom's actions affect the people who fought in the civil war?

Say: **Absalom wanted to be king, and he didn't care who he stepped on to get there.**

Show the kids the "Absalom Rebels" poster from the Big Bible Poster Pack.

Say: **Absalom's actions led to a huge civil war in Israel. His father, King David, was forced to send troops to stop Absalom's rebellion. Place your footprint over Absalom on our poster.**

Wait until all of the kids have placed their footprints over Absalom.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What happened to Absalom because of his own self-centeredness?
- How could Absalom have considered others instead of being selfish?
- What happens when a self-centered attitude isn't stopped?

Say: **Absalom wanted to be king. He was thinking only of himself and what he wanted. Many people, including his own father and the people of Israel, suffered because of Absalom's self-centeredness. The Bible shows that ► A SELF-CENTERED ATTITUDE HURTS GOD AND OTHERS. Absalom hurt many people with his self-centered attitude.**

## Walk Humbly

### What You'll Do ■■■■

Say: **The Bible tells us again and again how to treat others. I'm going to read the Key Verse for today, so listen for how the Bible says to treat others.**

Open your Bible to Micah 6:8, and show the verse to the kids. Tell kids this is God's book.

### Walk Humbly Supplies

Bible  
CD player  
copies of the lyrics page  
(at the end of this  
lesson)

### Teacher Pack

CD: "Micah 6:8"  
(track 7)



Say: **Micah 6:8** says, “He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.” Ask kids to repeat the last sentence of the Key Verse with you several times.



Say: **Justice** means being fair. **Mercy** means being kinder than what people deserve. Being **humble** means that you know that you make mistakes, just like everyone else. Let’s say the Key Verse again and then sing a fun song based on it.

Ask kids to repeat the Key Verse with you again. Pass out copies of the lyrics and lead kids in singing “Micah 6:8” (track 7 on the CD).



*(Verse)*

**He has showed you, O man, what is good.  
And what does the Lord require of you?  
To act justly  
And love mercy,  
To walk humbly with your God,  
Walk humbly with your God.**

**To act justly  
And love mercy,  
To walk humbly with your God,  
Walk humbly with your God.**

**To walk humbly with your God,  
Walk humbly with your God.  
To act justly  
And love mercy.**

*(Repeat verse.)*

**To act justly  
And love mercy,  
To walk humbly with your God,  
Walk humbly with your God.**

*(Repeat verse.)*

“Micah 6:8” by Jay Stocker. © 2004 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in the following discussion.

Ask:

- **What are some ways we can do what this verse says?**
- **How does doing what this verse says help keep a self-centered attitude away?**

Say: **If Absalom had done what this verse says to do, his attitude would’ve been totally different. When we focus on what God wants rather than what we want, we’ll be considerate to others. Remember, ► A SELF-CENTERED ATTITUDE HURTS GOD AND OTHERS.**





### A Better Way Supplies

crayons  
foot patterns from the  
“Absalom’s Heavy  
Steps” activity  
markers  
18-inch pieces of  
colorful ribbon  
hole punch

**Teacher Pack**  
“Soccer” poster

## 3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

### A Better Way

#### What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Set out the “Soccer” poster and crayons. Have kids form two groups. Have the first group discuss how the two central players on the poster might play the game if they were self-centered. Explain that this group will draw pictures or write their ideas in the poster’s section labeled Self-Centered.

Have the second group discuss how the two players might play the game if they were being considerate of others. Explain that this group will draw pictures or write their ideas in the poster’s section labeled Considerate.

Give the groups several minutes to discuss what they want to write and draw. Offer help as needed while the groups work. Then have the groups work on the poster, giving each person a chance to add written or illustrative work.

When the groups have finished, have them describe what they wrote and drew on the poster.

Then have kids get the foot patterns they used during the “Absalom’s Heavy Steps” activity. Distribute markers and 18-inch pieces of colorful ribbon.

Ask kids to think about a situation in which they need help to be considerate. Have kids write or draw something on their foot patterns that will remind them to be considerate in that type of situation this week. For example, maybe they didn’t share a toy with a sibling and they hurt the sibling’s feelings. In that case, they could draw a picture of the toy to remind them to share. On the other side of their foot patterns, help kids write “Walk humbly with God.” As kids work, use the hole punch to punch a hole at one end of each person’s foot pattern. Then show kids how to string a length of ribbon through the foot pattern to create a necklace.

#### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in the following discussion.

Ask:

- **What are some of the reminders you wrote on your footprints?**
- **Why is a self-centered attitude wrong?**
- **What can you do this week to be considerate of others?**

Say: **We learned in the Bible that ► A SELF-CENTERED ATTITUDE HURTS GOD AND OTHERS. God wants us to treat everyone fairly and love them as we love ourselves. Absalom never understood that truth, as his life tragically shows.**





4

LASTING  
IMPRESSIONS

# Daily Challenges

## What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Instead of choosing Daily Challenges, let's think more about how we can show consideration to others this week.**

Gather kids in a circle for prayer. Have them wear their necklaces as reminders to walk humbly with God and to be considerate of others.

## Talk With Kids ■■■■

Ask:

- **What's a practical way you're going to be considerate of others this coming week? Share a time, a place, or other ideas.**

Make sure you tell kids how you'll commit to being considerate of others this week. Kids will be more inclined to follow through on their commitments when they see you doing the same.

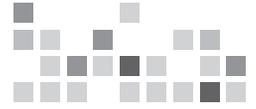
Say: **As Absalom learned the hard way, ► A SELF-CENTERED ATTITUDE HURTS GOD AND OTHERS. Let's follow through with our Daily Challenge this week to embrace a balanced attitude of serving God, serving others, and serving ourselves.**

# Weaving Faith at Home

Encourage students to talk with their parents about their commitment to show consideration this week and what they learned about self-centered attitudes. Kids can also do the activities on the "HomeConnect" portion of their My Bible Fun pages with their families.

Talk to your Director about e-mailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church's families. Available at [group.com/digital](http://group.com/digital).

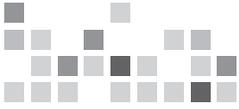
Take a couple of minutes to pray with your kids, asking God to help us be more considerate of others, to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with God.



## Daily Challenges Supplies

.....  
necklaces from the  
"Better Way" activity





## Micah 6:8

*(Verse)*

He has showed you, O man, what is good.

And what does the Lord require of you?

To act justly

And love mercy,

To walk humbly with your God,

Walk humbly with your God.

*(Repeat verse.)*

To act justly

And love mercy,

To walk humbly with your God,

Walk humbly with your God.

*(Repeat verse.)*

To act justly

And love mercy,

To walk humbly with your God,

Walk humbly with your God.

To walk humbly with your God,

Walk humbly with your God.

To act justly

And love mercy.

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