Kingdom

“David and Absalom Part 2”

Series Objective:

Students will learn:

* How David became King of Israel and Jerusalem became the capitol.
* The relationship between David and Absalom.
* The Psalms that David wrote during the difficult relationship with Absalom.

Series Theme Verse: “In peace I will lie down and sleep, for you alone, Lord, make me dwell in safety.” – Psalm 4:8

Lesson Objective: For students to understand how David and Absalom’s conflict ended.

Lesson Passage: 2 Samuel 18:1-17

Materials Needed: Bibles, white board, white board markers

Lesson Plan:

Talking Points: Quickly Review David and Absalom Part 1 (2 Samuel 14:25-26; 15:1-14)

* Tell students that because of David’s sin with Bathsheba, God said that violence would always be a part of his family. Today, we meet one of David’s sons, Absalom, who was a fulfillment of this prediction.
* Ask students if they remember anything about Absalom? (Handsome, cut his hair once a year, hair weighed about 5 lbs, etc.)
* What was the conflict between David and Absalom? (Absalom was trying to steal the throne from his dad, King David)
* How did he do this? (He told people what they wanted to hear and tried to set himself up at another place of worship as king)
* When David found this out, what did he do? (Fled to safety from his son, for he feared Absalom would try to kill him)

Talking Points: 2 Samuel 18:1-17

* David gathered his men to march against Absalom under three “generals.” When they went out to fight Absalom what did David intend to do? (Go and lead them in the fight)
* What do the generals tell David about him fighting? (That he should not go because he is the most important person in Israel)
* Does David go lead them? (No, waited at the city gate)
* What did David command his generals about Absalom? (Be gentle with Absalom...i.e. don’t kill him)
* What do the three armies do? (Marched out to fight Israel and the forces of Absalom)
* The fighting spread throughout the countryside, who did David’s armies run into as they fought across the countryside? (Absalom who was alone on his mule)
* What did Absalom do when he saw David’s army? (Tried to flee)
* What happened to Absalom as he tried to flee? (His 5 lbs of hair got stuck in a tree and the mule ran out from under him leaving him hanging in the air by his hair from the tree)
* When a soldier reported the sight to general Joab, what did Joab say? (You should have killed Absalom)
* Why didn’t he kill Absalom? (He was scared because the king said don’t kill Absalom)
* What did Joab do upon hearing this response? (He took three javelins and used them to kill Absalom as he hung in the tree)
* After throwing Absalom in a pit and piling rocks on his body, what happened to Absalom’s army? (They fled because their leader was dead)
* Explain to students that David was deeply grieved at the loss of his son, Absalom, even though Absalom was trying to kill David.

The Story Retold: Hangman

* Create a Tree on a whiteboard and put Absalom’s hair in the tree.
* Create a wheel of fortune style puzzle and have students/teams guess letters.
* Each wrong letter adds a body part of Absalom to the hair.
* If Absalom is completed before the puzzle is answered, the team loses.
* Puzzles should reinforce the story, like:
  + David’s General Joab
  + Absalom had a Mule

The Story and Me:

* Allow students to say the Series Theme Verse by memory since this is the last week of the verse.
* Ask students what this verse means to them?