

Small Group Discussion Questions

Series: Rise and Fall: Life of David

Speaker: Andrew Boone

Message: Death of Absalom

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Memory Verse: 2 Samuel 7:22 NIV

How great you are, Sovereign LORD! There is no one like you, and there is no God but you, as we have heard with our own ears.

These questions aim to foster meaningful discussion and encourage participants to reflect on God's Word to lead to heart transformation. Feel free to modify or expand upon these questions based on the dynamics and needs of your Small Group.

Big Idea: In your grief, keep living God's way.

Read 2 Samuel 19:1-8

1. Chapters 16-19 are filled with different instances of grief. Grief is more than just the pain from death. Grief is the sorrow from loss. What is something currently or in the recent past that has caused you to feel grief? How can grief manifest itself in your life? (e.g., anger, isolation, sadness)
2. Grief can make us think and live counter to God's ways as it did with Absalom. Have you ever felt like grief has caused you to act in a way that wasn't honoring to God? What do we learn from David about how we can respond to grief in such a way that draws us back to the Lord?
3. Think about strong emotions like grief, anger, jealousy, or depression. How can these emotions cloud our judgment and impact our ability to function normally? When you find yourself experiencing an emotion that gets you off center, how do you get back to center? How can or does your faith play a role?



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4. David was going through grief, and Joab spoke a word of truth to him during a difficult time. Imagine yourself going through a time of intense emotion. How would you react if someone brought correction to you? Have you ever received correction or advice that you knew deep down was true, but you pushed it aside because of a difficult season in your life (e.g. feeling grief, stressed, overwhelmed, etc.)? Why is it important to be open to correction, even in difficult times?
5. David was likely not pleased with Joab's actions that brought about his grief, yet he still receives correction from him. How can we discern a valid source from an overly critical voice? Do you ever find yourself dismissing correction from others simply because you don't like them? How can we cultivate a heart that is open to listening to correction, regardless of the source?
6. Think about yourself from Joab's perspective. Do you have the courage to speak truth and correction to a friend when needed? What is the harm in placating a friend by saying, "it's fine," instead of sharing the truth? Can you think of a time when you gave or someone offered you correction in a way that felt life-giving? What was it about the interaction that caused it to go well?

Read 2 Samuel 16:5-14; 19:16-23

7. Shimei was an accuser of David when David was fleeing Absalom. When is a time you have had someone purposefully be unkind to you? When this happened, how did it make you feel? Have you ever been tempted to retaliate against someone who wronged you? Why or why not?
8. Instead of having Shimei killed, David extends forgiveness. Do you think David's decision was easy? Do you find forgiving others who have hurt you to be easy or difficult? How does God's forgiveness towards us influence how we forgive others?
9. Sometimes, forgiveness can be a process. What are some steps we can take to move towards forgiving someone who has hurt us? Do you think forgiveness requires forgetting the offense? Why or why not?



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