

# Small Group Discussion Questions

Series: Rise and Fall: Life of David

Speaker: Jay Haugh

Message: A Man After Satan's Heart

Date: 04/28/2024



ENGAGE THE SCRIPTURES

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:** Beware of following rulers who look more like Saul or Satan than like Jesus.

## Read 2 Samuel 14:18-33

1. After Absalom flees to Geshur for having killed his brother Amnon, David has him brought back to Jerusalem, but he refuses to see him. This leaves the situation unresolved and prevents movement toward genuine reconciliation. How could David have done things differently? Why does not addressing a relational rift only cause it to grow larger? How would you handle a situation in which you have unresolved issues with a friend, co-worker or family member?
2. Absalom never apologizes to anyone. He is instead more fixated on the wrongs he perceives have been done to him. He is blind to his own sinfulness. How much time do you spend in self reflection with the Bible as your mirror? Do you ever practice ricochet Christianity, where everything you hear is applicable to someone other than you? What steps do you need to take to be more vulnerable with yourself and others?
3. Similar to Saul, Absalom is physically impressive but spiritually impotent. When meeting someone new, what do you look to in order to evaluate the person? Are you persuaded by someone's outward appearance? How often do you give



HOSPITALITY



MOVEMENT



CONTRIBUTE



COMMITMENT



ENGAGE THE SCRIPTURES



SPIRITUAL FRIENDSHIP

compliments on the way someone looks on the outside vs how they look on the inside?

4. When Absalom does not get what he wants, or perhaps feels that he deserves, he acts out by burning Joab's field to get Joab's attention. How have you seen kids act out to get the attention of their parents? How do you respond when you don't get what you want? How can we work through some of those negative emotions and seek growth in how we respond in situations where we don't get what we want?

## Read 2 Samuel 15:1-6

5. How does Absalom win over the hearts of the Israelites? Have you ever been tempted to use good things, like kindness and care, for the wrong reason? What are some healthy ways to build relationships and gain respect from others?
6. Imagine you are one of the Israelites Absalom approaches. What factors might influence your decision to remain loyal to David or be swayed by Absalom? Who or what are you loyal to today? How was that loyalty formed? Is there anything we can learn from this on how we can be better influencers for Christ?
7. Absalom is plotting to overthrow his father's rule and shows he is resistant to his leadership. What heart issues cause you to be resistant to God's leading in your life? When you feel yourself bucking against God, what helps bring you back into alignment?
8. Absalom has no qualms in deceiving and dividing the kingdom of his father who loves him and offers forgiveness. We may not do it with such overt intentions as Absalom, but we also go against the One who loves us and offers forgiveness. In what ways do you see yourself in the character of Absalom?



HOSPITALITY



MOVEMENT



CONTRIBUTE



COMMITMENT



ENGAGE THE SCRIPTURES



SPIRITUAL FRIENDSHIP