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BIBLE ADVENTURES SCRIPT:
A1512 ~ David flees from Absalom.

Welcome to Bible Adventures. Help for today. Hope for tomorrow. Jesus is Lord of all.

In today's *Bible Adventure*, King David was not respected by his own family, and this situation caused David and his household much grief and loss. The story began when one of David's sons, Amnon, became obsessed with his beautiful half-sister Tamar. Pretending illness Amnon tricked Tamar into his palace bedroom. He abused her, forever ruining her purity and reputation as a princess. In anguish, Tamar went to live with her brother Absalom. David was very angry with Amnon, but for reasons not mentioned, David didn't punish Amnon for his disgraceful crime. The Bible book of Leviticus, Chapter 18, clearly forbids Amnon's behaviour.

When Absalom saw Amnon, his half-brother, get away with his wrong, Absalom resolved to get revenge for his sister's sake. He waited nearly two years for the right opportunity to come. It was sheep shearing time in Hebron and Absalom had invited all the king's sons to come down from Jerusalem for a feast. Amnon was among the guests and when he had eaten and was feeling relaxed, Absalom gave a prearranged signal to his servants to kill Amnon. News soon reached David that all his sons had been killed by Absalom, causing great grief to David.

DRAMA - [The Bible In Living Sound.](#)

Absalom had his servants kill Amnon while hosting a feast in the south of the country. He then fled to his grandfather in Syria and stayed there for about three years.

Absalom was extremely good looking. He had no blemishes on his skin and wore his hair very long. He only had it cut when it was too heavy to carry around. But Absalom's good looks also made him very proud.

After his return to Jerusalem, Absalom's two years of house detention became frustrating to him. Absalom wanted Joab to intercede for him and ask for release from his father David. But Joab was reluctant to do this. Absalom believed that being a prince gave him commanding rights over the commander of his father's army. When Joab did not comply with his requests, Absalom ruthlessly got his servants to set fire to Joab's barley field. This had the desired effect. Then Joab did speak to King David and Absalom was allowed to see his father. When Absalom met his father, he bowed low and pretended respect. In the Scriptures, the instruction to honour and respect parents is given in the Law of Moses. The Lord Jesus also upheld this teaching.

In the Apostle Paul's letter to the church at Ephesus, Chapter 6, He said: "Children, it is your Christian duty to obey your parents, for this is the right thing to do. 'Respect your father and mother' is the first commandment that has a promise added: 'so that all may go well with you.'"

What does honouring and respecting your parents mean? It is showing love, courtesy and support to your parents, no matter their age, even if old. It involves not gossiping unkindly about your parents' faults to others and forgiving the mistakes and wrong they have done towards you. Children should also engage in good conduct, not only toward their parents but others as well, so that the family name is held in good standing.

God's endeavour is for families to deeply love one another. Sin affects both parents and children alike and needs confessing and forsaking. Jesus promises to avenge all wrongdoing at the right time, but His greater desire is that love and forgiveness are sought from Him so that He can heal all broken hearts. Children shouldn't justify their wrong behaviour by blaming their parents for it. At the end of time, we will each have to give an account to the Lord for the lives we lived while on earth.

Absalom set out with deliberate intent to gain favour with many of the Israelite people. He started living the lifestyle of an important royal person with many attendants and receiving the homage of ordinary people. He acted deviously by sending spies to each tribe to promote his cause of becoming the next king. Many people accepted Absalom. If only they had remembered the terrible civil war fought between David in Judah and King Saul's son Ishbosheth in Israel before David became king over the 12 tribes!

There is an English expression which says: Those who fail to learn the lessons of history are forced to repeat them. Absalom should have known the stories of King Saul. God chose Saul and his divine appointment did not cease until God allowed it. David had not tried to rally the people against Saul. He waited for God's time to be given the throne of Israel.

When David wanted to build God a magnificent temple, God told David that a son would be born to him and that man of peace would build the temple. Even before he was born, everyone in the palace knew that Solomon was the next divinely appointed king. Absalom, who had both a royal mother and royal father, may have thought he had more right to the throne than any of the other princes. But trying to take the throne from David was utter foolishness. Even though Absalom had won over many people, including David's best advisor and part of the army, he had not won over the priests or Levites. They remained loyal to David.

In every generation, there is an ongoing struggle between good and evil, which works like a see-saw. If good is high, evil is low but if evil is high, good is low.

If parents fail to teach their children about God, young people grow up not knowing God. This happened in the Bible book of Judges, Chapter 2, after the older generation died. It takes only one generation of children who are ignorant of God to cause a society to turn pagan, and be controlled by evil.

David failed to teach all his children to respect God and serve only Him. They should have been familiar with the recent history of Israel, where Ishbosheth thought he could have the throne by birthright. If God is not in something, it will not work.

Absalom would have known all this. Pride blinded him from understanding God and His ways. God hates pride. In Proverbs, Chapter 16, it says: "Pride leads to destruction." And in Chapter 28: "Arrogance will bring your downfall, but if you are humble, you will be respected." In the New Testament letter 1 Timothy, Chapter 3, the Apostle Paul speaks of the qualities needed for a church leader: "He must be mature in the faith, so that he will not swell up with pride and be condemned, as the Devil was."

Absalom took four years to plan that secret rebellion against his father. When ready, Absalom proclaimed himself king at Hebron where he was born. David and many of his court officials fled the palace and from Jerusalem, and travelled towards the Jordan River. David waited there for word from two priests' sons as to what was happening in Jerusalem. Was this now the end of David's rule, or his son Absalom? Like David, we cannot know our future. But it is best to commit ourselves into God's care and live a life of heartfelt devotion and respect for our Lord Jesus Christ.

MUSIC - [Integrity Music](#).

That was Lisa Glasgow singing “The Lord is a refuge.”

The drama is from The Bible In Living Sound.

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