

announcements

Partner Class • October 19, 12:30-2:30pm: Where appropriate, challenge your group to make the commitment to the mission of North Rock Hill Church. At Partner Class they can learn about what it means to be an official NRHC Covenant Partner.

Baptism • October 26: Every week, remind your group about upcoming baptisms. Encourage them to let you know if they're interested in learning more about what the Bible teaches about baptism and what it means to take this step of obedience.

30's and 40's singles: Do you know of people in this season of life? If so, please pass along that there is a group planning some social events for them. If they are interested in being in the loop, please pass along their name and email to Allison (allison@northrockhill.com).

2 Samuel 13-20

THIS WEEK IS A BIT DIFFERENT. Since we're covering a larger section of Scripture, we've put together an outline that gives an overview of these chapters and connects the main themes leading up to Chapter 18. Before you meet this week, make sure to send the outline below to whoever is storying in your group. It'll be helpful for them as they prepare and lead your group through the story.

So, whoever is storying, will share an overview of chapters 13-20. Then your group will read Chapter 18 together and walk through your the discussion questions, like you normally do.

OUTLINE OF CHAPTERS 13-20

CHAPTER 13 – AMNON, TAMAR, AND ABSALOM'S REVENGE

- David's son Amnon becomes infatuated with his half-sister Tamar (Absalom's sister) and rapes her.
- Afterward, Amnon despises her and sends her away in disgrace.
- King David is furious but does not punish Amnon.
- Absalom silently plots revenge.
- Two years later, Absalom invites his brothers to a feast and orders his servants to kill Amnon.
- Absalom flees to Geshur, where he remains three years.

CHAPTER 14 – ABSALOM'S RETURN TO JERUSALEM

- David is convinced by Joab to bring Absalom back.
- David permits Absalom to return to Jerusalem, but forbids him from seeing the king's face.

- Absalom lives in Jerusalem for two years without seeing David until he is brought before the King and reconciled at least outwardly with a kiss of peace.

CHAPTER 15 – ABSALOM’S CONSPIRACY AND DAVID’S FLIGHT

- Absalom begins undermining David’s authority by standing at the city gate, hearing people’s complaints, and subtly implying he would make a better judge and leader.
- Over four years, he wins the loyalty of many Israelites.
- He requests permission to go to Hebron to “worship,” but there he declares himself king. Many join Absalom’s rebellion.
- When David hears of the uprising, he flees Jerusalem with his household and loyal followers.

CHAPTER 16 – ABSALOM ENTERS JERUSALEM

- Absalom enters Jerusalem and takes over the palace.
- Hushai pretends loyalty to Absalom and becomes an advisor within his court.
- Absalom sleeps with David’s concubines publicly, symbolizing total takeover of the throne, fulfilling Nathan’s prophecy (12:11–12) that David’s sin would bring public disgrace.

CHAPTER 17 – COUNSEL AND COUNTER-COUNSEL

- Absalom begins to gather all Israel for a massive attack, expecting that David and his men will be fierce and fight back.
- David’s allies secretly send word to David to cross the Jordan safely.
- Absalom crosses the Jordan with his army to continue the pursuit.

CHAPTER 18 – THE BATTLE IN THE FOREST OF EPHRAIM

- David organizes his troops and instructs them to deal gently with Absalom for his sake.
- Absalom’s army is defeated, and Absalom, fleeing on a mule, is caught by his hair in a tree.
- Despite David’s command, Joab kills Absalom and has his body thrown into a pit.
- When David learns Absalom is dead, he is overcome with grief, crying out, “My son Absalom! My son, my son Absalom! If only I had died instead of you!”

CHAPTER 19 – DAVID’S RETURN AND THE AFTERMATH

- David’s mourning demoralizes his army, leading Joab to rebuke him for grieving over his enemy rather than celebrating his loyal men.
- David pulls himself together and publicly greets his troops, restoring morale.
- The tribes of Israel argue over restoring David to the throne.
- Tensions rise between Judah and the other tribes of Israel, setting the stage for further unrest.

CHAPTER 20 — THE REBELLION OF SHEBA

- Sheba led Israel in rebellion against David, but Judah remained loyal.
- Joab kills the leader of the army for being slow to act and takes command.
- Joab's forces pursue Sheba and surround him
- Sheba is beheaded, and the rebellion ends.
- Joab remains in charge of Israel's army

STORYTELLING THROUGH 2 SAMUEL 18

1. OPEN in prayer

2. WELCOME and **INTRODUCTIONS**

3. REVIEW the dgroup Guidelines

4. ASSIGN A STORYTELLER: Prearrange to have someone in the group tell the story. Give them these guidelines:

- Have the Bible open on your lap without reading it or looking at it. Say, "this is the story from God's Word." This demonstrates reverence and authority for Scripture and makes it clear to others that this is not a made-up story, but rather is a story from God's Word.
- Tell the story as accurately as possible without memorizing it or using notes.
- Avoid giving any personal comments or teaching about the story, the setting, or the meaning.

5. STORYTELLER TELLS THE STORY: Encourage the group to listen for anything that may stand out to them.

6. REBUILD THE STORY: Go around the room and have your group retell/rebuild the story. If your group knows they will be expected to rebuild the story, they will listen more closely and be more invested. Ask them what happened first to get started, then go through the group having everyone add details. This isn't the time for the group to share their own commentary or opinion about the story. That comes later.

7. READ THE STORY: Have someone read the passage aloud from their Bible to ensure accuracy and reinforce key details.

8. DISCUSS THESE QUESTIONS:

- a. What do we learn about God from this passage?
- b. What do we learn about Man/Us from this passage?
- c. In this season of your life, which character do you relate to most, and why?

d. In light of what you've learned today, what do you need to do to obey God?

9. OTHER QUESTIONS SPECIFIC TO THIS PASSAGE:

- a. David's grief over Absalom isn't just the loss of a son; it's the shame of seeing the ripple effects of his own sin. Where have you seen the consequences of your choices cause pain beyond what you intended? How do you typically respond to that kind of shame—by hiding, blaming, or bringing it to God in repentance?
- b. Even after all Absalom had done, David still loved him deeply. His cry, "If only I had died instead of you!" reveals a heart crushed by both love and regret. What broken relationship, regret, or failure do you still carry shame over? What would it look like to bring that to God—not to fix the past, but to let His mercy meet you in your grief?

10. ASSIGN NEXT WEEK'S STORYTELLER: ????