

- Recap of last week: God sends a prophet named Nathan to David to tell him that he will give David a peaceful reign and his descendants will continue to rule, and David is grateful. (2 Samuel 7) God gives David victories wherever David goes to fight with his army. (2 Samuel 8) David shows kindness to a cripple named Mephiboseth because he was from Saul's family. (2 Samuel 9) David goes to war against the Ammonites. They hire the Syrians to help them but David's army beats them both (2 Samuel 10) David commits adultery with a married woman named Bathsheba, has her husband killed in battle, and tries to cover it up. (2 Samuel 11) God sends the prophet Nathan to condemn David and communicate his punishment over this incident, including the fact that the child they had conceived in sin dies. (2 Samuel 12)
- David's son Absalom had a virgin sister named Tamar. They had another brother named Amnon. Amnon really liked Tamar, so his friend Jonadab devised a plan for him to pretend like he is sick and ask David to send Tamar in with some food. (2 Samuel 13:1-6)
- The plan works and so Amnon and Tamar are alone. (2 Samuel 13:6-10)
- Amnon asks Tamar to have sex with him and she says "no" because brothers and sisters don't behave like that but if he asks David then David will probably consent. Amnon is stronger than she is and just forces her to have sex anyway. (2 Samuel 13:11-14)
- After he rapes her, Amnon becomes filled with hate for her, and calls on his friend Jonadab again to put her out even though she doesn't want to leave after what he has done. She goes. Many people figure out what has happened. David grieves but the Septuagint says he won't do anything to Amnon because Amnon was David's firstborn. But, after a couple of years, Absalom gets the opportunity for revenge and kills Amnon. (2 Samuel 13:20-33)
- Absalom flees to a city called Geshur where he lives for three years. (2 Samuel 13:33-39) Note that this was not one of the cities of refuge that God had Israel set up back in Joshua 20:7-8. This was a land even further away where Absalom would feel even more safe from those seeking revenge.
- Joab gets a wise woman from Tekoa to go and tell him a story about how she had two sons and no husband and one killed the other and ran away. David says he will issue an edict that her son will be safe if he returns. The woman explains that this actually is David's situation and so he brings Absalom back. (2 Samuel 14)
- Absalom gets the people on his side by pretending he wishes he could judge them, then telling David he made a vow to worship God in order to let him sneak away. Finally he manipulates even innocent people into supporting him and declares himself king. (2 Samuel 15:1-12)
- David hears about the uprising and leaves Jerusalem with those few people that are still loyal, including the original army of 600 that he put together back in the days they were running from Saul. David ascends the Mount of Olives in a very sad state, in fact he is openly weeping. (2 Samuel 15:13-30)
- This is reminiscent of Jesus going up on to the very same mountain before he was crucified and right after he institutes communion in Matthew 26. Jesus was very sad then too. The Garden of Gethsemane is at the base of that hill.
- David plots with two of his men to become double agents. (2 Samuel 15:32-37)
- Mephiboseth (the cripple from Saul's house) had a servant named Ziba who brings David and his men and two donkeys, food, and drink. David finds out that Mephiboseth now has designs on the throne himself, and so he declares that all which belonged to Mephiboseth now belongs to Ziba. (2 Samuel 16:1-4)

- Some man named Shimei curses at David and throws rocks at his and his men, and one of David's men wants to kill him, but David refuses saying essentially that God will judge him. (2 Samuel 16:5-14)
- This is exactly what Paul writes in Romans 12:19.
- Absalom goes into Jerusalem, and on the counsel of his advisor Ahithopel tells his to take his father's concubines. Even David acknowledges that Ahithopel is speaking with God's guidance. (2 Samuel 16:15-23)
- The double agent David setup in chapter 15 works. The double agent named Husai convinces Absalom to pursue David against Ahithopel's counsel. Then he sends word to David about what's going on. Ahithopel kills himself when he realizes his counsel is being disregarded. (2 Samuel 17)
- David's army and Absalom's army finally meet up in battle. David tells his commanders not to harm Absalom, but Absalom is killed in a freak accident when he ends up getting his hair caught in some branches and hung. David grieves for his son when he hears the news. (2 Samuel 18)
- Joab, one of David's commanders, tells him to shake it off because a lot of people are expecting him to be king again so he needs to get his act together. (2 Samuel 19:1-8)
- David returns to Jerusalem and pardons his enemies, most notably Shimei and Mephiboseth.

Questions

1. What is the relationship between Absalom, Amnon and Tamar?
2. Who is Jonadab?
3. Does Jonadab's plan work?
4. What does Amnon ask Tamar and what does she say?
5. What does Amnon do to Tamar?
6. What does Absalom do to Amnon? Why?
7. Where does Absalom flee?
8. How does Joab get a woman from Tekoa to trick David into allowing Absalom to return?
9. How does Absalom get the support of the people for his kingship?
10. What mountain does David ascend when he is weeping?
11. Who was Ziba and what does David give him?
12. What is the name of the person who curses David?
13. What was the name of David's double agent who saves him?
14. How does Absalom die?
15. Who tells David to start acting like a king again?
16. What does David do to his enemies after becoming king again?