



## **GROUP ICE BREAKER**

Who is the greatest TV family of all time and why?

## **REVIEW LAST WEEK'S NEXT STEPS**

What, if any, next step did you commit to last week, how did it go?

- I will look for warning lights to prevent a fall.
- I will consider the consequences of my actions.
- I will get alone with God and ask hard questions.
- I will get clear on what I believe and live it out.
- I will confess to God and receive his forgiveness.

## **THIS WEEK'S SERMON RECAP**

Of all the kinds of heartbreak a human being can experience, the worst kind is relational heartbreak. This week we look at what led to relational heartbreak between David and his son Absalom. Relational heartbreak never just happens. There were crossroad moments where David made crucial mistakes in decisions he made. The first was to Confront or Avoid. Don't just wait for a problem to go away. Love enough to confront head on, before things get worse. David decided to avoid. He waited two years before confronting issues with his son, and by then it was simply too late. The next decision David made was to either Pay Attention or Ignore. When Absalom needed his father to pay attention to him most, David wasn't there. When things get difficult, love pays attention. Love really listens and observes and cares. I wonder for the people in your life, especially the difficult people, do you really pay attention to them? The final decision David needed to make was either to Communicate or Regret. Absalom eventually passed away, and David was left behind with a moment of clarity that came too late. Do not assign yourself to a lifetime of regret. If there are words that need to be communicated, say them and say them soon. God can free you from any relational brokenness, but have the courage to say the words that most needs to be said.

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. What have you loved most in learning about David's life? What new thing did you learn about David? Has your opinion of David changed, and if so, how?
2. Why do you think so many people can be so good at other areas in their lives and yet struggle in their family relationships?

# PREVENT RELATIONAL BREAKDOWN

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## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (CONT)

3. What are common problems that create conflict in relationships? Why might such conflicts continue for years without resolution? What kinds of scars do people carry as a result?
4. Where did both Absalom and David fall short in their reaction to Amnon's sin?
5. Is it easier for you to confront or avoid issues in a relationship? How does that play out in your life positively or negatively?
6. How would you describe "true reconciliation"? Why is it so difficult? How might God be encouraging you to seek reconciliation in a particular relationship or to help others do so?

## NEXT STEPS FOR THIS WEEK (COMMIT TO GROW)

Use these as a guide to take your next step and commit to what you learned this week:

- I will begin the steps of reconciliation.
- I will confront rather than avoid.
- I will say the words I need to say.
- I will pay attention rather than ignore.
- I will listen, observe and care for difficult people in my life.
- I will communicate rather than regret.
- I will say the words I know I need to say.

## SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

- 2 Samuel 13:1-39
- 2 Samuel 14:23
- 2 Samuel 14:28-29
- 2 Samuel 14:23-33
- 2 Samuel 15:1-6
- 2 Samuel 3:7-16
- 2 Samuel 16:20-22
- 2 Samuel 18:5
- 2 Samuel 18:33