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Grieving Father, Victorious King

Key References: 2 Samuel 16:15-18:33; *Patriarchs and Prophets*, chap. 72, pp. 744, 745; *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 4, pp. 109-111; Our Beliefs, nos. 23, 14, 11.



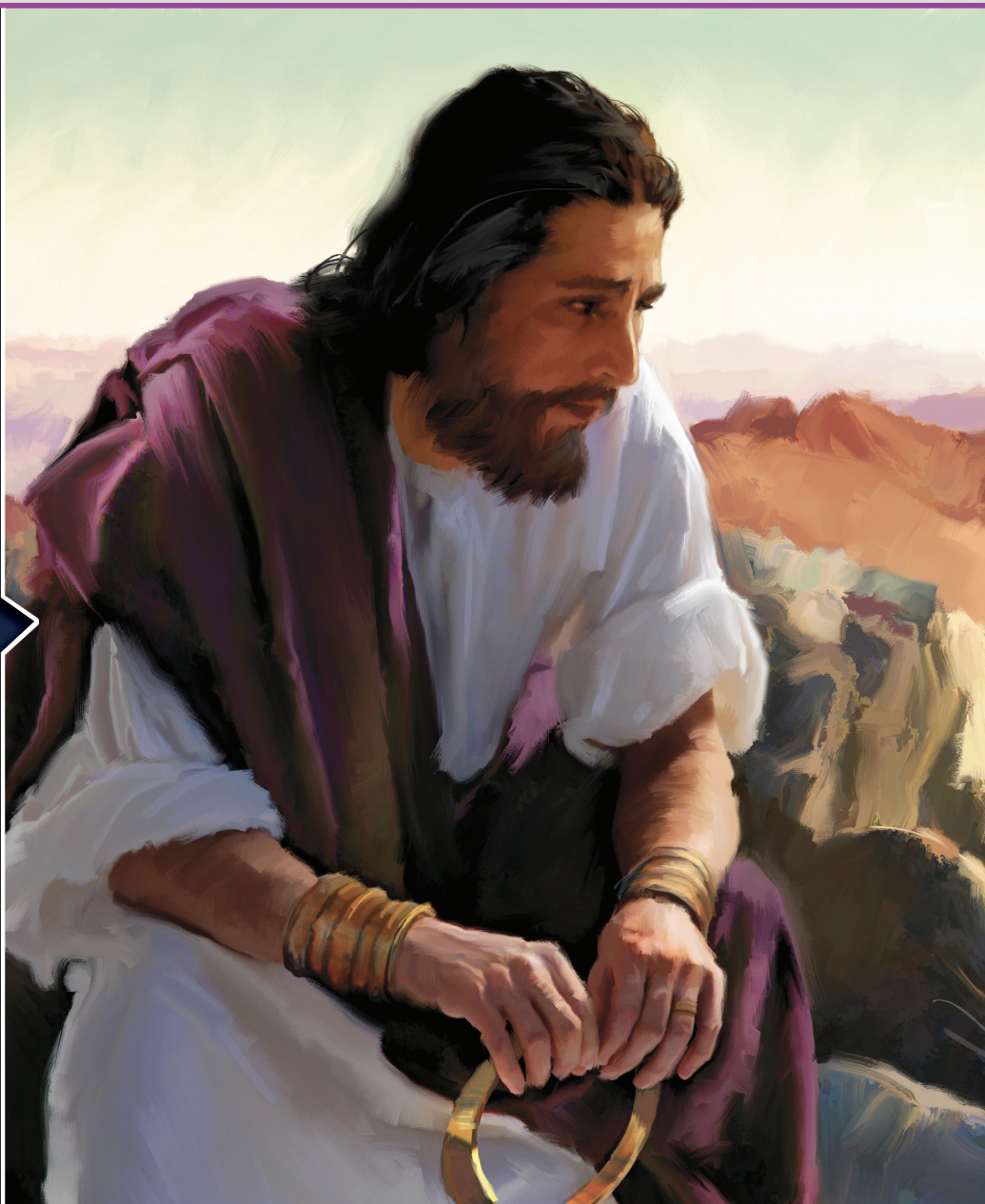












powertext

"But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous" (Matthew 5:44, 45).

Sabbath

DO Do the activity on page 46.

powerpoint

We reflect God's love when we are patient with and accepting of others.

Do you remember a time you got lost? Did you stop and ask for directions? Most people do. But some people just don't want to follow directions. They think they know a better way. A long time ago Joab, one of King David's generals, thought he he knew a better way. Was he right? What do you think?

The king of Israel was in exile. His son Absalom had rebelled and was trying to kill him and rule in his place!

Abishai, Ittai, and Joab were ready to take their men into battle. David stood by the gate watching as hundreds of men filed out. These men loved David enough to fight for him. David said to Abishai, Ittai, and Joab, "Be gentle with the young man Absalom for my sake" (2 Samuel 18:5). As he spoke, all the soldiers heard. In spite of all that had happened, David wanted his son kept alive. He hoped that someday he and Absalom would be reunited.

The battle raged. The army of David fought with courage and strength. Many of the people fought in the forest, and it was there the soldiers found Absalom riding on his mule. In his haste to get away from them, Absalom rode under a large tree, and his head was caught in the low-hanging branches, but the mule kept going. Absalom hung there helplessly while the man who saw it ran to Joab.

"I just saw Absalom hanging in an oak tree," the man cried.

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Sunday

READ Read 2 Samuel 16:15-17:4 and this week's lesson, "Grieving Father, Victorious King."

WRITE Write a psalm or a song using the words of the power text and the reference. If you wish, ask someone to help you create it. Share it with someone once you have completed it.

LEARN Begin to memorize the power text.

PRAY Thank God for His long-suffering love.

Monday

READ Read 2 Samuel 17:5-17:29.

ASK Interview your parents about their childhood experiences. Ask: What do you remember most about your parents when you were a child? Compared to today, how was life for parents different then? What did you learn from your parents that affects your life the most today?

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Thank God for your parents and the great love they show you.

Tuesday

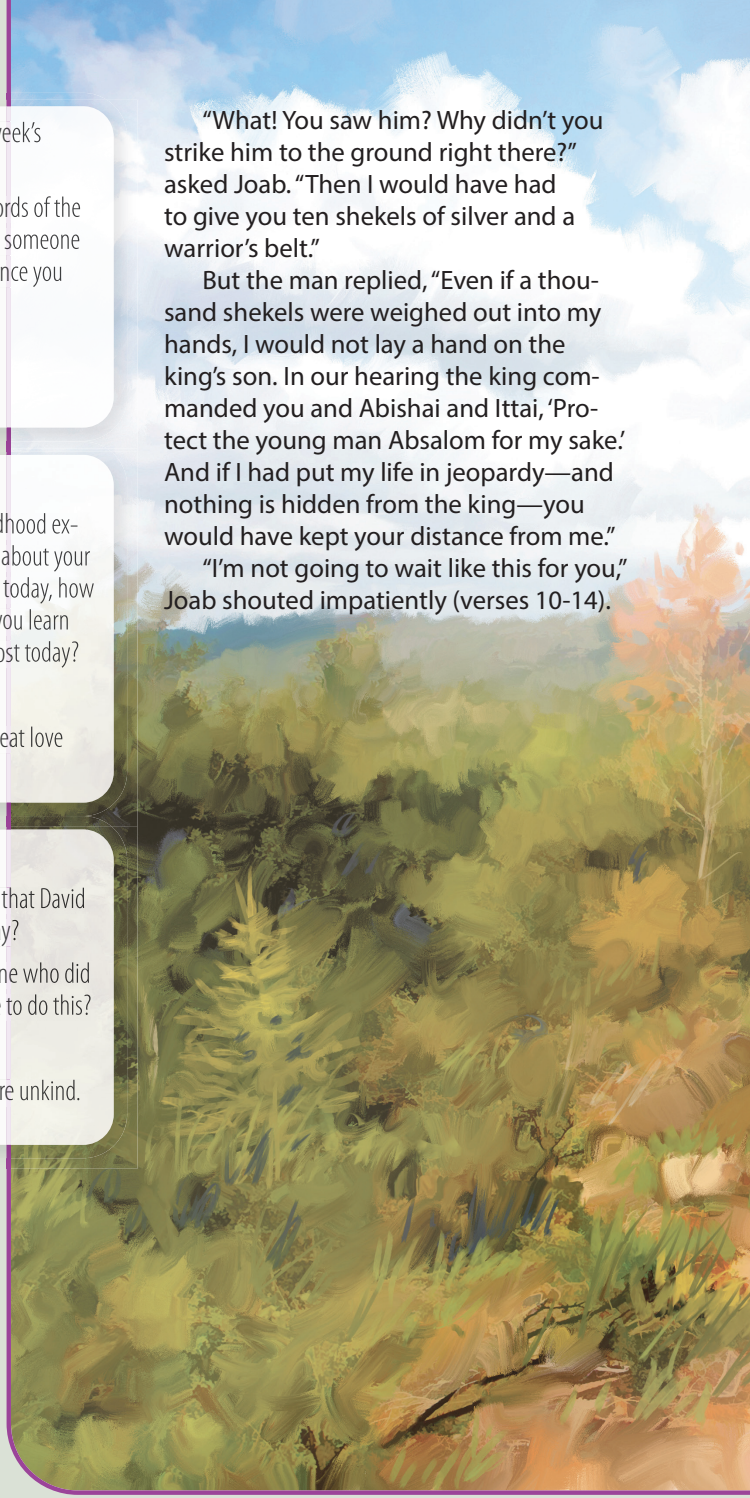
READ Read 2 Samuel 18.

THINK What evidence is there in chapter 18 that David hoped to be able to forgive Absalom some day?

WRITE Describe a time you cared for someone who did something unkind to you. Why were you able to do this?

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask God to help you love those who are unkind.



"What! You saw him? Why didn't you strike him to the ground right there?" asked Joab. "Then I would have had to give you ten shekels of silver and a warrior's belt."

But the man replied, "Even if a thousand shekels were weighed out into my hands, I would not lay a hand on the king's son. In our hearing the king commanded you and Abishai and Ittai, 'Protect the young man Absalom for my sake.' And if I had put my life in jeopardy—and nothing is hidden from the king—you would have kept your distance from me."

"I'm not going to wait like this for you," Joab shouted impatiently (verses 10-14).



He walked to the tree where Absalom hung and killed him. Joab blew the trumpet, and the troops stopped fighting. The battle was over.

Then Ahimaaz [uh-HIM-ay-az], a loyal follower of King David, spoke up. "Let me run and take the news to the king."

"You are not the one to take the news today," Joab replied. "You may take the news another time, but you must not do so today, because the king's son is dead."

Joab turned to a Cushite and ordered him to carry the message.

But Ahimaaz insisted, "Come what may, I want to run."

So Joab agreed. The eager man ran so fast that he passed the Cushite (see verses 19-23).

When he arrived in the king's presence, he bowed down and announced, "Praise be to the LORD your God! He has delivered up those who lifted their hands against my lord the king."

Then David inquired, "Is the young man Absalom safe?"

Ahimaaz replied, "I saw great confusion just as Joab was about to send the king's servant and me, your servant, but I don't know what it was."

"Stand aside and wait here," asked the king.

Soon the Cushite arrived as well and said, "My lord the king, hear the good news! The LORD has vindicated you today by delivering you from the hand of all who rose up against you."

But David was not so concerned with his own victory as he was with the welfare

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Wednesday

READ Read Luke 15:11-24.

THINK Name another father and son in the Bible who had a disagreement. Reflect on how they solved or could have solved their disagreement. Compare the stories.

LIST Watch a nature video or look in a book for information about how animals care for their young.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask God to give your parents wisdom and understanding for raising you and your siblings.

Thursday

READ Read Ephesians 6:1-4.

DISCUSS Find a story that deals with the subject of parenting. Discuss with someone what this story says about how parents and their children should treat each other.

ASK Ask members of your family how this story applies or does not apply to your own family relationship.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Thank God for Christian examples of long-suffering love.

Friday

READ Read Matthew 6:26-33.

SING Find the hymn "Children of the Heavenly Father" (*The Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal*, no. 101). Play the hymn on a musical instrument or sing the words quietly. If you are not familiar with the tune, read the words.

DISCUSS What are two words in which this song describes God as your heavenly Father?

REPEAT Say the power text aloud from memory.

PRAY Thank God for being your heavenly Father, who lavishes His love on you.

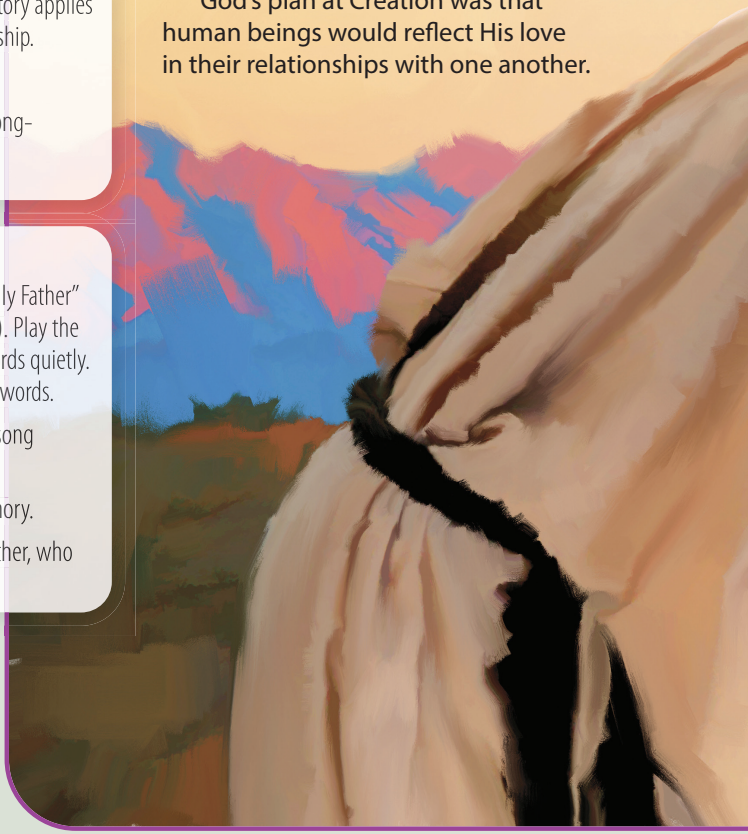
of his son. He asked the Cushite, "Is the young man Absalom safe?"

"May the enemies of my lord the king and all who rise up to harm you be like that young man," answered the Cushite.

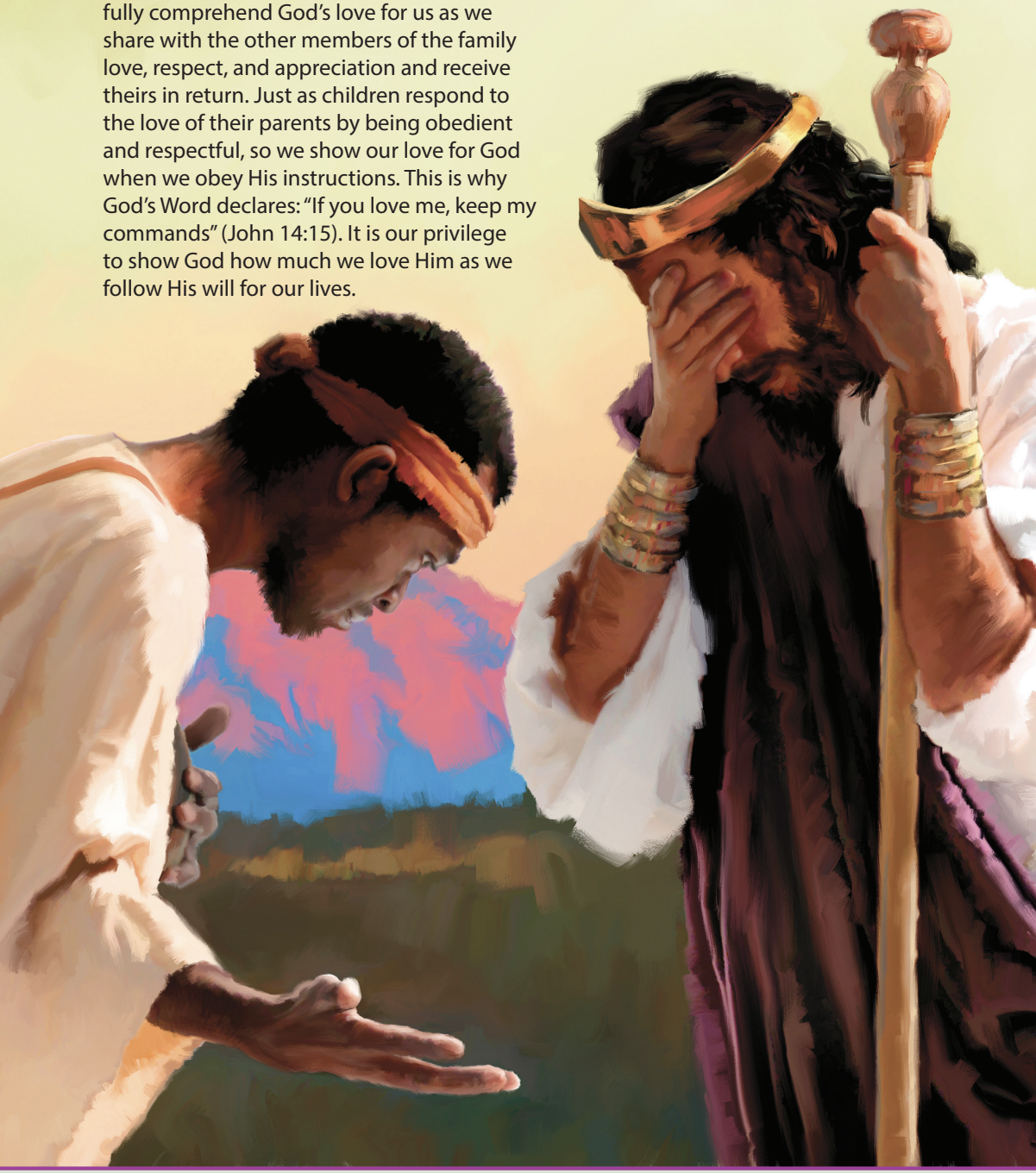
David realized then that Absalom was dead. "O my son Absalom!" he cried. "My son, my son Absalom! If only I had died instead of you—O Absalom, my son, my son!" (see verses 19-33).

Soon after this, David was restored to the throne. Things seemed to be better, except the place in David's heart that mourned for Absalom. That is the kind of love God has for all His children. And that's the kind of love He wants to give us for one another.

God's plan at Creation was that human beings would reflect His love in their relationships with one another.



It is in the family setting that we can most fully comprehend God's love for us as we share with the other members of the family love, respect, and appreciation and receive theirs in return. Just as children respond to the love of their parents by being obedient and respectful, so we show our love for God when we obey His instructions. This is why God's Word declares: "If you love me, keep my commands" (John 14:15). It is our privilege to show God how much we love Him as we follow His will for our lives.



PUZZLE
5

A FATHER'S LOVE

Instructions: Figure out this Bible verse found in Proverbs 3 by starting at the green square and by determining whether to travel every second, third, fourth, or fifth square either clockwise or counterclockwise. Use every word once.

