

# Running with the Big Dogs

## Facing the Music

Introduction to II Samuel 14-17

### The 5 Purposes of the Purpose Driven Life

- **Worship**—You were planned for God’s pleasure
- **Fellowship**—You were formed for God’s family
- **Discipleship**—You were created to become like Christ
- **Ministry**—You were shaped for serving God
- **Evangelism**—You were made for a mission

There’s one song that no one wants to hear, and that’s “Taps”. However, when we have made poor choices, we have to “face the music”, and try to make the best of a bad situation. This happened to King David this week, as he tried to deal with his failure to restore his son, Absalom, after he had murdered his brother, Amnon. Joab, David’s commander, got a woman to use the story “device” to trap David, leading him to agree to bring Absalom back. Unfortunately, David then refused to see him, which led to even more problems. After two years Absalom set Joab’s field on fire to force David to see him, which he finally did. The underlying question was whether Absalom would be dealt with for his murder of Amnon; but, since David hadn’t dealt with the rape of

Tamar, he gave Absalom his blessing. Absalom had ulterior motives, though. He began to steal the hearts of Israel from his father, and, when the time was right, conspired to take over David’s kingdom. David wisely gathered up the household and fled Jerusalem, and in the process discovered who his friends were. One was Ittai, of Gath, who went with David, and Zadok and Abiathar, his priests. He asked them to stay with Absalom as spies, as he also did with Hushai, his advisor. Using these three, David was able to circumvent Absalom’s conspiracy, showing that even when things are mounting against us we must still take steps to overcome the problems. Unfortunately, some take



**When you run with God and follow His lead, you will have success in life.**

advantage of us in times like these, which is what Ziba, Mephibosheth’s servant did, and Shemei, of Saul’s house did. In the end, though, Zadok’s sons helped David avoid capture, and Hushai thwarted the good counsel of Ahithophel, allowing David’s life to be preserved. A final blessing from his friend, Barzillai, enabled David to survive. Even though David was facing the music, God was playing a different song.

## Study/Discussion Questions for II Samuel 14-17

*(For answers to questions attend an ABF or go to [www.celebrationnet.com/resources/leader](http://www.celebrationnet.com/resources/leader) resources)*

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| <p>1. Look at 14:1-11. What did Joab do (v2-3), and why (v1)? What was the woman’s story (v4-7) and David’s response (v8-11)? Why was Joab’s approach wise, and what can we learn from this?</p>   |  |
| <p>2. In 14:12-20 how was David treating Absalom (v13) like the woman’s family was treating her (v7)? Why was it not God’s will (v14)? What did David discern about this whole event (v18-20)?</p> |  |
| <p>3. From 14:21-33 how did David deal with his failure (v21), and how was Joab affected (v22)? How did David fail next (v24), how did Absalom react (v28-32), and what was the result (v33)?</p>  |  |

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## II Samuel 14-17 Study Questions (cont)

4. Read 14:25-27 and 15:1-12. Describe Absalom (14:25-27), and what he did to overthrow King David over a 4 year period (v15:1, 2-6)? How did he plan to implement the overthrow (v7-12). Evaluate Absalom and why he acted as he did.

5. Using 15:13-23 how did David wisely react (v14-18), and why would this have been difficult? Who wanted to go with David (v19, 21), and how did David respond (v19-20, 22)? What does this say about David?

6. From 15:24-37 who else wanted to go with David (v24, 32)? What was David's instruction to each (v25, 33), and why (v25-26, 27-29, 34-37)? How would you summarize these actions, and how can we apply David's approach?

7. In 16:1-14 what 2 people connected with Saul tried to take advantage of David's situation (v1, 5), and what did each do (v2-4, 6-8)? What does David's response (v4, 10-12), tell us about him?

8. Based on 16:15-23 who infiltrated Absalom's staff for David (v16), and how did he solidify his position (v17-19)? What advice did Ahithophel give Absalom (v20-23)?

9. Looking at 17:1-14, 23, what was Ahithophel's advice (v1-4), and Hushai's (v5-13)? Whose counsel seemed best to Absalom (v14), and why (v11-13, 14)? What did this lead to (v23)?

10. From 17:15-29 how did David learn of Absalom's plan (v15-17, 21), what nearly happened (v17-20), and how did David respond (v22)? Who helped him (v27-29), and what does this show?

11. Identify some lessons you've learned from 2 Sam 14-17 about the way David dealt with his poor choices, his problem children, and his personal challenges as he fled from Absalom.

### Scripture to Remember

***"God does not take away life,  
but plans ways so that the  
banished one may not be  
cast out from Him."  
2 Samuel 14:14***

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### Life Group Questions

*(Using questions based on today's message, Life Groups meet in homes to build supportive relationships with others at Celebration Fellowship that enable us to grow in Christ.)*

1. Share with the group your definition of spiritual maturity. How has that changed over the years?
2. Talk about why we tend to rely on ourselves, and our ability to manipulate, to get what we want. Why is it so easy to be deceptive in this whole process?
3. Discuss some of the patterns that keep "kicking you" as you do life. What kind of relational damage do these most often cause for you?
4. As you look back on God's guidance and support in your life, what are some of the things that stand out most to you? Tell the group about these.
5. Describe what your old "nickname" could have been, and how God is giving you a new name. Why is it good to remember that it's about progress, and not perfection, in this transition?
6. Discuss anything else that impressed you from the message today if you have time.