

Aim: To understand that choosing sin makes life more difficult in future and that we need to be constantly growing in our personal relationship with God.

Refer: Great Controversy chapter 3

The reason that Absalom was angry with his half-brother Amnon, is that Amnon disgraced Absalom's sister Tamar, so Absalom had Amnon killed and then Absalom ran away to stay with his foreign Grandfather, King Talmai. David finally agreed Absalom could come home again, but then he refused to see him for two years. So, Absalom planed a rebellion, telling the people that the King was too busy to help them, and David did not notice what was going on. Then when the rebellion was stopped David was so sad that Absalom was killed, he didn't feel like thanking those who had faithfully fought for him.

We are all sinners and there are times when we all make poor choices and mistakes. A couple of weeks ago we mentioned how David chose to follow the custom of the heathen nations and have multiple wives. 1 Chronicles 3 mentions 7 wives and 19 sons. Amnon was his first son, and the son of Ahinoam of Jezreel and Absalom his 3rd son, the son of Maacah the daughter of King Talmai of Geshur.

There is something else that David did before the incident with Amnon and Absalom that you need to know about. Something that helps to explain why David didn't do anything about what was happening.

Read of share the story from Sunday in the Orange lesson.

David was truly sorry for his sins and God forgave him.

Read Acts 13:22

Even though David was forgiven it did not change what he had done, nor could David forget it, or hide what he had done from others. Now, David was either not aware of what was happening in his family between Amnon and Tamar and Absalom or else he ignored it. We don't know whether it was because David felt guilt, shame or fear of what people would say because of what he had done, or perhaps, David's sons had lost respect for him.

Choosing sin now always makes things harder later. At the same time, when we do sin, it is still possible for things to be good again..

Optional Read 1 John 2:1, 2 (Jesus is our advocate and sacrifice)

Read Romans 8:28 – Notice it says "In ALL things" – even when I stuff up, God can turn things around and make them good again. What is important is to continue growing my relationship with God.

How do we grow our relationship with God? (Spending time with Him every day, reading the Bible, praying etc)

This term we are learning about what happened to the Christian Church from the end of Jerusalem until now. Last week we learned about when the Roman Emperor become a Christian, making Christianity popular. Since Satan hadn't been able to stop the Christians by persecuting them, he would now introduce errors into their beliefs, a little at a time.

- We mentioned last week how some of the new converts liked to kneel before an idol, only now they prayed to statues of Mary and the Apostles. *Optional: Are Mary and the Apostles still alive? Can they hear what we say? Revise what you learned about death in week 1.*

To make this more acceptable, the 2nd Commandment was removed from the 10 Commandments and the 10th was split into two parts so there would still be 10. Copies of the scriptures became hard to find, especially in the language of the common people.

- The Church in Rome became very influential, and the leader of the Church there eventually became known as the Pope - You might think the Pope is like our conference president but there is a BIG difference: The Pope claims to be God!

As the centuries passed, other practices and traditions were added that were different from the Bible teachings, and the people were taught to rely on priests instead of studying the Bible and praying directly to God for themselves.

The Christian church that started in Rome became known as the Roman Catholic church and as we continue this term you might recognise the names of other types of churches. It is important to understand that there are true Christian people in each of these churches.

What is a Christian?

A Christian is someone who accepts Jesus' sacrifice for their sins and who wants to live God's way, to be on God's side. Being a Christian doesn't mean we are perfect (David wasn't), it doesn't mean that we understand everything correctly. It means that we have personal relationship with God, that we spend time with Him regularly and that we are growing spiritually and becoming more like Him.

Here are some verses about this:

Romans 10:9 – Believe and confess Jesus

Deuteronomy 30:19-20 – A choice, choose to obey