



Life Groups Application

“Family In Crisis”

David and Absalom

2 Samuel 13-18

It is time to STOP fighting with your family and to START fighting for your family!

Christian families everywhere are under spiritual attack. Whether you know it or not, there is a battle for the very soul of your family.

David could face a giant on the battlefield but could not confront the Giants in his own living room. He was a warrior as a King but a wimp as a father.

Four Giants that David Faced in his Family.

I. The Giant of Inaction. Injustice without immediate intervention.

- Is there a situation that remains unresolved in your family? Is there any next step you can take to bring healing and hope in this situation?
- When parents do not model appropriate sharing of vulnerabilities/imperfections and are silent or distance themselves from personal “failures,” it leads their children to believe it is not okay to be vulnerable or talk about imperfections. Discuss this quote.
- Sometimes, we believe that time will heal all wounds. Someone is angry, someone is offended, and we just feel that over time they will heal. That is a lie...they get worse over time. How have you seen this play out in your family?

II. The Giant of Silence. Affection without Expression.

- David loved Absalom but never told him to his face. If you love your wife, your children, do not hide it, show it to them, let them know. Do it today!
- “Like water spilled on the ground, which cannot be recovered, so we must die. But that is not what God desires; rather he devises ways so that a banished person does not remain banished from him.” (2 Samuel 14:14)

We all die! So, reconcile with one another before it is too late. You cannot force reconciliation but do everything within your power to pursue it!

- This is the gospel...The picture of Absalom and David is really a picture of us and Christ. We are sinners like Absalom. We are banished and outside the family of God. And Christ comes to rescue us and bring us home. (Pause and give thanks)

III. The Giant of unresolved wounds. Emotional damage without Healing.

- David and Absalom loved each other but their stubbornness kept them apart. Is there any place in your life or family that stubbornness needs to be put to death?
- Rob Reimer writes, *"Everyone is carrying around some hurts, some emotional bumps, and bruises. Unless these wounds are healed, they can negatively influence our reactions, our decisions, our behaviors, and our relationships, and they are limitations to our lives. Sadly, sometimes these hurts are protected behind a fortress of defense mechanisms that keep us from accessing them. The fortress is not a healing refuge. The walls must come down, and we must let Jesus into our painful places, for He alone is the Healer."*

What wall need to come down in your heart and in your family?

IV. The giant of rebellion. Defiance without Repentance.

If one of your family members is in rebellion, what should you do?

- Surrender all your expectations and strategies to God and fall at His feet in absolutely humility! How do you relate to this response?
- Focus on the heart not the behaviour. How hard is this for you to do?

"God is far less concerned about our behavior than we think He is. He is much more concerned about our hearts than we will ever know." Rob Reimer

Personal Application

- Have you ever felt the need to hide an aspect of your family because it felt too messy or flawed?
- Have you ever felt shame or guilt about something that happened in your marriage or parenting?
- Or were you on the receiving end of dysfunction that has caused lasting wounds?

Whatever your situation, our God is the God who Sees...and he sees you right now. Do not move to the shadows, instead come out into the light, and let Jesus the healer, heal you!

Though the enemy is working to steal, kill, and destroy, Jesus has come to give life. And, as you fight for your family, be strong knowing...you do not fight alone!