



**Adult Sunday  
School at the  
sanctuary**

**Lesson-15:**  
Absalom rebels  
against David

**Date:**  
23 Oct 2022  
(Sunday)

**Time:** 9.40am

**Venue:** Sanctuary

(1) Background: Absalom killed Amnon and fled to Geshur. David longed for Absalom and got Joab to bring him back.

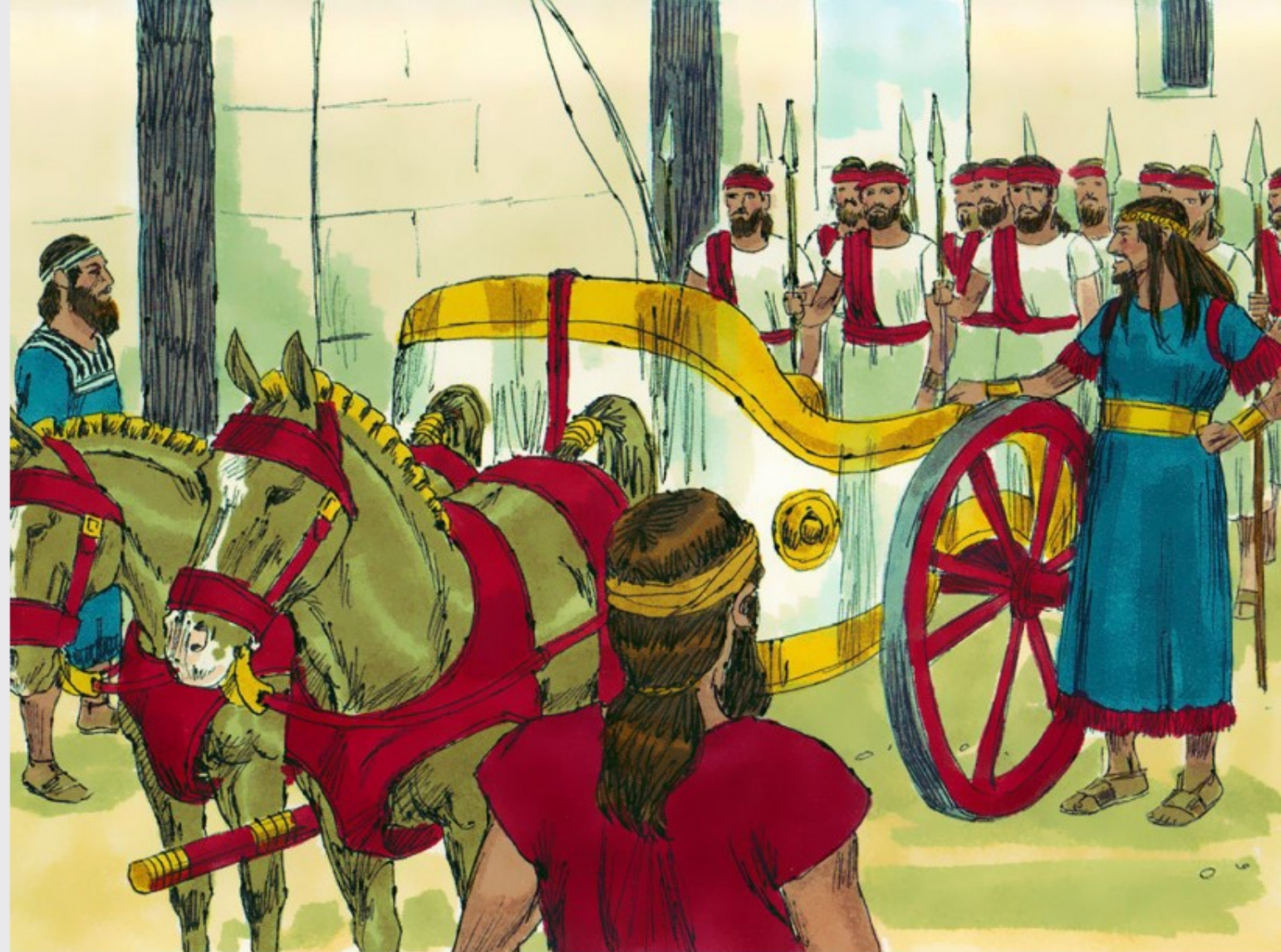
(2) Absalom was a wicked person:

(a) Took revenge and killed his brother, Amnon.

(b) Set fire to Joab's barley field.

(3) Absalom now wanted to usurp David's throne.

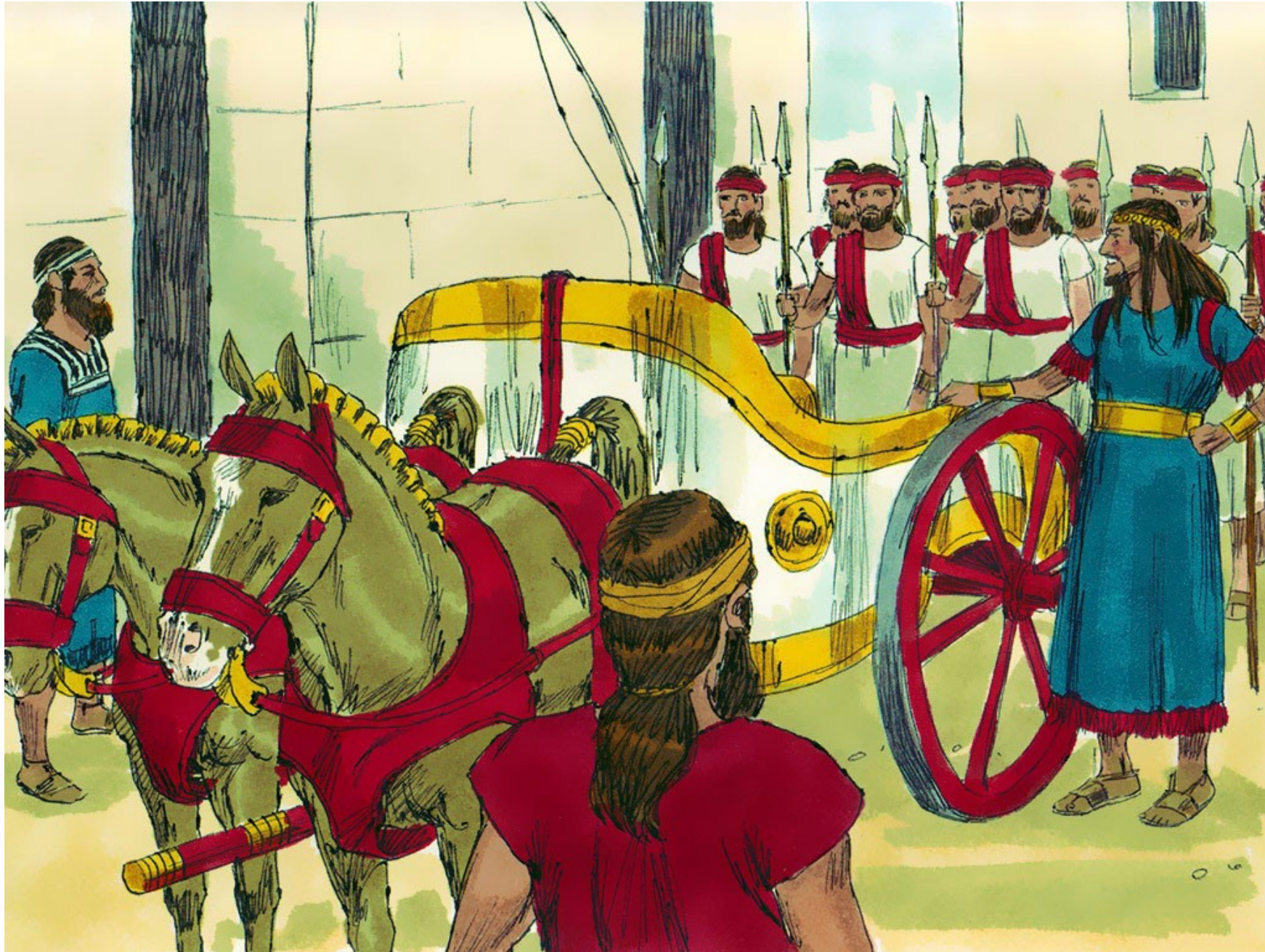




## Absalom rebels against King David

2 Samuel 15:1 – 18:33





Absalom became very proud. He provided himself with chariot and horses and fifty men to run ahead of him.

2 Sam 15:1





Absalom would sit by the city gate to meet those coming to the king for a judgment. He would say, 'I can see that you are right in this matter. It is a shame the king doesn't have anyone to assist him in hearing these cases.'

2 Sam 15: 2-3





'I wish I were the judge; then anyone with a lawsuit could come to me, and I would give him justice!

2 Sam 15:4





And when anyone came to bow to him, Absalom wouldn't let him, but shook his hand instead! So in this way Absalom became very popular with the people of Israel. 2 Sam 15:5-6





After four years of gaining popularity, Absalom plotted to become king instead of his father David.





He went to the King and asked permission to go to Hebron. He said he wanted to keep a promise he had made with God to make a sacrifice to Him for bringing him back from Geshur. David gave him permission to go. 2 Sam 15: 7-9





Absalom and 200 of his guests went to Hebron. When he got there he sent messengers to every part of Israel to announce, 'As soon as you hear the trumpets you will know that Absalom has been crowned in Hebron.'

2 Sam 15: 10

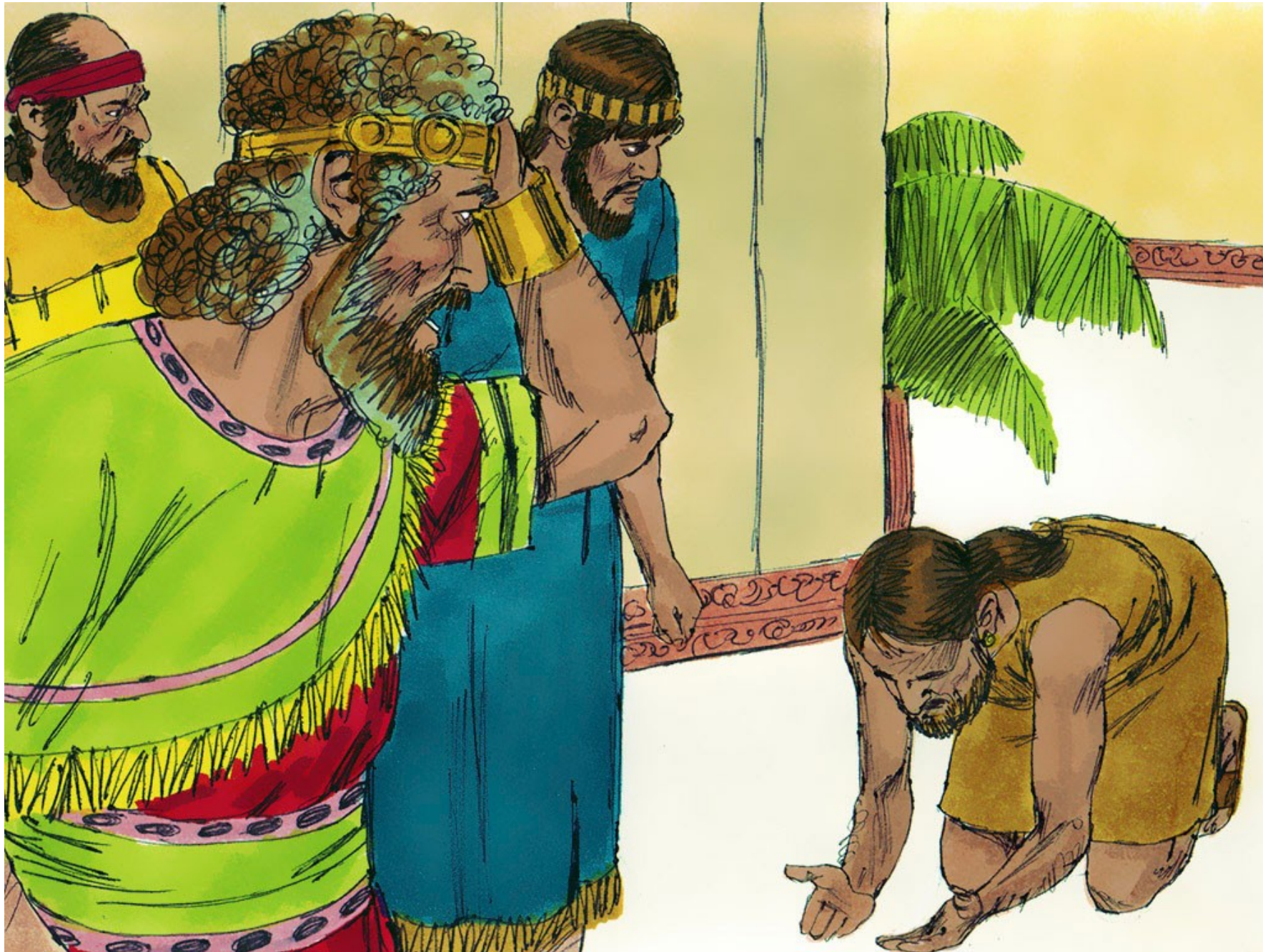




Men started gathering to support Absalom's rebellion. Ahithophel, one of David's trusted counselors, declared his support for Absalom. Absalom and his rebel army started marching towards Jerusalem.

2 Sam 15:12-13





A messenger soon arrived in Jerusalem to tell King David, 'All Israel has joined Absalom in a conspiracy against you!' David decided to flee the city.

2 Sam 15: 13-18





There was deep sadness in the city as the king left. David's head and feet were covered as a sign of mourning and he wept as he walked away. The people with him covered their heads and wept also.  
2 Sam 15:30





## Map of David fleeing from Absalom

<https://www.google.com/url?sa=i&url=https%3A%2F%2Fslideplayer.com%2Fslide%2F3800122%2F&psig=AOvVaw3w1mdyoUxclMWpdepavZiu&ust=1666140441380000&source=images&cd=vfe&ved=0CA0QjRxqFwoTCMDitv7G6PoCFQAAAAAdAAAAABAb>



## (1) David's words upon fleeing Jerusalem

	<b>David's words</b>	<b>Comment</b>
(a)	David and Ittai the Gittite (2 Sam 15:19-22)	Even a foreigner was taking side with David. David was a well-respected king.
(b)	David and Zadok (2 Sam 15:24-29)	Zadok, the priest, Abiathar, their sons and the ark of the covenant stayed in Jerusalem.  Their sons served as informants to David.



	<b>David's words</b>	<b>Comment</b>
(c)	David and Hushai (2 Sam 15:32-37)	<p>David instructed Hushai to pretend to be loyal to Absalom, but actually he was acting as a spy for David.</p> <p>Pulpit commentary disapproved of the deception of Hushai.</p>





MERCY SEAT

ARK OF THE COVENANT



**(2) Pulpit commentary: 2 Samuel 15:34.** - Then mayest thou for me defeat the counsel of Ahithophel.

David was thus meeting treachery by treachery, and we cannot approve of it, even granting that Ahithophel's conduct was base and selfish, while Hushai was risking his life for his master.

Still, he was sent back to tell a falsehood, and his excuse was necessity; for Ahithophel was so sagacious that, if his counsel were not upset, David's cause was lost.

It was not Christian morality, ... And even now, in war and diplomacy, such acts are not uncommon, .... Even in common life immoral doings are often sanctioned by use. Thus many customs of trade are frauds, considered legitimate because generally practised.



### (3) Spiritual Lessons

	<b>Person</b>	<b>Conduct</b>	<b>Sin</b>	<b>Comment</b>
1.	Absalom	Plotting and rebelling against David his father	Not honouring his father (Exodus 20:12).	Many cases of children not honouring their parents. Such children must be counselled and disciplined if necessary.



	<b>Person</b>	<b>Conduct</b>	<b>Sin</b>	<b>Comment</b>
2.	Absalom	“And Absalom said unto him, See, thy matters <i>are</i> good and right;...”(2 Sam 15:3)	Falsehood and deception	<p>Absalom gave favourable assessment because he wanted to win the peoples’ hearts. When the people are loyal to Absalom, he would overthrow David.</p> <p>Do we also speak favourably so as to win the hearts of others for our personal gains?</p>

	<b>Person</b>	<b>Conduct</b>	<b>Sin</b>	<b>Comment</b>
3.	Absalom	<p>“Absalom said moreover, Oh that I were made judge in the land, that every man which hath any suit or cause might come unto me, and I would do him justice!...” (2 Sam 15:4-6)</p> <p>“But Absalom sent spies throughout all the tribes of Israel, saying, As soon as ye hear the sound of the trumpet, then ye shall say, Absalom reigneth in Hebron.” (2 Sam 15:10)</p>	<p>Pride Falsehood and deception</p> <p>Lust for power</p>	<p>Do we practice deception and scheme to reach our goal?</p>



	<b>Person</b>	<b>Conduct</b>	<b>Sin</b>	<b>Comment</b>
4.	David	Loyalty of Ittai the Gittite to David  Instructing Hushai to pretend to be loyal to Absalom and act as a spy	-  Falsehood and deception	David was well-respected. Even a foreigner who did not have a part in the conflict pledged his loyalty to David.  Read Pulpit commentary and other commentaries. Commentaries are all disapproving of the conduct of Hushai.

Any questions from the class?