

# *Family Worship*

## *A Grieving Father*

*13·6·2021*

# *Opening Prayer*

Our Heavenly Father, thank you for our family.

And thank you for the privilege of coming together for worship.

Help us to understand Your Word and obey it with a joyful heart.

In Jesus name, we pray. Amen.

# *El Shaddai*

Let's learn a new song today. There are a few Hebrew words

- ❑ El Shaddai means *God Almighty*
- ❑ El-elyon na adonia means *God Most High, please my Lord*
- ❑ Erkamka na adonai means *I love you, my Lord*

# *El Shaddai*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=clt8BoHb0JE>



# *Catechism Time!*

Bible truths for teaching children

## Question 47

**Q:** Does the Lord's Supper add anything to Christ's atoning work?

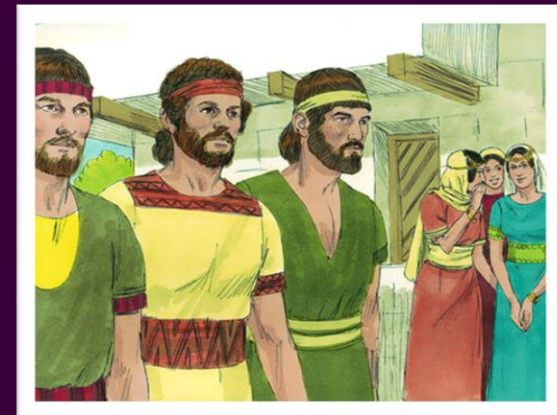
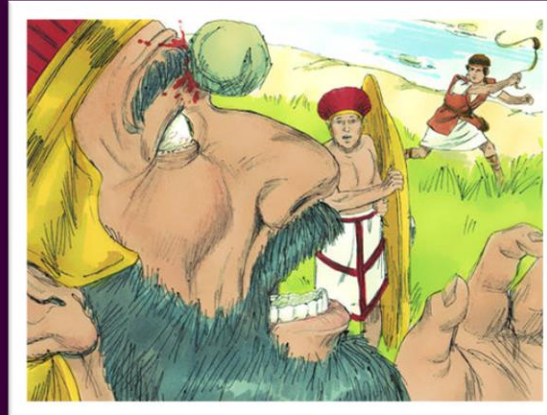
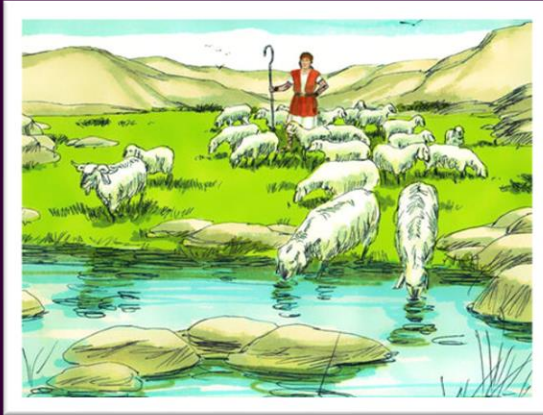
**A:** No, Christ died once for all.



**Bible verse (1 Peter 3:18)**

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God. . .

# King David



- ❑ David was originally a shepherd boy. He was a man after God's own heart.
- ❑ He loved what God loves, hated what God hates and delighted in God.
- ❑ God made him king over Israel, and shepherd of His people.
- ❑ He also wrote many Psalms in the Bible.

- ❑ But David's record was far from perfect.
- ❑ He sinned by having an affair with Bathsheba, wife of his loyal soldier Uriah. David even had Uriah killed so he could marry Bathsheba!
- ❑ God was very displeased with David. The son he and Bathsheba bore died 7 days after birth.
- ❑ David did not discipline his sons. David's oldest son Ammon violated his half-sister Tamar. Tamar's brother Absalom took revenge and killed Ammon.







A few years later, Absalom revolted against David. He wanted to take his father's throne!

David even had to escape from Jerusalem. David's army fought against Absalom's army.

Let's open up the Bible  
2 Samuel 18:1-15, 24-31

David counted his men. He chose commanders over groups of 1000 and commanders over groups of 100. <sup>2</sup> He sent the troops out in 3 groups.

Joab commanded one-third of the men. Joab's brother Abishai son of Zeruah commanded another third. And Ittai from Gath commanded the last third. King David said to them, "I will also go with you."



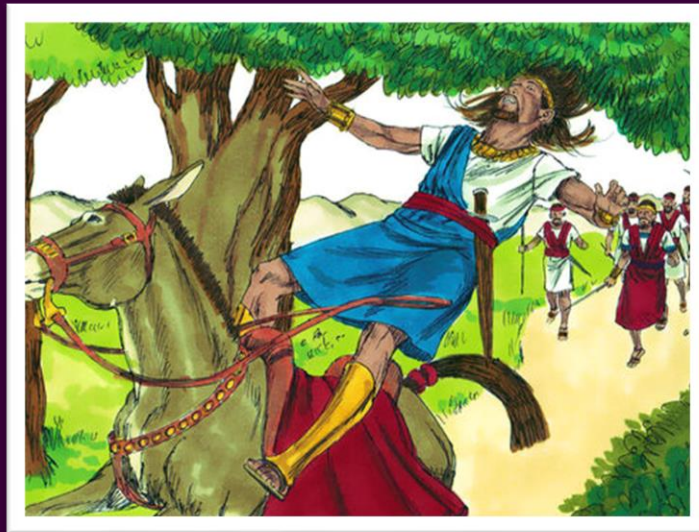
<sup>3</sup> But the men said, "No! You must not go with us! If we run away in the battle, Absalom's men won't care. Even if half of us are killed, Absalom's men won't care. But you're worth 10000 of us! It is better for you to stay in the city. Then, if we need help, you can send it."

<sup>4</sup> The king said to his people, "I will do what you think is best." So the king stood at the side of the gate as the army went out. They went out in groups of 100 and 1000.



<sup>5</sup> The king gave a command to Joab, Abishai and Ittai. He said, "Be gentle with young Absalom for my sake." Everyone heard the king's orders about Absalom to the commanders.

<sup>6</sup> David's army went out into the field against Absalom's Israelites. They fought in the forest of Ephraim. <sup>7</sup> There David's army defeated the Israelites. Many died that day—20,000 men. <sup>8</sup> The battle spread through all the country. But that day more men died in the forest than in the fighting.

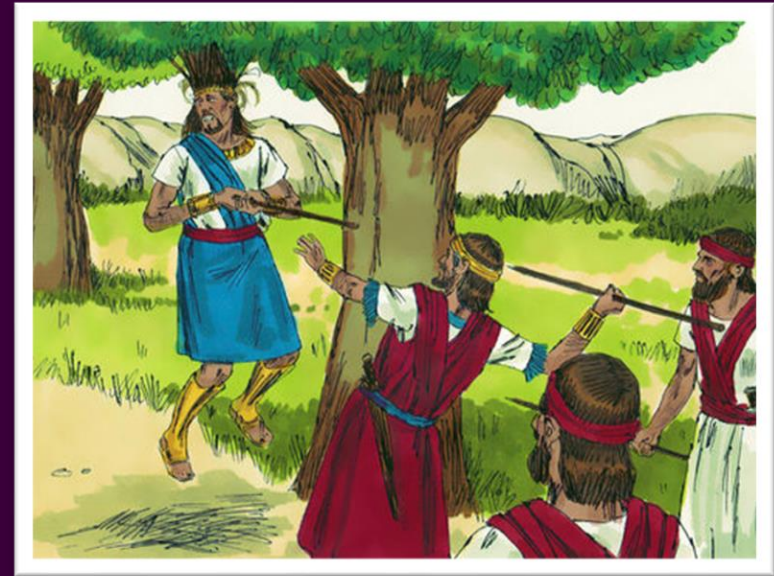


<sup>9</sup> Then Absalom happened to meet David's troops. As Absalom was riding his mule, it went under a large oak tree. The branches were thick, and Absalom's head got caught in the tree. His mule ran out from under him. So Absalom was left hanging above the ground.

<sup>10</sup> When one of the men saw it happen, he told Joab. He said, "I saw Absalom hanging in an oak tree!" <sup>11</sup> Joab said to him, "You saw him? Why didn't you kill him and let him fall to the ground? I would have given you a belt and four ounces of silver!"

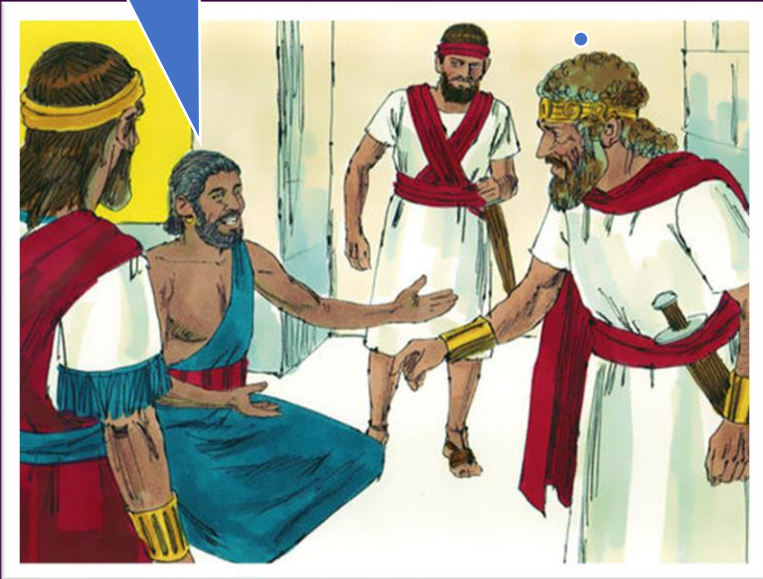
<sup>12</sup> The man answered, "I wouldn't try to hurt the king's son. I wouldn't even if you gave me 25 pounds of silver. We heard the king's command to you, Abishai and Ittai. The king said, 'Be careful not to hurt young Absalom.'" <sup>13</sup> If I had killed him, the king would have found out. And you would not have protected me!"

<sup>14</sup> Joab said, "I won't waste time here with you!" Now Absalom was still alive in the oak tree. So Joab took three spears and stabbed him in the heart. <sup>15</sup> Ten young men who carried Joab's armor also gathered around Absalom. They struck him and killed him.



Today the Lord has punished the people who were against you!

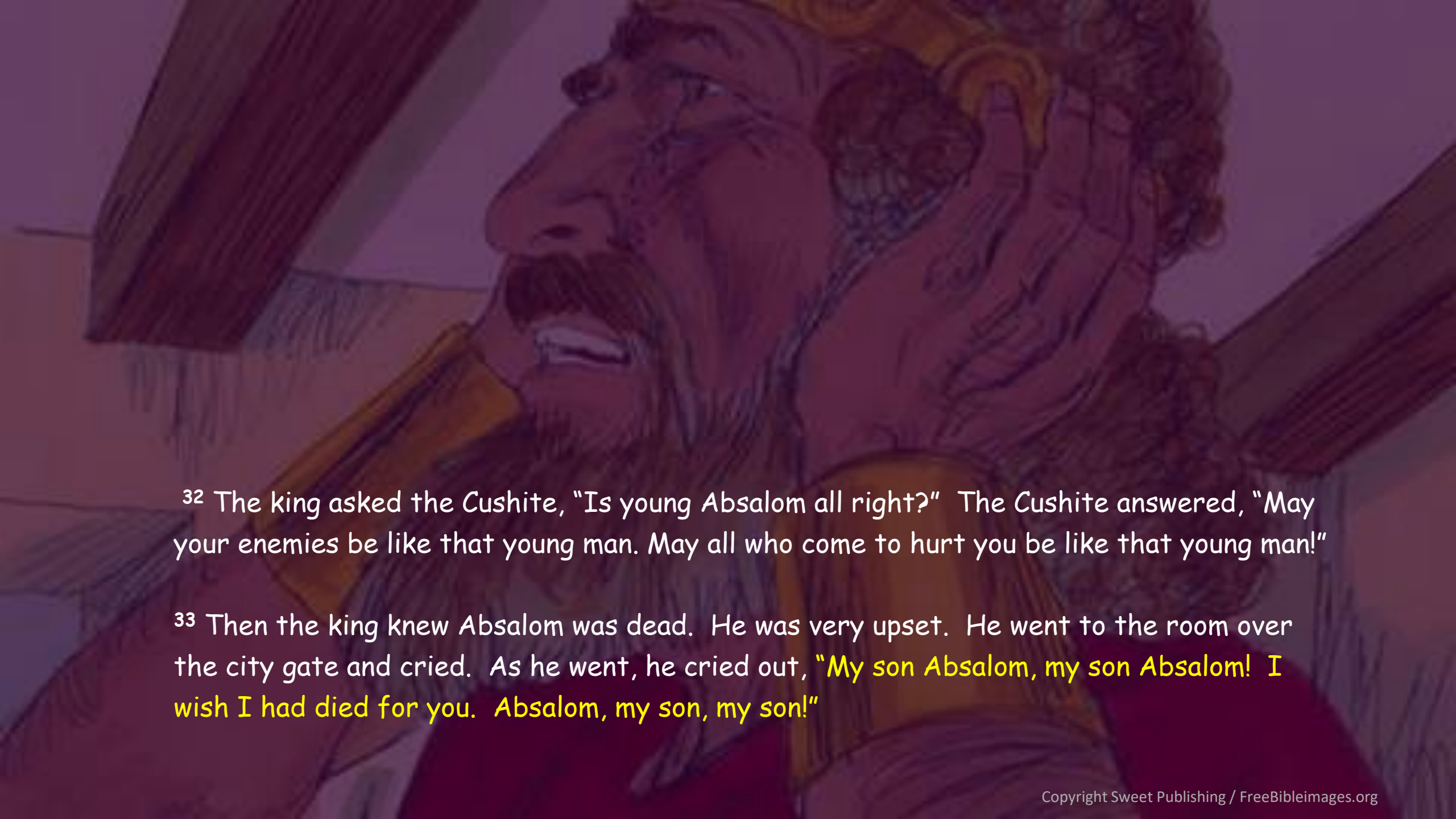
He is also bringing good news!"



<sup>24</sup> Now David was sitting between the inner and outer gates of the city. The watchman went up to the roof by the gate walls. As he looked up, he saw a man running alone. <sup>25</sup> He shouted to tell King David. The king said, "If he is alone, **he is bringing good news!**"

The man came nearer and nearer to the city. <sup>26</sup> Then the watchman saw another man running. The watchman called to the gatekeeper, "Look! Another man is running alone!" The king said, "**He is also bringing good news!**" ....

<sup>31</sup> Then the Cushite arrived. He said, "Master and king, hear the good news! Today the Lord has punished the people who were against you!"



<sup>32</sup> The king asked the Cushite, "Is young Absalom all right?" The Cushite answered, "May your enemies be like that young man. May all who come to hurt you be like that young man!"

<sup>33</sup> Then the king knew Absalom was dead. He was very upset. He went to the room over the city gate and cried. As he went, he cried out, "My son Absalom, my son Absalom! I wish I had died for you. Absalom, my son, my son!"

# Questions

1. Which of the 10 Commandments did David break for what he did to Bathsheba and Uriah? (hint: at least 5 of them)
  1. You shall have no other gods before me.
  2. You shall not make for yourself an idol—you shall not worship them.
  3. You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.
  4. Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.
  5. Honor your father and your mother.
  6. You shall not murder.
  7. You shall not commit adultery.
  8. You shall not steal.
  9. You shall not give false testimony.
  10. You shall not covet (desire other people's properties).
2. Why did Absalom want to take David's throne? Did he do what was in right in the eyes of the Lord?



# Questions

3. David's family problems in 2 Samuel 13-18 reveal David's failure as a father. In these 6 long chapters, God seems to be absent. There is just one verse that mentions God and what He did to save David from Absalom's coup.

*Absalom and all the Israelites said, "The advice of Hushai the Arkite is better than that of Ahithophel." They said this because the LORD had planned to destroy the good advice of Ahithophel. In this way the LORD could bring disaster on Absalom. (2 Sam 17:14)*

*(Hushai was a spy for David. Ahithophel was an advisor to Absalom.)*

- a) Are there times that God seems to be absent in your life? (give an example)
- b) Does the above verse reveal how God works behind the scene to achieve His purpose for you (as He did for David)?

# Questions

4. Compare Joab and David. Joab took justice in his own hands. David asked his people to spare Absalom, even mourned for him when Absalom was killed. If Joab characterises justice, what did David characterise? (select 2 from below)

(i) Faith (ii) Mercy (iii) Hope (iv) Love

5. David cried out, "My son Absalom, my son Absalom! **I wish I had died for you.** Absalom, my son, my son!"

- Absalom was David's enemy and deserved death, yet David still loved him and wished to die for him instead. This love is hard to believe, isn't it?
- If a human father could show this kind of love for his son, does it tell us something about God's love for His children?

We sin and became God's enemy. By God's justice we deserve death like Absalom. But God is love. He cries out to you & me, "My child, my child! **I died for you!**" Let's thank God for His great love for us through Jesus.

# Summary

1. Sin has consequence

→ David's family fell apart as he failed to discipline his sons

2. God works behind the scene to achieve His purpose in our lives

3. God's love is incredible → He even died for us his enemies

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## *Jesus Loves You*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vVTAOvZV1HM>

