



## Lesson 93

# David Flees Jerusalem

### Story Elements

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Text:</b> 2 Samuel 15:13-16:14</li> <li>• <b>Setting:</b> circa 990 B.C.</li> <li>• <b>Main Characters:</b> God, David, Abiathar, Zadok, and Hushai</li> <li>• <b>Plot:</b> As David flees Jerusalem, he is met by friends and enemies alike.</li> <li>• <b>Key word(s):</b> <i>“let him alone, and let</i></li> </ul> | <p style="text-align: right;"><i>him _____; for the Lord hath bidden him.” (16:11)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Climax:</b> <i>“And he cast stones at David, and at all the servants of king David: and all the people and all the mighty men were on his right hand and on his left.” (16:6)</i></li> </ul> |
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### Review (2 Sam. 15:1-17)

1. Absalom orchestrated a coup and deposed his father by winning the loyalty of many Hebrews and influential men. As news of Absalom's coronation in Hebron spread to Jerusalem, David willingly fled to avoid destruction of his beloved city and confrontation with his beloved son. Only ten \_\_\_\_\_ remained in the palace.

### Loyalists, Liars, and Loud Mouths (2 Sam. 15:17-37)

2. Those loyal to David fled with him. As they departed Jerusalem, they stopped at the farthest house within the city limits, formed ranks, and began their journey. (vv 17-18)  
The details of David's flight is a story of loyalty, bravery, and treachery.
  - (a) Ittai the Gittite (of \_\_\_\_\_) was a mercenary soldier who chose to be loyal to David instead of following Absalom. Ittai was commended for his loyalty and would later be rewarded with a generous promotion.
  - (b) Abiathar<sup>1</sup> and Zadok brought the ark in order to encourage David, but he knew God's blessing was not ultimately found in sacred furniture. He told the priests to return the ark to its place and said, *“If I shall find favour in the eyes of the LORD, he will bring me \_\_\_\_\_.”* The priests were also sent back to be David's eyes and ears from within Absalom's Jerusalem. (v 28)
  
3. As David ascended the Mount of Olives, he wept and mourned.
  - (a) When he heard that Ahithophel, a wise and trusted counselor, had conspired with Absalom, David prayed, *“O Lord, I pray thee, turn the counsel of Ahithophel into \_\_\_\_\_.”* (v 31)
  - (b) The answer to David's prayers were quickly sent, for it wasn't long before Hushai the Archite met David in his journey. David instructed Hushai to align himself with

<sup>1</sup>Abiathar was the sole survivor of Saul's destruction of the priestly city of Nob. (1 Sam. 22:20)

Absalom in order to contradict the counsel of Ahithophel. And so David had organized a network of \_\_\_\_\_: Hushai, Abiathar, Zadok, and their sons. (v 37)

4. Having passed the summit of the Mount of Olives, David was met by the gift-bearing Ziba, servant of \_\_\_\_\_. Ziba lied about his master (cf 2 Sam. 19:24-30) and told David that Mephibosheth remained in Jerusalem to reclaim the throne of his grandfather, Saul. In anger, David declared Ziba the rightful owner of Saul's estate.
5. The next character to meet David as he fled was Shimei, another distant relative of Saul. Shimei cursed and swore and threw rocks at David and said that all that had befallen David was God's justice against a \_\_\_\_\_ man.

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## Application

6. How tragic it is that David believed the lies of Ziba, which caused a rift in his relationship with Mephibosheth and marred the beautiful legacy of \_\_\_\_\_ friendship. Let us be exceedingly slow to believe unsubstantiated rumors about people we love.

**Proverbs 6:16** *These six things doth the LORD hate: Yea, seven are an abomination unto him...19 A false witness that speaketh lies, And he that soweth discord among brethren.*

7. David's reaction to Shimei was one of restraint. David had been humbled. Can you think of another man who cursed David? \_\_\_\_\_ What can we learn about David from these different reactions? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Notes:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Answer Key:** Key word(s): curse • 1. concubines • 2. a) Gath; b) again • 3. a) foolishness; b) spies • 4. Mephibosheth • 5. bloody • 6. Jonathan's • 7. Nabal (1 Sam. 25); David wanted to kill Nabal but received Shimei's cursing with restraint. The contrast helps us see David's repentant and humbled heart.

**How to use this worksheet for personal Bible study:** (1) Read the Bible passage given in the **Story Elements** section. (2) Read through the worksheet and try to fill in the blanks without looking at the **Answer Key**. (3) Check your answers with the key and make the necessary corrections. Keep in mind that some answers are a matter of opinion, and often more than one answer is correct. (4) Write down your own thoughts, applications, and questions for further study in the **Notes** section.