

## Monday 10<sup>th</sup> August

### Recall

1. How did Absalom win the hearts of the people seeking justice from David?  
Hint 1: Absalom had a chariot, horses and fifty men with him. Hint 2: He stood by the highway.
2. Why did David flee into the wilderness?  
Hint 1: Absalom had won the hearts of the Israelites. Hint 2: Absalom became ruler of Hebron.
3. What happened when David reached the top of the Mount of Olives?  
Hint 1: He reached the place where God is worshiped. Hint 2: He met a friend.
4. David's friend sent messengers to warn David that Absalom planned to kill him. The messengers were seen and needed to hide. Where did they hide?  
Hint 1: They entered the house of a man. Hint 2: There was dried fruit.
5. What did the messengers tell David to do?  
Hint 1: David chose to cross the river Jordan.

### Summary

David's son Absalom would stand beside with highway with a chariot, horses and fifty men and call every man to speak to him. He would tell the people that their claims were good and just and that it was a shame that the ruler had not appointed anyone to listen to them. Absalom would say to them that if only he was made a judge of the land, he would bring justice. In this way, all those seeking justice from David had their hearts stolen by Absalom.

Absalom then made plans to become a ruler in Hebron. Not knowing his intentions, David let him go and many people followed him. One day a messenger came to David and told him that the hearts of the men of Israel had gone over to Absalom. Hearing this, David told his people to flee so that they might escape the evil of Absalom. He went into the Wilderness and Zadok and Abiathar followed, carrying the Ark of the Covenant. But David said that the Ark of the Covenant should be taken back to the city of Jerusalem and if it is God's will, he will bring him back to the city.

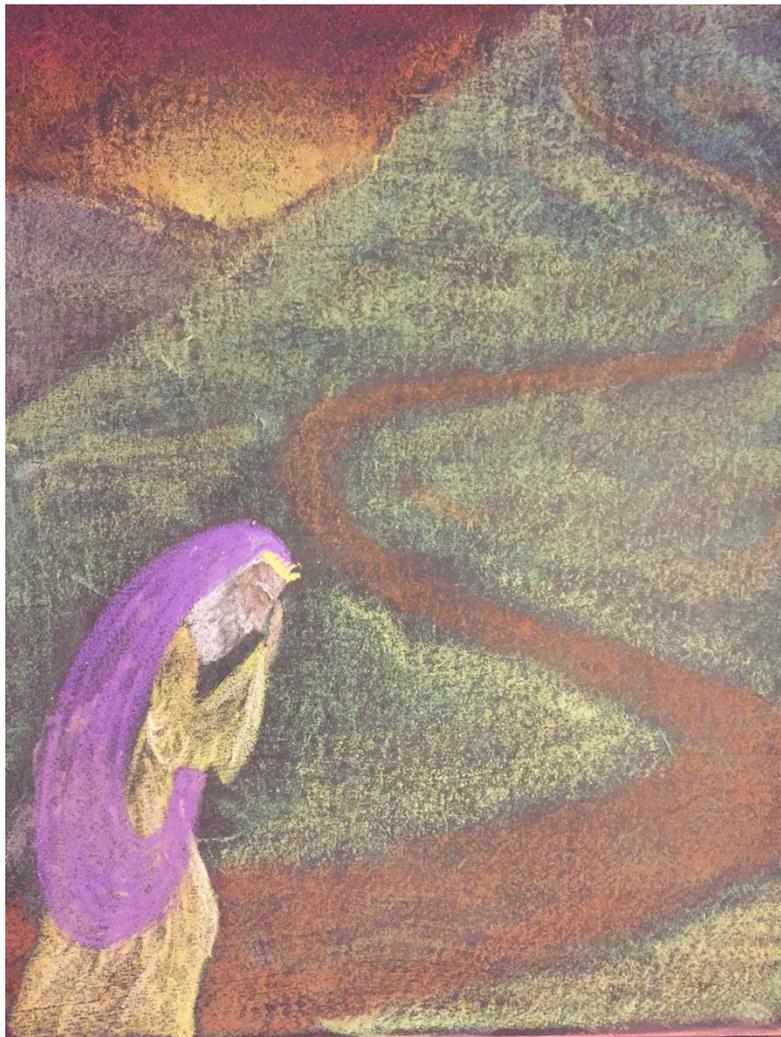
With his remaining men, David climbed the Mount of Olives, with his head covered and his feet bare, weeping. At the top of the mountain, he met a friend, Hushai and asked him to return to Jerusalem and send word of everything he heard.

Absalom was advised to take twelve thousand men and find David. The army of men would scare David's followers and make them flee. Then David alone would be killed and everyone would accept Absalom as their king. As Hushai had gained Absalom's trust, Absalom asked him for his advice as well. Hushai told him that it was not a good idea, for David and his men were fearsome warriors. As well as this, Hushai told Absalom that David did not spend the night with his people, but hid in the caves. If men were to approach the camp, others would die and word would spread that there is slaughter amongst those who follow Absalom. Instead Hushai advised Absalom to gather all the Israelites to him, as many as there is sand by the sea. In this way, they would find David and kill him.

When Absalom agreed, Hushai sent messengers to warn David. The messengers were to find David without being seen, but as they entered the city, a young boy saw them and told Absalom. The two messengers quickly went into the house of a man where they were hidden in a well, covered with cloth and dried fruits. The messengers were not found and when it was safe, they made their way to David and warned him to cross the river Jordan and escape.

**Draw**

Draw a picture of Friday's story in your main lesson book (large blue or purple book). I have drawn David climbing the Mount of Olives.



**Recap**

David took the fortress of Zion, built a wall around it and called it the City of David. A grand palace was built for him and David knew, that the power he had was given to him by God.

David called for the ark of God to be brought. As it was being carried, the oxen stumbled and the man guiding the cart stretched out his hand to hold up the Ark of the Covenant. He was struck down and died in the presence of God. David was afraid of God that day and decided not to bring the ark to his city and instead had it taken to the house of a friend. God blessed the family who housed the ark and when David heard this, he had the ark brought

to him and made many sacrifices and offerings to God. God gave a message to Nathan the prophet to tell David that God took him from the pastures where he followed sheep and made him king over the people of Israel. God followed him wherever he went, destroyed all the enemies before him and made him great upon the earth so that his authority shall stand forever.

David asked if any of King Saul's family had survived, for he wished to treat them with kindness and take care of them. He discovered Ziba, the servant of Saul and a son, who was lame in his feet called Meribaal. David ensured that Ziba and his family were well taken care of and as for Meribaal, he was welcomed at David's table like his own son.

One day, David walked upon the roof of the royal palace and saw a beautiful woman bathing. David sent a servant to ask about the woman and learnt that she was Bathsheba, the wife of Uriah. Wanting her for himself, David sent her husband to the front line of a battle and instructed that the men following behind should leave him. Uriah died and after a period of mourning, Bathsheba became David's wife and had a son. What David had done displeased God and he sent the prophet Nathan to him. The prophet related a story to David.

There were two men in one city; one was rich and the other poor. The rich man had many flocks and herds; but the poor man had nothing except one little ewe lamb which he had bought. He fed it, and it grew up with him and with his children. It used to eat of his own small supply of food and drink out of his own cup, and it lay in his bosom and was like a daughter to him. The poor man, who was travelling came to the rich man and rather than taking an animal from his own vast herd, he took the poor man's lamb and had it prepared for their meal.

David was very angry when he heard this story and told Nathan that the man who did this surely deserved to die. Nathan replied to David. "You are the man!" After all that God had given him, how could he have done wrong in God's sight? As punishment, God smote Bathsheba and David's child so that it fell sick. David prayed to God for forgiveness, he stopped eating food and laid upon a sackcloth on the ground at night. When on the seventh day the child passed away, David's servants were afraid to tell him. David had refused to eat while the child was still alive, what would he do now that his child had died? But when David saw that his servants were whispering, he called to them and they had no choice but to tell him. David arose, washed and oiled himself, changed his clothes and went into the temple of God and worshipped. After this, he went to his own house and asked for bread to eat. The servants were puzzled and asked about his behaviour. David replied that when his child was sick, he sought God's mercy, but now that the child had died there was nothing he could do to bring him back and so, he might as well eat.

### **Writing**

Write the story that the prophet Nathan tells David in your own words in your English practice book (medium blue or green book).

This is how the story goes:

There were two men in one city; one was rich and the other poor. The rich man had many flocks and herds; but the poor man had nothing except one little ewe lamb which he had bought. He fed it, and it grew up with him and with his children. It used to eat of his own small supply of food and drink out of his own cup, and it lay in his bosom and was like a daughter to him. The poor man, who was travelling came to the rich man and rather than taking an animal from his own vast herd, he took the poor man's lamb and had it prepared for their meal.