



**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Series:** Lookin' for a Leader  
Fall Year 3, Lesson 19

# David's Son, Absalom, Rebels

**Take Home Point:** \*Sin pulls families apart, but God's love puts families together.

\*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

**Bible Event:** 2 Samuel 13-19. The consequence of David's sin follows him as his son, Absalom, leads a rebellion against him. The consequence of Absalom's sin is defeat and death. Sin and rebellion pulls families apart.

**Key Verses:** 2 Samuel 18:33b, "My son, my son Absalom! I wish I had died in your place! Absalom, my son, my son!"

Colossians 1:22, "...Christ has brought you back to God by dying in his physical body. He did this so that you could come into God's presence without sin, fault, or blame."

## **We will help kids know:**

- The Bible event of Absalom's rebellion and death.
- The sources of family problems are sin and rebellion.
- Though David's love for his son was strong, he could not exchange his life to bring Absalom back. God's love for us is strong enough to redeem us.




## **We will help kids feel:**

- The seriousness of sin and rebellion.
- Confident that God's love can help families stay together.

## **We will help kids do:**

- Identify times when they have felt close to their families.
- Be aware of personal rebellious actions and resist them.
- Better share God's love in their families.

## THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
<b>Small Group Warm-Up</b> 	3	<p>The kids will chew two flavors of gum to blend them together. Just like the two kinds of gum have stuck together, so we would like to have our families stick together. Today we will talk about some things we can do to help our families stick together. But first, we need to look at things that can pull families apart.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>two bowls of half sticks of chewing gum, each bowl containing a different brand of gum</li> </ul>
<b>Large Group</b> 	3  7  9  12	<p><b>Overview</b></p> <p><b>Carnival Game with Puppet Presentation:</b> "Gordy and the Pull-Apart Family"</p> <p><b>Interactive Storytelling of the Bible Event:</b> "Snapper's Story"</p> <p><b>Puppet Conclusion:</b> "Gordy and the Pull Apart-Family"</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>four pieces of chewing gum</li> <li>newspaper covering the floor</li> <li>Gordy with a wad of gum on his nose</li> <li>Snapper character</li> </ul>
<b>Small Group Application</b> 	4	<p>The cross reminds us that Jesus has made us part of his family through his death and resurrection for us. When kids use their gum to stick family problems on a cut out cross, it signifies that Jesus has an answer for the sin that pulls our families apart.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>copy of questions (page 14) for each group</li> <li>scissors for each group</li> <li>bowl or sack for each group</li> </ul>

## Small Group Warm-Up: 15 minutes



**Purpose:** *Get pointed in the right direction! Build relationships and help guests feel at ease. Do the learning readiness activity that will point your group in the right direction for the lesson.*

Place the two bowls of chewing gum in the center of your circle. Encourage kids to talk about positive experiences in their families with the following discussion starters. Each time a child shares a response he receives a half stick of gum. For example, when a child answers the first question, he receives one brand of chewing gum. When he answers the next question, he would receive the other brand of chewing gum.

Allow kids to chew their gum when they receive it. (This is a prerequisite for the large group time and small group application.) The result is that the two flavors blend together as the children chew.

**Tell us one thing you like about your family? Describe a time you felt close to your family.**

While kids are enjoying their gum and talking about their families, introduce the theme of the day.

**Just like the different kinds of gum you are chewing have stuck together, so we would like to have our families stick together. There are some things we can do to help our families stick together and we will talk about those today.**

**To help us better understand ways to help our families stick together, we need to look at things that can pull families apart.**

**In large group time, we will learn about King David's family and how it was pulled apart. His own son tried to kill him. We will learn how *\*sin pulls families apart, but God's love puts families together.***

## Large Group Overview: 20-30 minutes



**Purpose:** *Help kids observe what the Bible says. Present the Bible event in creative fashion. Help kids begin to interpret what it means.*

**Carnival Game with Puppet Presentation:** "Gordy and the Pull-Apart Family" – Mr. King illustrates how families can be pulled apart with an old-fashioned taffy pull. The taffy, however, is replaced with chewing gum.

**Interactive Storytelling of the Bible Event:** “Snapper’s Story” – This character tells the Bible event of Absalom’s rebellion, incorporating the phrase “sin pulls families apart \*snap\* just like that.”

**Puppet Conclusion:** “Gordy and the Pull Apart-Family” – Gordy learns that God’s love expressed through the death of Jesus in *our* place for the punishment of *our* rebellion puts families together.

## Small Group Application: 20-25 minutes



**Purpose:** *Help kids map out the meaning of the Bible event in their lives. Use the questions to stimulate discussion but don't feel tied to them. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you. Include personal examples from your own faith journey. The example of Christ at work in your life will leave lasting impressions of how Christ can work in the children's lives.*

*Use your Bibles! Children need to learn how to look up references and follow along when scripture is read aloud. Allow for quality time of prayer at the close of the lesson.*

### Observation Questions: What happened?

Briefly review the facts of today’s Bible event. Refer to 2 Samuel 13-19 for the answers.

**David had sinned with Bathsheba. As a result of his sin, he had trouble in his family. One of his sons, Amnon, did something very cruel and wrong to his half-sister. What happened to Amnon? (2 Samuel 13:28. His brother, Absalom, killed him.)**

**How long did Absalom have to hide from his father? (2 Samuel 13:38, 14:23,24,28. Absalom stayed out of Jerusalem for three years. When he returned to Jerusalem, he did not see his father for two more years.)**

**When Absalom was in Jerusalem, he stayed by the city gate answering people’s questions and helping them solve their problems. What was he trying to do? (2 Samuel 15:1-6. He was trying to win the people’s favor and overthrow his father.)**

**Absalom went to Hebron and said he was going to worship God there. Instead he did something else. What was it? (2 Samuel 15:7-13. He gathered people in an army.)**

**What happened to Absalom’s armies when they finally came after David and fought him in the woods? (2 Samuel 18:6-7. They were defeated.)**

**What happened to Absalom? (2 Samuel 18:9-15. He ran away, got his hair caught in a tree, and was killed by Joab.)**

**What was David's response when he heard his son had died?** (2 Samuel 18:28-33. He was sad and said he wished he had died instead of his son.)

### **Interpretation Questions: What does this mean?**

Discuss David's words, "My son, my son Absalom! I wish I had died in your place! Absalom, my son, my son!"

**David's death could not have brought back Absalom, but David's words showed how much he loved his son. This is a picture of God's love for us. We are like Absalom and rebel against God when we sin. God's love for us is so great that he would suffer death in our place so our sins would be forgiven. The Bible says, "...Christ has brought you back to God by dying in his physical body. He did this so that you could come into God's presence without sin, fault, or blame."** (Colossians 1:22).

**While\**sin can pull our families apart, God's love can put our families back together, just like God's love puts us back together with him.***

*The remainder of the discussion allows the kids to make their own application of these central truths. The kids should be able to identify that sin and rebellion can pull their families apart, but family problems can be solved with God's love. His forgiveness and the power of Jesus can put us back together.*

### **Application Questions: What does this mean to me?**

Application Activity:

Cut the 12 response cards from page 14. A cross will remain once the response cards are all cut out. Place the response cards in a bowl or sack to be drawn out by the children. Some children might have the same response cards but that will not matter.

After each child reads his card, he gives a response. Then ask the following question.

**God solves family problems by giving us his love in Jesus. How could you show God's love and help solve the family's problem?**

After each child discusses his question and the solution, have him take the gum from his mouth, affix it to the slip of paper, and stick it to the paper cross. At the end of the discussion, the cross will have all of the discussion questions stuck to it.

**We first started chewing gum when we were talking about our families and those things that keep us together. The cross reminds us that Jesus has made us part of his family through his death and**

resurrection for us. When we place this gum on the cross, it signifies that Jesus has an answer for the sin that pulls our families apart.

Today we learned that *\*sin pulls families apart, but God's love puts families together.*

Closing Prayer:

Be sure to pray for specific ways families can apply God's love to the sins that pull them apart. Pray the powerful love of Jesus would be active in every family.

**Safety and Security:** Safety and security procedures are important for each church to carefully define and implement according to their unique needs. The security, safety, illness and accident procedures described in this curriculum are provided for example purposes only and may not be appropriate, applicable or adequate for every situation. Each church is responsible for determining whether any security, safety, illness and accident procedures contained in the curriculum are appropriate, applicable or adequate for its unique situation. The activities described in this curriculum require adult supervision and may not be suitable for each child and each situation. Each church is responsible for ensuring that adequate adult supervision is provided for all activities and for determining whether an activity is appropriate for each child and each situation. Kids Kount Publishing disclaims all liability for the implementation of any procedures or the performance of any activities described in this curriculum.

# Large Group Presentation

## Gordy and the Pull-Apart Family Carnival Game with Puppet Presentation

The carnival game will be like an old-fashioned taffy pull. Instead of using taffy, the contestants will use chewing gum. The gum pull illustrates the lesson point that sin and rebellion pulls families apart. Of course, this will be a bit gross and *not* something to be emulated at home. It would be helpful to have some newspapers protecting the floor where gum might fall.

**Mr. King:**    **Hi, boys and girls!**

Gordy:        *(Appears with a wad of chewing gum affixed to his nose.)* Hi, boys and girls!

**Mr. King:**    **Welcome to Kingdom Quest Carnival. Today we are talking about families...especially King David's family. Gordy, wouldn't you agree that families are great things to have?**

Gordy:        Yeah, some of the time.

**Mr. King:**    **What do you mean "some of the time?" Hey, wait a minute! What is that on your nose?**

Gordy:        Oh, that's some chewing gum.

**Mr. King:**    **What's it doing on your nose?**

Gordy:        Well, I was playing with it at home before church and my dad told me to stop it.

**Mr. King:**    **Yes.**

Gordy:        And, I told him I didn't have to.

**Mr. King:**    **Uh-oh. That sounds like trouble.**

Gordy:        Well, I don't have to. After all, it's my gum and I'm eight years old. I ought to be able to do whatever I want.

**Mr. King:**    **What do you think about that, boys and girls?** *(Listens for response.)*

Gordy:        I guess my dad didn't think too much of it. He called it "rebellion."

**Mr. King:** Oh, yes, rebellion. That is when you say to someone who is in charge of you, “I don’t care what you tell me to do. I’ll do whatever I want.”

Gordy: Well, it doesn’t work unless you want to wear gum on your nose.

**Mr. King:** Did you learn something?

Gordy: Sure! It’s easier to carry gum in your mouth than on your nose.

**Mr. King:** No, it’s more than that. It’s about rebellion.

Gordy: Yeah?

**Mr. King:** Your father corrected you because he loved you. He didn’t want you to get away with rebellion. Rebellion and sin can pull our families apart. We will find out about that in King David’s story.

Gordy: But is it wrong to take your gum out of your mouth and play with it?

**Mr. King:** It sure is if your parents say they don’t want you to. But today in Kingdom Quest we are going to say it is okay just for this game. I will need four volunteers—one from each grade—for a special chewing gum pull.

Gordy: A what?

**Mr. King:** Carnivals from olden days used to have taffy pulls. To make taffy candy, people would pull on it and stretch it until it was good and sticky.

Gordy: Yuck!

**Mr. King:** Today we are going to replace the taffy with chewing gum and have a chewing gum pull.

Gordy: Gross! I can’t wait!

**Mr. King:** This is what we will do. Four contestants will line up here and stand over a newspaper. When I say “go,” pull a piece of gum out of your mouth and let it hang down. The object is to see who can stretch their gum the longest without it tearing.

*(Call four contestants forward and give further instructions.)*

You can pull on your gum and stretch it for as long as it takes me to count to five. After I have counted to five, you can’t touch your gum with your hands anymore. Then we will see whose gum stretched the longest without tearing apart.



*(Continue with the script after the contest.)*

Gordy: Yuck! That was really gross. I *loved* it!

**Mr. King:** I thought you might. Gordy, if you were to do that at home after your parents asked you not to, it would be wrong. It might even be rebellious.

Gordy: Oh, yeah. Rebellion is when I don't care what my parents say. I do whatever I want anyway and I go against them.

**Mr. King:** Yes, that is what rebellion is, and rebellion can pull a family apart. It is just like the chewing gum that got pulled apart.

Today we will find out how David's family was pulled apart and how the family just snapped. Maybe some of our families feel pulled apart. Rebellion and sin can do that. God has a way for our families to be put back together. They are put back together through the power of God's love when we trust Jesus as our Savior and let him live in our lives.

Let's go now to our special storyteller guest. His nickname is The Snapper. Maybe you will find out why that's his nickname.

# Snapper's Story

## Interactive Storytelling of the Bible Event

*The Snapper is a character presenting today's Bible event. Before beginning the Bible event, he will prompt the kids to snap their fingers (\*snap\*) every time they hear the phrase "sin pulls families apart." After the children snap their fingers, The Snapper will say, "Just like that." The sections of the story are titled by topic so the storyteller might use the pages as an outline and not read them word for word.*

### Introduction

Last week you learned that David sinned with Bathsheba. He repented and was forgiven. Still there were consequences from his sin. The prophet Nathan told David that he would have trouble in his family. David soon learned that sin pulls families apart \*snap\* just like that.

### Absolom Kills Amnon

David had many children. Some of his children mistreated each other and even hated each other. One of David's grown sons, Amnon, mistreated and hurt his half-sister. David had another son named Absolom who was very angry about this. Absolom plotted for two years to get revenge. Finally he did. He held a dinner party and invited all his brothers to attend. Then during the dinner, he had his servants sneak up on Amnon and kill him. You know what happens... Sin pulls families apart \*snap\* just like that!

### Absolom Hides but Then Returns Three Years Later

Absalom fled and hid from his father for three years. Finally, some people convinced David to invite Absalom to return. David missed his son, so he invited him back to Jerusalem. There was still much hurt between them. So, even though Absalom returned, David refused to see his son for two more years. Showing forgiveness and love was very hard for them to do. They were growing further apart instead of closer. Sin pulls families apart \*snap\* just like that!

### Absalom Wins the Favor of the People

Absalom and David finally did meet and speak with one another. Absalom longed to be king himself. Even though he was the most handsome and oldest prince, God had not chosen him to be king. Absalom did not care. He tried on his own to become the next king. Each day Absalom stood by the city gates and solved people's problems. He would point out that he was much better at ruling the people than his father, David. Since Absalom was so young and good looking, the people soon thought he would make a great king. Absalom began to plan just how he would become king. Can you see that sin pulls families apart \*snap\* just like that?

## **Absalom Makes Himself King**

Absalom tricked his father. He asked permission to go to the town of Hebron so he could worship God. David was happy to hear his son wanted to worship God. But Absalom was lying. Instead, Absalom went to the city of Hebron and began to collect his own followers to make an army. He did this so he could overthrow David as king. He was leading a rebellion and took many followers back to Jerusalem to overthrow his father, King David. Why? Because sin pulls families apart \*snap\* just like that!

## **David Now Flees**

Before Absalom arrived in Jerusalem, a messenger hurried to tell David what was happening. David had just enough time to gather his faithful servants and escape the city before Absalom and his followers could kill them. God was still helping David even though his son was rebelling against him and sinning against God. You know what that does! Sin pulls families apart \*snap\* just like that!

## **David and Absalom's Armies Fight**

Finally, Absalom was ready to take his armies into the thick woods on the other side of the Jordan where David was hiding. The armies fought. David's men were victorious. Many of Absalom's soldiers were killed. Those that remained ran off and got lost. Absalom also tried to escape on his mule through the woods. Absalom's mule ran under an oak tree with low branches and Absalom's long, thick hair was caught in the branches. The mule ran away and left Absalom hanging by his hair. David still loved his son and had given orders not to harm him if captured. But his general disobeyed David's orders when he found Absalom. He killed him with a spear while he was hanging in the tree. *(Including this gory detail is optional.)*

Absalom's rebellion was over, but think how it had hurt this family. Remember, sin pulls families apart \*snap\* just like that!

## **Conclusion**

When the word of Absalom's death returned to David, he covered his face and cried aloud. He cried, "My son, my son Absalom! I wish I had died in your place! Absalom, my son, my son!" The people heard David crying and they were sad, as well. David had to stop his weeping so he could thank his soldiers and those who had followed him for the victory they won. David returned to Jerusalem and showed much kindness to those who had helped him. His family had been torn apart because it's true... Sin pulls families apart \*snap\* just like that!

## **Gordy and the Pull Apart Family**

### **Puppet Conclusion**

Gordy: Wow, Mr. King! That family was a mess!

**Mr. King: Right, Gordy. And you know why.**

Gordy: Well, I can't snap my fingers too good, but I do remember the line. Sin pulls us apart – SNAP! – just like that!

**Mr. King: It's true, Gordy, and it even happens today.**

Gordy: Yeah, like when your dad makes you wear chewing gum on your nose.

**Mr. King: Remember, Gordy, your father was just trying to teach you not to rebel. That's because he didn't want sin to pull your family apart.**

Gordy: Yeah, but sometimes when we get mad at each other, it does feel like our families are pulled apart just like gum.

**Mr. King: And that's when we need to remember how God can put our family back together again.**

Gordy: How?

**Mr. King: Well, *\*sin pulls families apart, but God's love puts them together.***

Gordy: How does God do that?

**Mr. King: You know that God sent his Son Jesus.**

Gordy: Yes, and Jesus gave his life for us so we could be forgiven.

**Mr. King: We were put back together with God through Jesus' death and resurrection. When we know Jesus, he fills our lives with his love. Do you know what we can do for each other when there is sin in our families that pulls us apart?**

Gordy: I think I know what you're going to say.

**Mr. King: What?**

Gordy: We can forgive each other.

**Mr. King: That's right. We can show love and forgiveness to each other just**

**like Jesus forgave us. Stop right now and think about how much God loves you.**

Gordy: Okay.

**Mr. King: Let me give you this example. Remember how David said, “My son, my son Absalom! I wish I had died in your place?” David was willing to give his life for his son, even though his son had rebelled against him.**

Gordy: What does that have to do with God’s love?

**Mr. King: Jesus gave his life in our place, even though we rebel in sin. Because Jesus died on the cross, he took our punishment for sin and rebellion on himself. He loved us that much.**

Gordy: Wow! That’s a lot!

**Mr. King: And because he loved us that much, he helps us love others in our families and forgive them as well.**

Gordy: Even if they make us put gum on our nose.

**Mr. King: No matter what. Gordy, why don’t you close us in prayer?**

Gordy: Dear God, when we rebel or do wrong things, please remind us that sin pulls families apart –SNAP! – just like that. Thank you for sending Jesus. Thank you that your love puts us back together. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

### Small Group Application Response Cards

When my brother or sister annoys me, I...		A time I felt most lonely in my family, I did this...
When my brother or sister annoys me, I...		A time I felt most lonely in my family, I did this...
The easiest thing to argue about in my family is...		This rebellious thing happened in my family...
The easiest thing to argue about in my family is...		This rebellious thing happened in my family...
What I need to forgive someone about in my family is...		It is hardest for me to obey my parents when...
What I need to forgive someone about in my family is...		It is hardest for me to obey my parents when...