

Together @ Home

Here are some activities you could do together as a family.

Begin with the story and then do as many or as few as you like, in any order.



Bible Passage

Today we will be exploring the story of the death of Absalom.

You can find it in your Bible in:

2 Samuel 18 v 5–9, 15, 31–33

Read the story together – choose a Bible translation or children's story version which best suits your group.



A prayer to say together

Dear God,

Thank you for the story of Absalom and his father David. Thank you that even though Absalom made mistakes, David still loved and cared for him. Thank you that when we make mistakes you forgive us. Thank you that your son Jesus died on the cross so that all our sins can be forgiven.

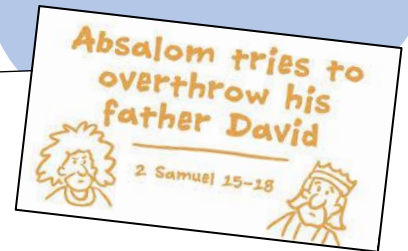
Help us this week to show love and care for others. Help us to forgive those who have hurt or upset us. To see others through your eyes and to share your love with them.

Amen

This simple video from Cartoon Works provides an overview of Absalom's attempts to overthrow his father David in 2 Samuel 15-18.

You might like to use it to fill in the gap between last week's story and this week's.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l1k-u46tyqY>



Discussion

A question for adults to ask children

What do you think David would have done if Absalom had been captured and not killed?

David had told his men to be gentle with Absalom not to kill him. Even though Absalom had done many awful things and tried to overthrow his father as King, David still loved his son. David had made his own mistakes in the past and knew what it was to be forgiven and given a second chance by Father God.

A question for children to ask adults

Can you think of a time when you forgave somebody who had hurt or upset you?

Family Activity 1

Musical Chairs: Absalom, David's son wanted to take his place as King and sit on the throne. Take it in turns to control the music. When the music plays everybody dances around, when it stops everybody rushes to sit on a chair. Take away a chair each round until there is only one left.

Who will be left sitting on the throne?





A verse to remember

Psalm 130 v 1

Lord, I am in great trouble, so I call out to you.

Try to learn this verse together, you could come up with some actions to help you remember it or decorate the verse on a piece of paper or card together and put it up somewhere to remind you of it through the week.

Family Activity 2

As Absalom was riding into battle he was caught in a tree and left dangling there. Why not go on a walk together and collect some natural items to create your own nature mobile.



Choose a stick and then use string or thread to attach the different items you have found.



Mourning the losses

This last year has been full of losses, while not everybody will have lost loved ones all of us have missed out on opportunities, celebrations and time with friends and family. Why not take some time to share together about the things in the last year that you have most missed out on? You could pick the following questions out of a hat and share your answers.

What did you miss most in the last year?

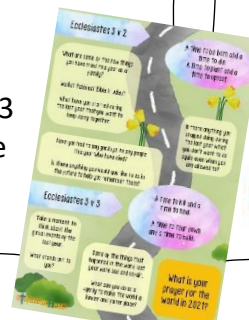
What unexpected changes did you enjoy?

Who do you wish you could have spent more time with?

What is your best memory from the last year?

You might also like to use the following reflective resource based on Ecclesiastes 3 and available from the Together at Home website.

www.tath.co.uk/leaving-lockdown



Active Prayer

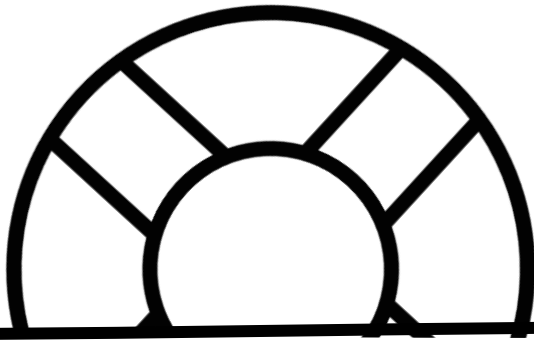
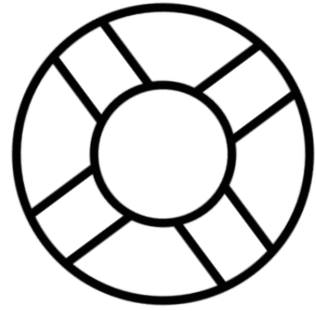
In Psalm 56 v 8 David wrote that God collects and keeps track of our tears. David knew that that God was always listening when he shared the things that made him feel sad or upset. Try this prayer activity to share your sorrows with God.

Fill up a glass of water at the sink. As the glass fills tell God all the things that are making you feel sad either out loud or in your head.

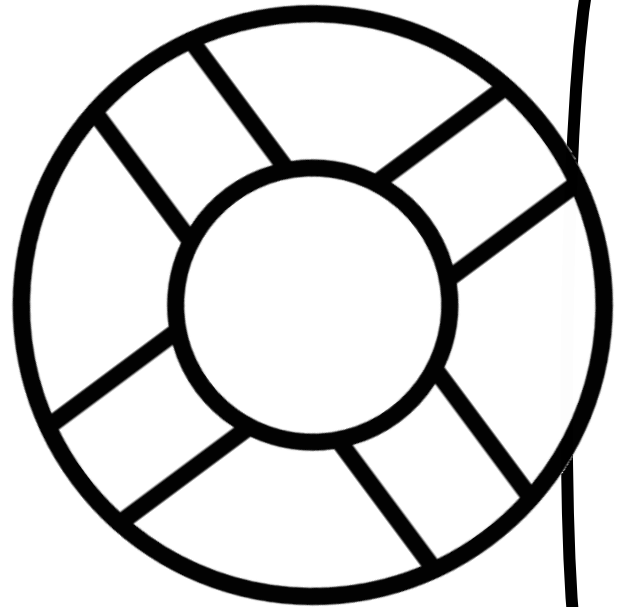
Then gently pour the water away and ask God to comfort you and be near to you.

You could complete the activity individually or spend some praying together and sharing with God anything that is making you feel sad or upset.

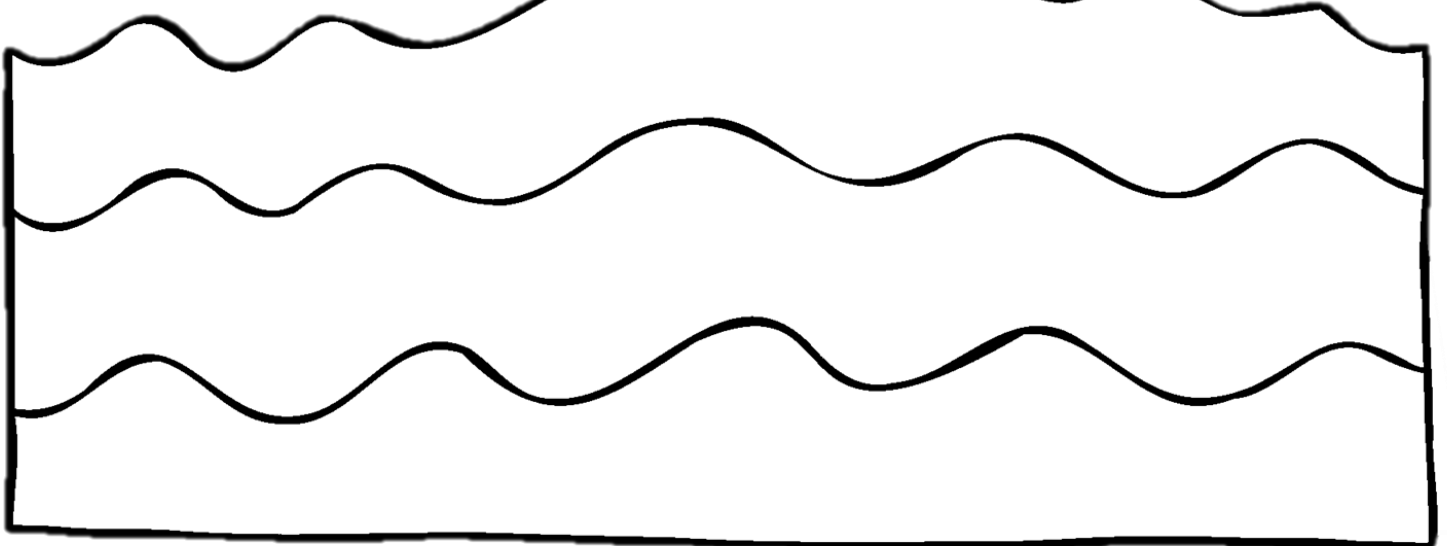




Lord I am in
great trouble I
cry out to you.



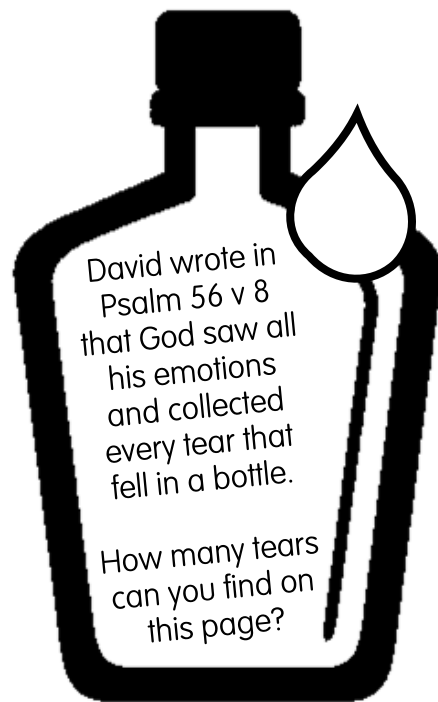
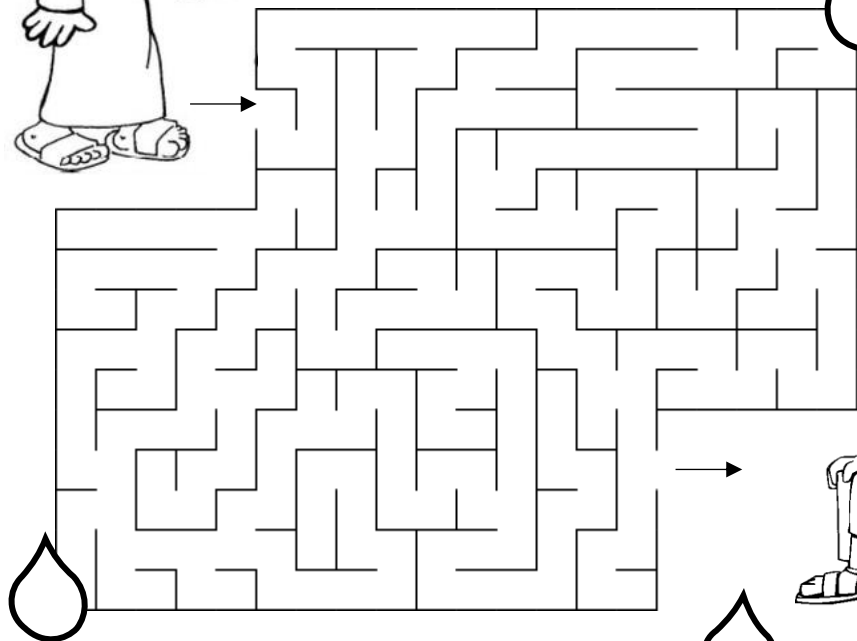
Psalm
130 v 1



PUZZLE SHEET



Ahimaaz ran ahead of the Cushite messenger to bring news to King David first. Help him to find his way through the maze



David wrote in Psalm 56 v 8 that God saw all his emotions and collected every tear that fell in a bottle.

How many tears can you find on this page?



Which emotion word best describes how you are feeling today?

What feelings and emotions would you like to chat to God about today?

Create your own 'emoji' face here.

How many differences can you find between the two pictures of Absalom and his army?

