



Through the Bible in a Year

a chronological study of the Bible for women

2 Sam. 13-21

**Psalms 3-5,12-13,16-18,26,
28,38,40-42,55,58,61-62,64**

Week 20

Daily Reading Plan:

__ 2 Sam. 13-15
__ Ps.3-4,12-13, 28,55
__ 2 Sam. 16-18
__ Ps.26,40,58,61-62,64
__ 2 Sam. 19-21
__ Ps.5,38,41-42
__ REST*

*Use this day to meditate on the week's Scripture reading. If needed, use it to catch up or read ahead.

Next week:

2 Sam.22-24
1 Chron.21-29
Ps.30,57,95,97-99,
108-118,127,131
138-139,143-145

MEMORY VERSE:

Lord, you have
assigned me my portion
and my cup;
you have made my lot
secure.

Psalm 16:5

SHOULD WE SKIP THE UGLY STUFF?

I would happily skip this whole section. There is too much hurt and misery and drama. Frankly, I find the whole story of Amnon and Tamar quite offensive and disgusting. It is not what I would read to my children for a bedtime story.

But then, the Bible is not a storybook written for our pleasure and entertainment. It is not meant to soothe us to sleep, it is meant to stir us into an increased awareness of the condition that mankind is in, and therefore our need for an active, totally dependent relationship with God. Man, in his fallen state is **UGLY**. Life in this world is ugly. That is why many Christians try to avoid the world and all its messiness. We use the church as a place to hide from the world. It provides us with a safe cocoon so that we don't have to go out there and deal with the heartaches and tragedies and messes that are realities of the world we live in. The problem with that approach is twofold:

1. We, as God's spokespeople, are the world's only chance. How can we help by hiding? When we separate ourselves from the reality that is out there, we make ourselves useless. When the only response we can come up with is to recoil in horror, we render our faith ineffective to those who most need it. Should we be shocked and appalled by what is vulgar? YES! But the purpose of that emotion is to stir us into action. The more the church retreats from the world, the less hope I have for the world. There is a battle going on and the people on the winning side are hiding under the bed, shaking their heads and clucking their tongues. Go figure.
2. If we are not willing to face the depths of depravity that humans are capable of, we put ourselves at enormous risk. By making so many offensive topics taboo in the church, where are people supposed to go for help? Why do so many upright Christian people fall to unimaginable sins? Who would they admit the struggle to? Where can they turn for help? They are alone in their battles because only "nice" sins are acceptable topics for teaching and preaching. Our safe cocoon becomes the very tool the enemy uses to bind us into ineffectiveness.

So the Bible challenges us to deal with reality. If we are to study the whole thing, we can't escape the unpleasant ugliness. Nasty things happened in the Bible. Nasty things happen today. Rather than pretend that they don't, lets instead figure out what God would have us do. Where do we want the people dealing with this stuff to go? Don't we want to give all the Tamars of today the answer to her question "Where could I get rid of my disgrace?" Don't we want to bring healing to the Amnons who are sick and miserable in their sin?

“SINCE HE WAS STRONGER THAN SHE” The rape of Tamar 2 Sam.13:14



This line gets my blood to boiling. I can just picture a leering and determined Amnon refusing to listen to the pleading Tamar. I can sense his lust driven desperation and misery. I can imagine his forceful anger as he realizes that there is little satisfaction in what he has done. He is haggard and angry and frustrated, a young man already worn old by a burden of sin. His strength has allowed his weakness to rule. What a crummy reason for doing anything, yet often it is the reality. In every school there are the bullies that operate on that authority, imposing their weaknesses on others simply because they can. Bullies come in all kinds of forms. Sometimes it's the teacher on a power trip. Sometimes it's the abusive father, or domineering husband. Sometimes it's the boss at work. Sometimes, it's me.

Do I let my weaknesses rule through the power of my strengths? Do I ever misuse the strength of my authority over my children? Does my ability to issue groundings ever go to my head? With my grown kids do I use the strength of a guilt trip to manipulate them? Do I go over the edge with lectures that flaunt the strength of my verbal mastery? For many years I had a note taped on to a large picture of my children that said: “Would you want to be the child of a parent like you?” How about with my husband? Do I make his head spin with my onslaught of questions that demand immediate and articulate answers? Does he feel bullied when I “helpfully” take over an area that he is obviously a little inept at? What about those who are spiritually weaker? Am I gentle with them, or do I try to bully them into doing what is right? Do I carry my Bible like a club to scare off the world?

What are some of your areas of power and strength over others? _____

How might you have misused those? _____

How have others misused you? _____

One of my favorite movie lines is from Spider-Man when Peter's uncle tells him “With great strength comes great responsibility”. Because of stories like Tamar's, women more often identify with the victims. But women have some enormous strengths. What do you think are our responsibilities as women of strength?

“WHERE COULD I GET RID OF MY DISGRACE?” 2 Samuel 13:13

Before the crime even happened, Tamar was thinking of what this was going to cost her. It would wreck her chance of marriage. Her own integrity would be in question. And she would feel the shame that should have been Amnon's. What a sad and debilitating question she asks. Unfortunately, it's the question that way too many women are asking today. According to the U.S. Department of Justice, there were 188,960 **reported** attempted or completed rapes and sexual assaults in 2005. Of those, a little over 65% were, like Tamar's, committed by people the victims knew. (Klaus and Maston) According to my calculations, that comes to over **517 sexual assaults per day** that get reported. If estimates are correct that more than half of sexual assaults go unreported (West), then we are talking about a huge number of people walking around with the load of shame and disgrace that usually follows such a crime. That means there are men, women and children in our churches, at our workplace and in our families that are desperately asking Tamar's question “where could I get rid of my disgrace?” Are we giving them answers? Can we expect someone that is hiding in shame to come forward to ask the question? How can we better reach these victims so that they can become victors over their disgrace? _____

How would you answer Tamar if she directed her question to you? _____

**But you are a shield around me, O Lord;
you bestow glory on me and lift up my head.
Psalm 3:3**



ABSALOM'S RESPONSE TO RAPE

2 Sam. 13:20-37

What was Absalom's reaction to his sister's rape?

Where did Tamar live? _____

How did Absalom initially deal with Amnon?

How much time passed before Absalom's banquet?

What happened there? _____

Where did Absalom flee to? _____

Why there? (1 Chron.3:2) _____

How long did he stay? _____

DAVID'S RESPONSE TO RAPE & MURDER

2 Sam. 13:21-39

How did David react to the news of Tamar's rape? (13:21) _____

What action did he take? _____

Why didn't David accept Absalom's invitation? (13:24-25) _____

Do you think Absalom expected David to do the avenging? _____

How did David respond to the news of Amnon's murder? (13:36) _____

What did David do during Absalom's three years of hiding? (13:38,39) _____

Why didn't he go to him? _____

THE WISE WOMAN OF TEKOA 2 Sam. 14

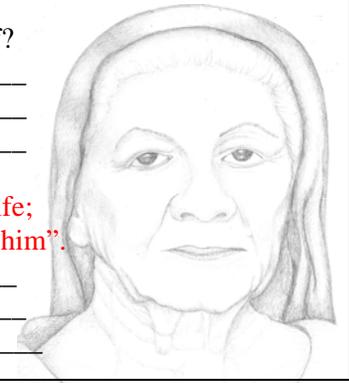
Why did Joab bring a woman to speak to David instead of speaking to him himself?

What did Joab want the woman to convince David of? _____

This wise woman said to David in 2 Samuel 14:14 **“Like water spilled on the ground, which cannot be recovered, so we must die. But God does not take away life; instead, he devises ways so that a banished person may not remain estranged from him”.**

How did David fall short of that goal? (See 2 Sam. 14:28) _____

Have you? _____



DAVID THE GAAL say it gaw-al' (Meyers)

According to the Old Testament law, the nearest of kin had the duty of avenging a crime done to their relative. In the case of murder, the penalty was death. In the case of the rape of a virgin, the offender was expected to marry the girl (Deut. 22:28-29). It seems that it would have been David's responsibility as the parent of both, and king of the land, to encourage that to happen. Instead there is no indication of any action taken by David. Perhaps he is remembering his own sinful encounter with Bathsheba and feels disqualified from dealing with the present situation. A frustrated Absalom decides to take matters in his own hands. I wonder if he thought the banquet would bring David and Amnon together so that the matter would be addressed. But David declined, so Absalom acted. Now we have a case of murder, and again David is the father of both the criminal and the victim. Again, he is caught in the middle. Again he avoids the situation, which I think would have been my inclination as well. If I don't know what to do, I can hope that it will just blow over on its own. But here's the deal: Like it or not, David is the gaal that Numbers 35:12 describes as the avenger. It means redeemer, avenger and kinsman-helper. ("Hebrew-Greek Key Word Study Bible" 1509) As the nearest of kin, David basically has two choices: either avenge the sin, or redeem the sinner. Not sure what to do, he does neither. Absalom's sin is left to fester and grow. He seeks a restored relationship with his father, but is denied it. He receives neither punishment nor forgiveness. The results in Absalom's life are disastrous to everyone. In contrast, we see God also in the same position of gaal that David was in.

How does Isaiah 43:1 establish God's position of kinship with Israel? _____

What does Isaiah 43:14 indicate God's choice of action is? _____

How did God both avenge our sins and redeem our sins? _____

What might have been different if David had more actively embraced his role as gaal? _____

Do you have any unresolved conflicts in your family? How are you handling it? _____

PUZZLE CLUES (from NIV translation)

Across

1. the Lord delivers those who have regard for these Ps. 41:1
2. a troublemaker 20:1
5. claimed more lives than the sword 18:8
6. Joab's mother and David's sister 17:25
8. "In your anger do not _____" Ps. 4:4
10. protected bodies of Saul's family from birds 21:10
11. God is one Ps. 3:3
13. Sheba's was thrown from the wall to save the city 20:22
15. The Lord frustrated his advice 17:14
17. this tribe stood by David instead of Sheba 20:2
19. number of years Absalom hated Amnon 13:22,23
20. place where man with twenty-four fingers and toes was killed 21:20
23. eighty year old man that David invited to Jerusalem 19:32,33
28. David's commander killed by Joab 20:9
29. instructs me even at night Ps. 16:7
30. killed by Absalom 13:22
32. David instructed his men to be _____ with Absalom 18:5
34. "give me an _____ heart" Ps. 86:11
36. what David became in battle with the Philistines 21:15
38. the words of the Lord Ps. 12:6
39. "show the _____ of your great love" Ps. 17:7
42. refused to go to Absalom's party 13:25
43. kind of tree Absalom got caught in 18:9
44. where Absalom fled to 13:37
46. Absalom wanted to see David's 14:32
47. Tamar put these on her head 13:19
49. can't stand in God's presence Ps. 5:5
50. Absalom's daughter 14:27
51. what Absalom was riding 18:9
52. pierce me Ps.38:2
54. "examine my heart and my _____" Ps. 26:2

Down

1. what the nation of Israel did as David fled 15:23
2. "He lifted me out of the _____ pit" Ps. 40:2
3. what Absalom stole from the men of Israel 15:6
4. wise woman was from here 14:2
5. Israel had one for three years during David's reign 21:1
6. one of David's commanders along with Joab and Ittai 18:2
7. David's concubines were treated like _____ 20:3
9. killer of Goliath 21:19
12. the Gittite who followed David 15:19
14. overwhelmed by it Ps. 38:4
16. God doesn't want the banished to remain this way 14:14
17. killed Absalom 18:14
18. Mephibosheth's steward 16:1
20. survivors of the Amorites 21:2
21. God has assigned my _____ and my cup Ps. 16:5
22. David left ten of these at the palace 15:16
24. priest who took the ark back to Jerusalem 15:25
25. "so the _____ of Israel will not be extinguished" 21:17
26. "leave him alone; let him _____ for the Lord has told him to." 16:11
27. David's personal priest 20:26
31. what Tamar became 13:20
33. Amnon refused to do this 13:16
35. what David gave to Absalom 13:25
37. David's nephew and Amnon's friend 13:3
40. David's daughter 13:1
41. speech as smooth as this Ps. 55:21
45. Hushai became one for David 15:32-36
46. Absalom's servants set Joab's field on _____ 14:30
48. thirsts for God Ps. 42:2
53. "I will _____ to the Lord" Ps. 13:6



For comments or questions,
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WHO REALLY KILLED GOLIATH?

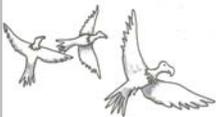
Who is credited with killing Goliath in 2 Sam. 21 :19? _____
What explanation are we given in 1 Chron. 20:5? _____



PUZZLE PAGE

2 Sam. 13-21 and Psalms

What did Rizpah do that touched David ?



**As for the saints who are in the land,
 they are the glorious ones in whom is all my
 delight.
 Psalm 16:3**



ANOTHER WISE WOMAN 2 Sam.20:16-22

How did a wise woman of Abel Beth Maacah save her city from bloodshed? _____

War was men's work. What did she risk by stepping forward with her suggestion? _____

What might have happened if she had not? _____

AMNON'S "LOVE" 2 Sam. 13 and Ps. 4:2

What made Amnon think that he was in love with Tamar?

How did his "love" for her display itself? _____

How does God's love display itself? _____

What are some things that we confuse with love? _____

How could Jonadab have **helped** Amnon? _____



HUSHAI 2 Sam. 15

What did Hushai the Arkite do for David? _____

MEPHIBOSHETH

2 Sam. 16:1-4 and 19:24-30

Who do you think was telling David the truth, Ziba or Mephibosheth?

How did David respond to being betrayed? _____

Have you ever had a fair weather friend that abandoned you when hard times came along? _____

How did you respond? _____

WANT TO READ WHAT I READ?

"SINCE HE WAS STRONGER THAN SHE" p.2

Spider-Man, Dir. Sam Raimi, Perf. Tobey Maguire, Willem Dafoe, and Kirsten Dunst. Columbia Pictures, 2002.

"WHERE COULD I GET RID OF MY DISGRACE?" p.2

Klaus and Maston, Patsy and Cathy. "cv0527." Bureau of Justice Statistics. 12/08/06. U.S. Department of Justice. 3 May 2007 <<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/sheets/cvus/2005>>.

West, Darcey. "Key Facts." National Sexual Assault Hotline. 09/15/05. RAINN. 3 May 2007 <<http://www.rainn.org/statistics/index.html>>.

DAVID THE GAAL p.3

Meyers, Rick. e-Sword. 29 Apr 2007 <<http://www.e-sword.net>>.

Hebrew-Greek Key Word Study Bible. 1996.

BETRAYAL

*If an enemy were insulting me,
I could endure it;
if a foe were raising himself against me,
I could hide from him.
But it is you, a man like myself,
my companion, my close friend,
with whom I once enjoyed sweet
fellowship
as we walked with the throng at the house
of God.
Psalm 55:12-14*

Name some of the people who were close to David that betrayed him.

Who do you think David is referring to in this Psalm? _____

Where did David go in his distress?

God is the only one that we know will never betray us. How can His comfort and companionship become real to us? _____

ANSWERS TO WEEK 19 PUZZLE

Ps. 20:4

1.

M	A	Y		H	E		G	I	V	E		Y	O	U
T	H	E		D	E	S	I	R	E		O	F		
	Y	O	U	R		H	E	A	R	T		A	N	D
M	A	K	E		A	L	L		Y	O	U	R		
	P	L	A	N	S		S	U	C	C	E	E	D	

Ps.33:11

2.

B	U	T		T	H	E		P	L	A	N	S		O	F
	T	H	E		L	O	R	D		S	T	A	N	D	
F	I	R	M		F	O	R	E	V	E	R		T	H	E
P	U	R	P	O	S	E	S		O	F		H	I	S	
	H	E	A	R	T		T	H	R	O	U	G	H		
A	L	L		G	E	N	E	R	A	T	I	O	N	S	

Ps. 51:10

3.

	C	R	E	A	T	E		I	N		M	E		A	
		P	U	R	E		H	E	A	R	T		O		
	G	O	D		A	N	D		R	E	N	E	W		A
			S	T	E	A	D	F	A	S	T				
S	P	I	R	I	T		W	I	T	H	I	N		M	E