



# The Kingdom Divided: War Between the House of David and Saul (2 Sam 3-4)

*Notes: Week Two*

## Abner Goes Over to David - [2 Samuel 3:6-21](#)

Topics: [Accusation](#), [Ambition](#), [Change](#), [Enemies](#), [Family](#), [Fear](#), [Fellowship](#), [Government](#), [Husbands](#), [Influence](#), [Insults](#), [Intimidation](#), [Leadership](#), [Loyalty](#), [Marriage](#), [Partnerships](#), [Promises](#), [Rebellion](#), [Reconciliation](#), [Relationships](#), [Remarriage](#), [Reputation](#), [Resentment](#), [Sovereignty](#), [Status](#), [Teamwork](#), [Unfaithfulness](#), [War](#), [Wives](#)

### Open It

1. What is your definition of a good politician?
2. \*What would someone have to do in order to lose your loyalty?

### Explore It

3. What had Abner been doing during the war between David and Ish-Bosheth? ([3:6](#))
4. What accusation did Ish-Bosheth make against Abner? ([3:7](#))
5. How did Abner react to the accusation of Saul's son? ([3:8](#))
6. Why was Ish-Bosheth intimidated by Abner's response? ([3:9-11](#))
7. What message did Abner send to David? ([3:12](#))
8. What condition did David want fulfilled before he would make an agreement with Abner? ([3:13](#))
9. How was Michal (David's wife) reunited with him after Saul's death? ([3:14-16](#))
10. \*What did Abner urge the elders of Israel to do? ([3:17-18](#))
11. How did Abner persuade the Benjamites to join him? ([3:19](#))
12. \*What news did Abner bring to David at Hebron? ([3:19](#))
13. How did David receive Abner's delegation? ([3:20](#))
14. \*What did Abner intend to do after he left David? ([3:21](#))

## **Get It**

15. What special skills did Abner, Saul's general, possess?
16. Why was David's request to have his wife Michal restored to him granted by Ish-Bosheth and Abner?
17. \*What was the most persuasive argument for the people of Israel to declare David their king?
18. \*What is unwise about setting yourself in opposition to the revealed will of God?
19. Why is hospitality such a powerful bridge-builder between people?
20. What is needed to convince a group of people to reverse their course of action?
21. In what areas of life might you be engaged in a futile resistance of something you know God has ordained?

## **Apply It**

22. How could you use hospitality to communicate esteem for someone this week?
23. \*In what way can you show deference to God's will in an area of life that needs it?

## Joab Murders Abner - [2 Samuel 3:22-39](#)

Topics: [Accountability](#), [Advice](#), [Authority](#), [Commitment](#), [Conscience](#), [Death](#), [Deceit](#), [Emotions](#), [Evil](#), [Family](#), [Heroes](#), [Intentions](#), [Judgment](#), [Mourning](#), [Murder](#), [Popularity](#), [Revenge](#), [Sincerity](#), [Sovereignty](#), [Stubbornness](#), [Vows](#)

### Open It

1. \*How do you go about judging the sincerity of another person?
2. What seems appealing about the idea of getting revenge?

### Explore It

3. Where was Joab while David was meeting with Abner? ([3:22](#))
4. What did Joab learn when he returned to David's camp at Hebron? ([3:23](#))
5. What did Joab think of David's decision to negotiate a truce with Abner? ([3:24-25](#))
6. How did Joab choose to interpret Abner's desire to meet with David? ([3:25](#))
7. What action did Joab take without David's knowledge? ([3:26](#))
8. How did Joab set up an opportunity to murder Abner? ([3:27](#))
9. Why did Joab murder Abner? ([3:27](#))
10. \*How did David react to the news of Abner's death? ([3:28](#))
11. What judgment did David pronounce on Joab for his violent act? ([3:29](#))
12. What did David force Joab and his men to do? ([3:31](#))
13. What feelings did David evidence when Abner was buried? ([3:32](#))
14. What attitude did David convey toward Abner's death in the lament he composed? ([3:33-34](#))
15. \*How did the people of Judah who followed David react to Abner's death? ([3:34](#))
16. What vow did David make out of respect for Abner? ([3:35](#))
17. \*Why did most of the people approve of David's reaction to Abner's death? ([3:36-37](#))
18. How did David eulogize Abner? ([3:38](#))
19. What was David's attitude toward Joab and Abishai? ([3:39](#))

## **Get It**

20. Why was Joab disappointed that Abner was already gone by the time he returned to Hebron?
21. Why was it to Joab's advantage to have the king mistrust Abner?
22. \*Why were the people watching to see if David's grief over Abner was sincere?
23. What did David mean when he said, "these sons of Zeruah are too strong for me"?
24. Why didn't David punish Joab and Abishai for the murder of Abner?
25. Why isn't a leader always able to bring off diplomacy according to his own vision?
26. In what situations is it important to demonstrate sincerity before speaking?
27. \*What behaviors on your part could convince others of your sincerity better than words?
28. To whom do you need to prove your sincerity?

## **Apply It**

29. \*What can you do this week to prove your sincerity to someone who needs to be convinced?
30. What current grievance against another person would you do well to leave to God's judgment?

## Ish-Bosheth Murdered - [2 Samuel 4:1-5:5](#)

Topics: [Ambition](#), [Anger](#), [Assumptions](#), [Children](#), [Comparisons](#), [Consequences](#), [Covenant](#), [Death](#), [Enemies](#), [Evil](#), [Expectations](#), [Family](#), [Flattery](#), [Foolishness](#), [Guilt](#), [Ignorance](#), [Injustice](#), [Justice](#), [Motives](#), [Mourning](#), [Murder](#), [Power](#), [Punishment](#), [Representatives](#), [Sovereignty](#)

### Open It

1. \*What are some of the ways that people try to gain favor and influence with powerful people?
2. What can we learn from the mistakes of others?
3. What is one thing you have learned from someone else's mistake?

### Explore It

4. How did Israel and its leader react to the news that Abner was dead? ([4:1](#))
5. Who were the two leaders of Israel's raiding bands? ([4:2-3](#))
6. How was Jonathan's son rescued after Saul and Jonathan were killed in battle? ([4:4](#))
7. How did Mephibosheth become crippled? ([4:4](#))
8. How did Recab and Baanah manage to murder Ish-Bosheth without being detected? ([4:5-6](#))
9. \*What did Recab and Baanah expect when they went directly to David with the head of Saul's son? ([4:7-8](#))
10. \*What similar incident did David recount for Recab and Baanah? ([4:9-10](#))
11. How was this incident amazingly like the one that transpired after Saul's death? ([4:10](#))
12. \*Why were the leaders of Israel's raiding bands even more guilty than the man who reported Saul's death to David? ([4:11](#))
13. How did David go about making an example of the men who had planned to please him? ([4:12](#))
14. How did David treat Ish-Bosheth after his death? ([4:12](#))
15. Of what common history did the leaders of Israel remind David when they came to make him king? ([5:1-2](#))
16. What significant event took place at Hebron after years of fighting between Israel and Judah? ([5:3](#))
17. How long was David king over both Israel and Judah? ([5:5](#))

## **Get It**

18. Why did the death of Abner cause alarm in Israel?
19. \*Why did the two leaders assume that David would want Ish-Bosheth dead?
20. \*Why was David able to resist and condemn violence against his own enemies?
21. In what sense was Ish-Bosheth innocent?
22. Why is it dangerous to make assumptions about what will please those in authority?
23. Why is it better to be asked to assume leadership as opposed to establishing yourself by force?
24. What two reasons made it logical for Israel to make David their king?

## **Apply It**

25. \*In what way can you resist defending yourself and let God deliver you?
26. In what practical way can you honor someone you were close to who is now dead?