

April 30 Answers

- 1) Absalom's rebellion. Joab realized that David still loved Absalom in spite of the murder of Amnon, and he used a clever **ploy** to convince David to allow Absalom to return. Unlike Nathan, whose story appealed to David's **conscience** over his feelings, Joab's story appealed to David's **feelings** over his conscience. David knew something should be done about Absalom, but he lacked the **courage** and resolve to do it. Joab, rather than urging David to do the right thing, became an accomplice to David's **weakness** and indecision. This teaches us how important it is to surround ourselves with friends who will hold us **accountable** to the truth. Absalom was permitted to return to Jerusalem, but he was not allowed into David's presence. For **two** years Absalom waited, and finally, sensing the time was right, he put a **fire** under Joab (literally) and was reconciled with his father. David embraced him in forgiveness, but Absalom's heart was not **repentant**. Indeed, David was welcoming a deadly **serpent** into his home. Within **four** years, Absalom had stolen the hearts of the people and David was once again running for his life. This shows us that true **reconciliation** must be based on genuine repentance, for anything less is a prelude to **disaster**.