

1. **Launcher:** Why does the writer of this story want us to focus on the characters? What does each person do and represent?
2. **Worship God** – Psalm 85:10-13

Worship the LORD who perfectly resolves the tension of justice and mercy. Praise Him, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit for His just nature and tender mercy.

3. **Sermon Reflection: “David & Absalom, Part 2”**

Evil’s Outcome

- What is the irony of evil?
- Why is it truly a good thing that we have a righteous God who answers in justice?
- What dilemma do we have with God’s justice? If he curses evil, where does that leave us?

Between the Gates

- What are David and Joab pursuing in this story?
- Do you bend more towards justice or more towards mercy? Talk about the tension involved in over-doing either one.

The Return of the King

- Describe the beauty of the story as David rides back to assume the throne. What does that covenant promise assure for us in our circumstances?
- How does Jesus relieve both the tension of justice and mercy? Why does this give us such a marvelous hope?

4. **Kingdom Centered Prayer: You Can Pray with Us**

1. Worship the LORD who perfectly resolves the tension of justice and mercy. Praise Him, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit for His just nature and tender mercy.
 2. In what ways have you pursued worldly glory? Confess your stubborn arrogance to Jesus and ask the Spirit to powerfully redirect where you find your identity.
 3. Give thanks to Jesus for being our perfect King. Thank Him for suffering that the many would be delivered.
 4. Who do you know that disregards justice for the sake of mercy? Who do you know that disregards mercy for the sake of justice? Pray first for yourself and the way you have missed the mark, and then pray for them and for the brokenness that has ensued from those ways of being.
 5. Ask the Holy Spirit to repair and restore the confusing, difficult circumstances we face on this side of Eternity. Pray that He would lift our eyes to the One who is well acquainted with our grief, King Jesus, our everlasting hope.
5. **Mission:** We are on mission as Christians is to rely on the perfect work of the cross. Knowing that God works even in our imperfections and even in the many tensions of our daily lives, we must have faith!