



O MY SON ABSALOM!

The king covered his face and cried aloud, "O my son Absalom! O Absalom, my son, my son!"

2 Samuel 19:4

The story of Absalom and David is an interesting one. You can read it in its entirety in 2 Samuel 13 to 18. Here's the gist:

Absalom is one of David's sons. After he killed his half-sister's rapists, Amnon, he is banished. Joab, David's army commander, convinced David to let him come back to Jerusalem. But that wasn't enough for Absalom. He wanted more.

He was a good politician and, through his charismatic nature was able to draw followers to lead a rebellion against his father. David outwits Absalom in battle and—although David wanted to save his life—Joab killed him.

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When David was told of his son's death he was heartbroken and cried out, "O Absalom, my son, my son!"

If you have lost a son or daughter because they're no longer able to accept you or love you as they did when they were young, you may understand how David felt. They might forget that you need respect in the way everyone needs respect. It happens to many parents as they get older.

How incredibly sad when sons and daughters treat us as though we are not worthy of respect! Who can heal the pain when we're rejected by the children we raised and loved?

If we've experienced the loss of children we love, we will know how God, our heavenly Father, must feel when he loses us. Sometimes we forget what our Father once meant to us and gradually pull away. It can happen, perhaps without us realizing it.

And how it must cause God grief!

When we lose a son or daughter like this, God will understand our pain. He has experienced such pain himself.

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