

## 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?