

No copyright materials are used in this text  
The summary and interpretation of the specific chapter and verses  
are from the Bible, they are religious text  
that is in the public domain.

Free to Copy and Distribute: Spread the Word!

(Peter Lok) 駱沅祺

[lokpeter@outlook.com](mailto:lokpeter@outlook.com)

[Bibleao.com](http://Bibleao.com)

## Daily Rice 2024 February 25

YouTube Prayer Link

Family relationships intelligently; how to handle

Second Samuel writes in chapter 14 of Joab's story of Joab's sending a "wise" woman to David in an attempt to change David's attitude toward Absalom in the hope that he would not remain in exile. And the woman came to the king, and confessed that she was a widow, and that after her husband's death there were only two sons, and that they were fighting in the field, so that one smote the other, and smote him to death. (14:4-6) She says that the problem she faces is that the whole family rises up against her, demanding that she hand over the son who killed her brother to death, but then she will lose the only remaining son of the family. (14:7) Therefore, the king is hoped that the king will issue a decree "not death" so that her son will not be held accountable for his blood. The woman's story was fabricated to insinuate David's refusal to redeem his son, Absalom. Eventually, although Absalom returned, David refused to see him. This chapter highlights the complexity of family relationships and the power of storytelling to persuade and manipulate others. It also sets the stage for the conflict between Absalom and David that arose in subsequent chapters.

How to Handle Family Relationships Intelligently:

Handling family relationships wisely is a complex and important task that requires care, patience, and understanding. Here are some smart ways to handle family relationships:

Communication: Maintaining open and honest communication with family members is key to building a healthy relationship. Listen to their thoughts and feelings, and express your thoughts, but respect each other's perspectives and feelings.

**Respect:** Respecting family members' personal space, opinions, and decisions is the foundation of a good relationship. Avoid criticism and accusations, and instead try to understand the other person's position.

**Inclusion:** Family members may have different lifestyles, values, and habits. Learning to be tolerant and respectful of each other's differences can help reduce conflict and misunderstandings.

**Shared Responsibility:** Sharing responsibilities within the family is key to building solidarity and supporting each other. Everyone should take appropriate responsibility, which reduces personal stress and enhances team spirit.

**Conflict resolution:** Conflicts are inevitable in any family, but the key is how to deal with them. Learning to resolve differences in a peaceful and respectful manner, looking for compromises and seeking consensus is an effective way to resolve conflicts.

**Establish boundaries:** It is important to establish healthy boundaries in family relationships. This means knowing when to say "yes" and when to say "no", and learning to say no to unreasonable requests or pressures.

**Seek help:** Don't hesitate to seek professional help if there are serious problems in your family relationships. Professionals such as psychologists, family therapists, or pastors can provide support and guidance to help family members solve problems and improve relationships.

Through the above methods, you can help you handle family relationships wisely and establish a healthier and more harmonious family environment.

There are many passages in the Bible that teach people how to deal with family problems. Here are some related verses:

**Ephesians 5:22-33:** This passage teaches the relationship between husband and wife, emphasizing the importance of obedience, love, and respect for one another, while also emphasizing the relationship between Christ and the church as an example.

**Colossians 3:18-21:** This passage emphasizes the love and obedience of family members to one another, including the submission of a wife to her husband, the love of a husband to his wife, the obedience of children to their parents, and the upbringing and teaching of their children by parents.

**Proverbs 15:1:** This verse reminds people to answer family members with gentle words, because gentle answers can calm anger, while heated words only exacerbate arguments.

**Isaiah 58:7:** This verse teaches sharing one's own food and shelter with those who are poor and in need, and this can also be applied to family relationships, encouraging family members to share and support one another.

**1 Corinthians 13:4-8:** This passage describes the qualities of love and emphasizes the importance of love. In family relationships, love is the foundation for solving problems and building harmonious relationships.

These verses provide guidance on how to respect, care, and support one another in the family. By following the teachings of the Bible, people can build healthier, more harmonious family relationships.

### We pray together

Heavenly Father, we gather before you to pray for the integrated family. Give us wisdom and strength to overcome our obstacles and challenges to one another. May your love warm our hearts and enable us to embrace and understand each other's differences.

Lord, please guide our words and actions so that our families become places of harmony and harmony. Giving us patience and forgiveness enables us to be considerate and supportive of one another, to support one another in times of difficulty, and to celebrate together in times of joy.

Preserve our relationship so that it grows stronger and thrives in your love. May your grace fill our families so that we can treat one another with love and humility and be each other's strength and pillars.

Lord, may your peace be upon our families to dispel all strife and dissension so that we can live in harmony and walk hand in hand with each other in the journey of life. In the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

### 2 Samuel chapter 14

2Sa. 14:1 Joab son of Zeruiah knew that the king's heart longed for Absalom.

2Sa. 14:2 So Joab sent someone to Tekoa and had a wise woman brought from there. He said to her, "Pretend you are in mourning. Dress in mourning clothes, and don't use any cosmetic lotions. Act like a woman who has spent many days grieving for the dead.

2Sa. 14:3 Then go to the king and speak these words to him." And Joab put the words in her mouth.

2Sa. 14:4 When the woman from Tekoa went [Many Hebrew manuscripts, Septuagint, Vulgate and Syriac; most Hebrew manuscripts spoke] to the king, she fell with her face to the ground to pay him honour, and she said, "Help me, O king!"

2Sa. 14:5 The king asked her, "What is troubling you?" She said, "I am indeed a widow; my husband is dead. 740

2Sa. 14:6 I your servant had two sons. They got into a fight with each other in the field, and no one was there to separate them.

One struck the other and killed him.

2Sa. 14:7 Now the whole clan has risen up against your servant; they say, 'Hand over the one who struck his brother down, so that we may put him to death for the life of his brother whom he

killed; then we will get rid of the heir as well.’ They would put out the only burning coal I have left, leaving my husband neither name nor descendant on the face of the earth.”

2Sa. 14:8 The king said to the woman, “Go home, and I will issue an order on your behalf.”

2Sa. 14:9 But the woman from Tekoa said to him, “My lord the king, let the blame rest on me and on my father’s family, and let the king and his throne be without guilt.”

2Sa. 14:10 The king replied, “If anyone says anything to you, bring him to me, and he will not bother you again.”

2Sa. 14:11 She said, “Then let the king invoke the LORD his God to prevent the avenger of blood from adding to the destruction, so that my son shall not be destroyed.” “As surely as the LORD lives,” he said, “not one hair of your son’s head will fall to the ground.”

2Sa. 14:12 Then the woman said, “Let your servant speak a word to my lord the king.” “Speak,” he replied.

2Sa. 14:13 The woman said, “Why then have you devised a thing like this against the people of God? When the king says this, does he not convict himself, for the king has not brought back his banished son?

2Sa. 14:14 Like water spilled on the ground, which cannot be recovered, so we must die. But God does not take away life; instead, he devises ways so that a banished person may not remain estranged from him.

2Sa. 14:15 “And now I have come to say this to my lord the king because the people have made me afraid. Your servant

741 thought, ‘I will speak to the king; perhaps he will do what his servant asks.

2Sa. 14:16 Perhaps the king will agree to deliver his servant from the hand of the man who is trying to cut off both me and my son from the inheritance God gave us.’

2Sa. 14:17 “And now your servant says, ‘May the word of my lord the king bring me rest, for my lord the king is like an angel of God in discerning good and evil. May the LORD your God be with you.’”

2Sa. 14:18 Then the king said to the woman, “Do not keep from me the answer to what I am going to ask you.” “Let my lord the king speak,” the woman said.

2Sa. 14:19 The king asked, “Isn’t the hand of Joab with you in all this?”

The woman answered, “As surely as you live, my lord the king, no-one can turn to the right or to the left from anything my lord the king says. Yes, it was your servant Joab who instructed me to do this and who put all these words into the mouth of your servant.

2Sa. 14:20 Your servant Joab did this to change the present situation. My lord has wisdom like that of an angel of God — he knows everything that happens in the land.”

2Sa. 14:21 The king said to Joab, “Very well, I will do it. Go, bring back the young man Absalom.”

2Sa. 14:22 Joab fell with his face to the ground to pay him honour, and he blessed the king. Joab said, “Today your servant knows that he has found favour in your eyes, my lord the king, because the king has granted his servant’s request.”

2Sa. 14:23 Then Joab went to Geshur and brought Absalom back to Jerusalem.

2Sa. 14:24 But the king said, “He must go to his own house; he must not see my face.” So Absalom went to his own house and did not see the face of the king.

742

2Sa. 14:25 In all Israel there was not a man so highly praised for his handsome appearance as Absalom. From the top of his head to the sole of his foot there was no blemish in him.

2Sa. 14:26 Whenever he cut the hair of his head — he used to cut his hair from time to time when it became too heavy for him — he would weigh it, and its weight was two hundred shekels [That is, about 5 pounds (about 2.3 kilograms)] by the royal standard.

2Sa. 14:27 Three sons and a daughter were born to Absalom. The daughter’s name was Tamar, and she became a beautiful woman.

2Sa. 14:28 Absalom lived for two years in Jerusalem without seeing the king’s face.

2Sa. 14:29 Then Absalom sent for Joab in order to send him to the king, but Joab refused to come to him. So he sent a second time, but he refused to come.

2Sa. 14:30 Then he said to his servants, “Look, Joab’s field is next to mine, and he has barley there. Go and set it on fire.” So Absalom’s servants set the field on fire.

2Sa. 14:31 Then Joab did go to Absalom’s house and he said to him,

“Why have your servants set my field on fire?”

2Sa. 14:32 Absalom said to Joab, “Look, I sent word to you and said, ‘Come here so that I can send you to the king to ask, “Why have I come from Geshur? It would be better for me if I were still there!”’ Now then, I want to see the king’s face, and if I

am guilty of anything, let him put me to death.”

2Sa. 14:33 So Joab went to the king and told him this. Then the king summoned Absalom, and he came in and bowed down with his face to the ground before the king. And the king kissed Absalom.

Chapter 14 of the book of 2 Samuel tells the story of a woman from Tekoa who comes to David pretending to be in mourning for her son, who has been killed by her other son. David is moved by her story and promises to help her, but she uses her story as a parable to appeal to David to reconcile with his estranged son Absalom. Joab, David's commander, is revealed to have orchestrated the woman's story as a way to bring Absalom back into David's favor. David eventually agrees to allow Absalom to return to Jerusalem, but he refuses to see him face-to-face. The chapter highlights the complexity of familial relationships and the power of storytelling to persuade and manipulate others. It also sets the stage for the conflict that will arise between Absalom and David in the subsequent chapters.

Chapter 14 of the book of 2 Samuel tells the story of how Joab persuades a wise woman from Tekoa to speak to David about reconciling with Absalom. Here are some important verses from this chapter: 1. "Joab son of Zeruiah knew that the king's heart longed for Absalom." (2 Samuel 14:1) - This verse sets the stage for the chapter by revealing Joab's understanding of David's desire to reconcile with his estranged son Absalom. 2. "Then the woman from Tekoa said to the king, 'My lord the king, let the blame rest on me and on my father's family, and let the king and his throne be without guilt.'" (2 Samuel 14:9) - This verse shows the wise woman from Tekoa's appeal to David to show mercy to Absalom and reconcile with him, while also taking responsibility for her own role in the situation. 3. "Like water spilled on the ground, which cannot be recovered, so we must die. But that is not what God desires; rather, he devises ways so that a banished person does not remain banished from him." (2 Samuel 14:14) - This verse contains the wise woman from Tekoa's persuasive argument to David that God desires reconciliation and forgiveness, even for those who have been banished or exiled. 4. "The king said, 'If anyone says anything to you, bring them to me, and they will not bother you again.'" (2 Samuel 14:16) - This verse shows David's agreement to the wise woman's proposal, promising to protect her from anyone who might seek retribution for her words. 5. "So Joab went to Geshur and brought Absalom back to Jerusalem." (2 Samuel 14:23) - This verse shows the successful outcome of the wise woman from Tekoa's mission, as Joab brings Absalom back to Jerusalem and begins the process of reconciliation with David. Overall, chapter 14 of 2 Samuel highlights the theme of forgiveness and reconciliation, as the wise woman from Tekoa persuades David to show mercy to Absalom and allow him

to return to Jerusalem. The chapter also emphasizes the importance of taking responsibility for one's actions and seeking forgiveness for past wrongs.

In 2 Samuel Chapter 14, we encounter a story involving Joab's scheme to bring about reconciliation between David and his son Absalom. Here are some key reflections from the chapter:

**Joab's Plan for Reconciliation:** Joab, realizing the estranged relationship between David and Absalom, devises a plan to bring about reconciliation. He sends a wise woman from Tekoa to present a fictitious story to David, appealing to his sense of justice and compassion. This plan highlights the importance of seeking reconciliation and healing within strained relationships.

**The Woman of Tekoa's Plea:** The woman of Tekoa presents her story to David, speaking on behalf of all parents who have experienced loss and longing for reconciliation. Her plea touches David's heart, evoking empathy and the desire for resolution. This highlights the power of storytelling and appeals to our shared human experiences to foster understanding and healing.

**David's Decision:** David is moved by the woman's story and agrees to grant her request for the restoration of her son. However, he fails to realize that the story parallels his own relationship with Absalom. This demonstrates David's capacity for compassion and justice, but also his blind spots and the need for further introspection.

**Symbolic Meaning:** The story of the woman of Tekoa serves as a symbolic representation of God's desire for reconciliation and restoration. It reflects the forgiveness and grace that God extends to His people, even in the midst of brokenness and estrangement. It reminds us of the importance of seeking reconciliation and forgiveness in our own relationships.

**Absalom's Return:** While the focus of the chapter is on the reconciliation plan, it ends with Absalom's return to Jerusalem. This sets the stage for future events and conflicts within David's family, highlighting the complex dynamics and consequences that arise from strained relationships.

**Overall,** 2 Samuel Chapter 14 reflects Joab's plan for reconciliation, the plea of the woman of Tekoa, David's decision and blind spots, the symbolic meaning of the story, and Absalom's return. It serves as a reminder of the importance of seeking reconciliation and healing in strained relationships and the need for introspection and compassion. Additionally, it foreshadows the challenges that lie ahead in the narrative of David's family.