



Sermon Discussion Questions
Sunday, July 20, 2025

“Heart of Grief”
2 Samuel 18
Pastor Clay Smith

1. Where in your life have you experienced the painful tension between love and justice? Reflect on a situation—whether in parenting, friendship, or leadership—where choosing between accountability and compassion left you with a heavy heart. How did you respond, and what might it look like to invite Jesus into that space?
2. How does Absalom’s betrayal and treachery cry out for justice? Where do you sense a need for justice in your life?
3. How does David’s grief over Absalom deepen your understanding of God’s love for us? How does his love for his son point us to the heart of our heavenly Father for you?
4. In what ways does the cross, the Prince of Israel dying upon the tree, reconcile the tension between love and justice in your own life? Are there ways that the truth that Jesus both bore God’s justice and reveals His great love shape how you respond to brokenness in yourself or others?
5. How can we as a church embody a cross-shaped life that holds together love and justice?