

CHURCH SCHOOL LESSON1!  
NOVEMBER 1, 2020  
GOD'S WAY TO SUCCESS

This week we are going to learn about Absalom's dishonest actions in trying to take the throne away from his father, King David. Let's start off with a game to try and fool your family. On a piece of paper write down two true things and one thing that isn't true. Try to think about things that no one would know about you. Once you are finished, read what you have and have your family guess which is true and which is not true.

Was it harder to come up with the true statements or the untrue statements? Why?

Now have one of your family members do the same thing and you try and guess which are true and which are not?

How did you decide which statements were the true statements for your family?

This game is fun because there are no bad consequences when we play. But that isn't the case in real life. In real life, telling a lie or being less than honest usually catches up with us and we end up in worse trouble than if we had just told the truth,

When have you or someone you know ended up in worse trouble for lying than if you or they had been honest from the start?

Have you ever gotten in trouble for not telling the whole story?

In this week's lesson about Absalom, who was King David's son, Absalom wanted to become the next king of Israel but that wasn't God's plan. Let's see what happens when Absalom plans some dirty tricks.

Absalom was one of King David's sons. He had killed one of his brothers over a serious family problem and David was so upset that he refused to let Absalom stay with him. David later forgave Absalom and allowed him to return to Jerusalem.

Turn in your Bible to 2 Samuel 15:1-6.

What do Absalom's actions tell you about how he felt about his father, who was the king?

How do you think Absalom would describe himself?

What was wrong about what Absalom was doing?

Absalom made secret plans to set himself up as king. He tried to take away the kingdom that God had given his father, David. Absalom gathered an army together and marched on the city of Jerusalem. David was stunned by the news and left the city with his officials. For a time it seemed that Absalom's sneaky ways had succeeded. But God was with David. God gave David a loyal spy named Hushai who became one of Absalom's military advisors. Hushai caused Absalom to delay attacking David's army, which allowed David's army to build up their forces and defeat Absalom in battle. When Absalom was riding his mule, his hair got caught in the branches of a large oak tree and the mule rode on without him. Joab, who was David's commander found Absalom hanging from the tree and killed him.

Read 2 Samuel 15:7-12. Also look back and read 2 Samuel 2:4 and 2 Samuel 5:2-4.

Why did David leave Jerusalem?

What do you think David was thinking about these events?

What was the differences between the way David got the throne and the way Absalom attempted to become king?

What was wrong with what Absalom did?

How did David become king? Where did it happen? What did the people who were there think about David?

How did Absalom try to get himself named king? Where did it happen? What were the people who were there with him doing?

David had waited patiently, trusting God to bring him the throne. But Absalom was sneaky. He tried to take his father's throne by turning the people against David. He lied and used all the wrong ways to get what he wanted.

Some people think that success means being rich, or popular or famous and that it doesn't matter what you do to reach that kind of success. But the Bible teaches that success is being and doing what God had planned for you. I am going to tell you about five mixed up people and the Bible verse that will help them get on the path to success by changing their wrong attitudes. I want you to write what a successful attitude would be for each one.

|   |                    |  |
|---|--------------------|--|
| It's okay to lie if it helps you get ahead.                           | Proverbs 12:17     |  |
| You can't always do the "right thing" if you want to get to the top.  | 2 Corinthians 13:7 |  |
| Mom is so old fashioned. If I listen to her, I will never be popular. | Ephesians 6:1      |  |
| If somebody hurts me on purpose, I will never forgive him.            | Matthew 6:14       |  |
| Don't let anybody stand in your way if you want to succeed.           | Galatians 6:10     |  |

We saw in our Bible lesson how being sneaky caused a father and son to become enemies. Absalom tried to "sneak" his way onto the throne of Israel. Sometimes we might be tempted to hide some of the truth about our own beliefs, or likes or dislikes in order to get something we want. Absalom acted like a chameleon to make himself popular with the people of Israel. He told them what he knew they wanted to hear. Are you a chameleon?

A chameleon is a lizard that changes color according to its surroundings. Changes in temperature, light or the lizard's feelings control these changes. When it is angry, cold or against a dark background, the chameleon appears black. When it is relaxed, warm or on a light background, it appears pinkish.

At times we change like a chameleon, we change to fit our surroundings too. We let people and situations control what we do and say even if it means not being completely truthful. It's especially tempting when we think it will make us more popular or keep us out of trouble. How much do you change in a situation? I am going to give you some situations and I want you to mark if you usually change, sometimes change or never change.

|  | USUALLY<br>CHANGE | SOMETIMES<br>CHANGE | NEVER<br>CHANGE |
|--|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| I say what people want to hear instead of what I really think.                     |                   |                     |                 |
| I laugh at things I don't think are funny, just because everyone else is laughing. |                   |                     |                 |
| I tell little white lies if they make me more popular with my friends.             |                   |                     |                 |
| If I saw my friend stealing something small, I would keep my mouth shut about it.  |                   |                     |                 |
| Tricking other people is okay if it ends up making them think highly of me.        |                   |                     |                 |
| If my friends want me to do something I think is wrong, I go along with them.      |                   |                     |                 |
| When someone starts to talk about God or church, I try to change the subject.      |                   |                     |                 |

This week I want you to remind yourself that you want to be honest and not sneaky in pursuing your goals and things that you want. Let's close with a prayer.

Dear God, you know how hard it can be sometimes not to be sneaky and dishonest, especially when we don't see any other way to get something we want. Please help us be honest people who trust You to help us get the things we need. Guide and help us this week to do things Your way, not the sneaky way. Keep us safe and protect us from harm. Amen.