

## Anatomy of a Family Feud

2 Samuel 2

### David - Following God's Plan

2:1-7

- Following Saul's death, David humbly waits on the Lord's direction before acting.
- In obedience, David follows the Lord's instructions and returns to his homeland, Judah.
- The men of Judah anoint David, acknowledging him as the LORD's choice for Israel's king.
- David reveals his skill as a diplomat as he reaches out to the loyal followers of Saul.
- His offer of comfort to Saul's followers reveals his heart for all of Israel.

*SLOW DOWN!*

*When faced with life's challenges, wait and seek the LORD's \_\_\_\_\_ before taking action.*

### Abner - Following His Own Plan

2: 8-11

- Abner, Saul's cousin and commander, seeks to maintain power after Saul's death.
- He attempts to secure his own future by installing Saul's son Ish-bosheth as Israel's king.
- Ish-bosheth is Saul's youngest son who only reigns for two years before his death.
- Abner's actions ignite serious conflict between two families battling for control of Israel.

*STOP!*

*Count the \_\_\_\_\_ before putting your own plans before the LORD's plans.  
YIELD to His sovereign control in your life.*

### Fueling the Feud

2:12-17

- As the power behind Ish-bosheth, Abner is David's true rival as king.
- Joab, David's nephew and commander, meets Abner for peace negotiations at Gibeon.
- Abner suggests a contest of power and strength between the houses of David and Saul.
- The contest between the two families escalates into a full battle that ends in Abner's defeat.

*CAUTION!*

*Avoid escalating a conflict into a full-scale battle through \_\_\_\_\_ words and actions.  
Choose prayer and petition over contests of power and strength to settle conflict.*

### Reaping the Consequences

2:18-3:1

- Asahel's pursuit of Abner following the battle results in his unfortunate death.
- Joab's grief and bitterness will lead him to seek revenge against Abner.
- Joab agrees to end the battle after Abner reminds him they are brothers in God's family.
- The house of Saul and the house of David are locked in a long civil war that weakens Israel.

*REMEMBER!*

*We are one family in God's kingdom.  
Seek peace through \_\_\_\_\_ when conflicts arise in God's family.  
Reach out to others with humility and compassion.  
Rest in God's plan and blessings.*

Key: direction, cost, unwise, prayer

**David – The King of God’s Choosing – 2 Samuel 2**  
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**1 SAMUEL 16:13** Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers. And the Spirit of the LORD rushed upon David from that day forward. And Samuel rose up and went to Ramah.

**1 SAMUEL 31:11-13** But when the inhabitants of Jabesh-gilead heard what the Philistines had done to Saul, all the valiant men arose and went all night and took the body of Saul and the bodies of his sons from the wall of Beth-shan, and they came to Jabesh and burned them there. And they took their bones and buried them under the tamarisk tree in Jabesh and fasted seven days.

**ISAIAH 40:31** [B]ut they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

**PROVERBS 1:7a** The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge...

**PROVERBS 2:6** For the LORD gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.

**PROVERBS 21:23** Whoever keeps his mouth and his tongue keeps himself out of trouble.

**JAMES 5:16b (NIV 1984)** The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.

**PROVERBS 16:7** When a man’s ways please the LORD, he makes even his enemies to be at peace with him.

**PROVERBS 3:5-6** Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

***FAMILY MEMBERS IN 2 SAMUEL 2***

- **ABNER** – Saul’s cousin and commander of his army. He installs Ish-bosheth as Israel’s king following Saul’s death.
- **ISH-BOSHETH** – Saul’s youngest and probably least capable son who is placed on the throne of Israel by Abner. He rules for two years before his death.
- **JOAB** – David’s nephew and son of David’s sister Zeruiah. He is the commander of David’s army and brother of Abishai and Asahel.
- **ABISHAI** – David’s nephew and son of his sister, Zeruiah, and brother of Joab and Asahel. He encouraged David to kill Saul in 1 Samuel 26:8-9.
- **ASAHIEL** – David’s nephew and son of his sister, Zeruiah. Brother of Joab and Abishai.