



FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Guard Against Ambition!

Instructions: Do this exercise in quiet surroundings. As you read the scriptures, imagine that you are a bystander watching the events unfold. Visualize the scenes. Hear the voices. Feel the emotions of the characters. Let the account come to life.

Main characters: David, Absalom, Joab

Summary: Absalom attempts to usurp his father's throne.

1 ANALYZE THE SCENES.—READ 2 SAMUEL 14:25-33; 15:1-17; 18:9-17, 30-33.

Describe the appearance of Absalom, as you picture him. (*Reread 2 Samuel 14: 25, 26.*) _____

What do you imagine Absalom's attitude and tone of voice were like as he tried to win the hearts of those coming to the king for justice? (*Reread 2 Samuel 15: 2-6.*) _____

What do you perceive about Absalom's personality from the incident recorded at 2 Samuel 14:28-30? _____

2 DIG DEEPER.

How had Absalom laid the groundwork for seizing the throne? (Clue: Read 2 Samuel 13:28, 29. Amnon was David's eldest son and hence heir to the throne.) _____

Despite his ambition and attempts at self-glory, what does the manner of Absalom's burial indicate as to how he was really viewed? (*Reread 2 Samuel 18:17.*) _____

What, do you think, might have contributed to Absalom's ambitious spirit? (For comparison, read what is stated about Diotrefes at 3 John 9, 10.) _____

How was David affected by Absalom's actions?
(Clue: Read Psalm 3, which David wrote at the
time of Absalom's revolt.) _____

**3 APPLY WHAT YOU LEARNED. WRITE DOWN
WHAT YOU LEARNED ABOUT . . .**

The danger of an ambitious spirit. _____

The pain that a person's actions can cause to
others, including his or her parents. _____

FOR FURTHER APPLICATION.

How might you fall into the trap of ambition?

How can you avoid developing undue pride?

**4 WHAT ASPECT OF THIS ACCOUNT IS MOST
MEANINGFUL TO YOU, AND WHY?**

Suggestion: Imagine a different ending to this
account. What might have happened if Absalom
had been modest rather than ambitious?—Prov-
erbs 18:12.

