



## 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.*) \_\_\_\_\_

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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.*) \_\_\_\_\_

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

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**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.) \_\_\_\_\_

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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.*) \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

The danger of an ambitious spirit.

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

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**FOR FURTHER APPLICATION.**

How might you fall into the trap of ambition?

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How can you avoid developing undue pride?

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

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

