

## Life lessons from Abigail

### Various Scriptures

*David replied to Abigail, Praise the Lord, the God of Israel, who has sent you to meet me today! Thank God for your good sense! Bless you for keeping me from murder and from carrying out vengeance with my own hands. -1 Samuel 25:32-33*

Next to prayer and acts of kindness, one of the best things we can do for each other is offer good \_\_\_\_\_. Proverbs 25:11 says, "Timely advice is lovely, like golden apples in a silver basket." In our study today we learn a valuable lesson from a woman named Abigail. As we look closer her story, pay close attention to how she promotes peace and offers sound advice at just the right time.

### Did you know?

- \*Abigail's personal name means, "my father \_\_\_\_\_."
- \*Abigail was married to a rich man named \_\_\_\_\_.
- \*Nabal's personal name means, \_\_\_\_\_ or rude.
- \*Nabal was a descendant of \_\_\_\_\_.
- \*They lived near the town of Carmel.
- \*Her story is told in 1 Samuel 25-2 Samuel 2; 1 Chronicles 3:1

**Historical Context:** As the narrative continues we are now just after the death of Samuel, Israel's last judge. Although Saul was king of Israel, Samuel was the nation's spiritual leader. Before his death, he anointed David as the next king of Israel. By now David's fame has spread throughout Israel. 1 Samuel 20:30 Throughout this time, the Lord blessed David making him a mighty leader and giving him great success. This caused Saul to become Jealous, forcing David and his men to live on the run. However David proved his loyalty to Saul as king promising to never harm or kill anyone in Saul's family.

### Abigail's Husband: 1 Samuel 25:1-17

Nabal was very...

- ✓ \_\_\_\_\_; according to verse 2 he owned property, \_\_\_\_\_ sheep and \_\_\_\_\_ goats. He also married a Abigail who described as a sensible and beautiful woman.
- ✓ \_\_\_\_\_; according to verse 3 despite being a descendant of Caleb, he was crude and mean in \_\_\_\_\_ his dealings.

Abigail's story begins with David trying to deal with her husband Nabal. It was the season when the shepherds would shear the sheep. David sends Nabal a message of peace and prosperity upon his family and everything he owns. He proceeds to tell Nabal how they provided \_\_\_\_\_ for his shepherds and nothing was ever stolen. In light of their services, David asks Nabal for food to feed himself and his men.

### **Nabal's response: 1 Samuel 25:10-11**

How would you describe Nabal's response to David's request?

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**David's response: 1 Samuel 25:12-13**

How would you describe David's response to Nabal's response? Do you think his thoughts and intentions were justified? Why or why not?

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**The servant's response: 1 Samuel 25:14-17**

How would you describe his/her response to what they witnessed? Is there ever a time when not saying something is right? Why or why not?

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**Abigail's Hustle: 1 Samuel 25:18-22**

After Abigail learned of the potential danger towards her and her family moved \_\_\_\_\_. All too often when we are confronted in our sin or something important we move slow in rectifying the problem. Why is this the case for so many of us today?

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She knew exactly what to do.....

\* \_\_\_\_\_ loaves of bread

\* \_\_\_\_\_ slaughtered sheep

\* \_\_\_\_\_ cluster of raisins

\* \_\_\_\_\_ wine skins

\* \_\_\_\_\_ bushel of roasted grain

\* \_\_\_\_\_ fig cakes

Lastly, she did NOT tell her husband what she was doing.

**Why do you think she didn't tell him?**

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**Abigail's Humility: 1 Samuel 25:23-31**

As Abigail approached David she acted in humility by:

1. Got off of her donkey. Verse 23b
2. \_\_\_\_\_ low before him. Verse 23c
3. Taking \_\_\_\_\_ for her husbands actions. Verse 24
4. Interceding for Nabal. Verse 25
5. Speaking highly of the Lord, David and destruction of his enemies. Verse 26,29-31
6. Offering him gifts/food. Verse 27
7. Asking for \_\_\_\_\_. verse 28

**As you consider Abigail's act of humility, why do you think it is important to be the first person to go to those whom we have offended?**

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**Can you recall a time when you were about to take matters into your own hands and someone gave you good advice at just the right time? What would you say to someone who is about to make a decision in haste out of anger today?**

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**Notice David's response: 1 Samuel 25:32-35**

婢 He realizes it was the Lord who has \_\_\_\_\_ her to him.

婢 Thanks God for her wisdom and helping him not to sin.

婢 Accepted her present.

婢 Changed his mind about killing Nabal.

**What is your response when people try to give you direction and godly advice? It is good that David acknowledged God and had a change of heart, how would you respond to someone who did not take your advice?**

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After Abigail's encounter with David, she went home and found her husband Nabal celebrating like a king. He was so drunk she didn't bother telling him, but the next day at dawn, she told him all what had happened. The news was too much to take in so he had a stroke and ten days later the Lord struck him and he died.

**Abigail's Honor: 1 Samuel 25:39-42**

When word got back to David about Nabal's death he praised the Lord and then sent messengers to Abigail to become his \_\_\_\_\_.

**What are some of the characteristics you think made Abigail worthy of such an honor?**

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\*W\_\_\_\_\_

\*P\_\_\_\_\_ skills

**As you reflect on this study, what is the the greatest lesson learned that you are willing to share with someone else?**

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**"Blessed are the peacemakers for they will be called sons of God" -Matthew 5:9**