2 Samuel 14

*“The Plan of Manipulation”*

**Scripture:** 2 Samuel 14:1-33

**Memory Verse:** *“Who may abide in Your tabernacle?...*

*‘He who walks uprightly,*

*And works righteousness*

*And speaks the truth in his heart.” Psalm 15:1a-2*

**Lesson Focus:** We need to speak the truth and not use manipulation to get out way.

**Activities and Craft:** Coloring Picture; Work Sheet and Mother’s Day activities and Craft for 1st and 2nd graders: Kangaroo Mother’s day card

**Introduction:** Ask the kids: What are ways that you get “your way?” Allow several kids to share. Try to give an example of when you have gotten your way through manipulation. Ask the kids if they think it was right what you did? Tell them that today’s Bible story is going to show us how manipulation is NOT telling the truth.

**Bible Study:**

Review: Last week in 2 Samuel 13 the consequences of David’s sin with Bathsheba began. David’s children began to hurt one another and to do very bad things to one another to the point of one brother killing the other brother. We looked at the Old Testament story of Cain and Abel because this is the first time that we see fighting in families. It is terrible to even imagine that families can fight to the point of killing each other – but when sin enters our heart and we allow hatred to grow, murder can result.

Today in 2 Samuel 14 we will see people around David trying to clean up the mess that is in his family.

**2 Samuel 14:1-3:** “Joab’s plan”

√ Who is Joab?

√ What is he worried about with King David? (he was concerned about the King’s heart of sadness for his son Absalom.)

√ What is his plan? (He sends for a wise woman and gives her the words to say when she approaches King David.)

√ Do you think that is a good plan?

√ Do you think that Joab was trying to manipulate King David? Why did he not talk to him directly?

√ What did Joab ask her to pretend to be? (A mourner; he wanted her to “pretend’ to be something that she was not.)

√ How did Joab ask her to dress? (as a mourner, putting on mourning apparel, to not anoint herself with oil.)

√ Why did Joab put the words in her mouth? What does that mean?

Do we try to manipulate people around us? What is manipulation? Is it a good thing? Why do we do it? We are going to see a lot of this in the rest of 2 Samuel. We are going to see David’s family using manipulation to get there way.

 **2 Samuel 14:4-17:** “The Wise Women’s Performance”

 The women follows Joab’s plan and goes before the King.

1. She falls on her face before King David
2. She describes herself as a widow and that her husband is dead
3. She tells the story of 2 sons fighting and one killed the other
4. She says that the rest of her family is demanding justice and that the one brother should die for killing the other. She says if they execute her one living son that she would lose their inheritance and that her husband’s name would not continue.

√ does she tell quite the story?

√ Do you see how Joab is using the story to get to the King? To manipulate the King?

King David listens to her and then dismisses her – but she keeps talking. She keeps weaving her tale to get the King to make a statement of protection for her “pretend” son. Why do you think that she does this?

√ What is David’s pronouncement concerning her “pretend” son in 2 Samuel 14:11; *“As the Lord lives, not one hair of your son shall fall to the ground.”*

√ Is this what she wanted? Why?

This wise woman got the answer that she wanted. That the king would spare her pretend son. So now she moves in to get to the “real” reason for Joab sending her.

2 Samuel 13—17;

The wise woman turns her story to David’s story.

1. Why have you not allowed your son (Absalom) to come home? Why is he banished?
2. She says that God has set in place a way for the banished son to come back home. Numbers 35:15 says; *“These six cities shall be for refuge for the children of Israel, for the stranger, and for the sojourner among them, that anyone who kills a person accidentally may flee there.”*

This was a law of Israel that God established for those that killed someone accidentally. But Absalom did not kill his brother on accident but planned it because he hated him.

1. She then end her tale by praising the King and “puffing him up.”

√ How does King David answer her?

1. He asked her to speak truthfully to him
2. He asked if Joab put her up to this.

√ Does she tell him the truth? (yes)

√ What is David’s decision? Who does he answer? (Joab) What does the King say? How does Joab respond?

 **2 Samuel 14:24-33;** Absalom’s return.

 Absalom get to return but must live in his own house.

 King David will not see him.

 √ How do the people of Israel see Absalom? (2 Samuel 14:25-26)

1. Absalom was praised for his good looks
2. He had a lot of hair
3. He had 3 sons and 1 daughter who he named Tamar.
4. He lived in Jerusalem for 2 years without seeing the King

Absalom did not like the living situation, he did not like not seeing the King. He wanted to meet with Joab but Joab would not come. So he plans and schemes and set’s Joab’s land on fire to get Joab to come. He tells Joab to tell the King that he wants to see the King or he wants the King to execute him (if there is sin in his heart.)

√ What does David do? (He allows Absalom to come and when he sees him he kisses him in greeting.)

 **Conclusion:**

1. Do you think that Absalom’s heart has changed?
2. Do you think that Absalom got away with murder?
3. Do you think that Joab was right to try to trick David to bring Absalom back?
4. Do you think that manipulation is ever a good thing?

Manipulation is an ugly thing. It is a way to try to get our way. We scheme and we plan and act like we are speaking the truth, but we really only want what we want. The manipulation of Absalom will continue and will cause a great division in Israel.

We need to speak truth. When we lie or manipulate a situation to get our way we are going against the heart of God.

Out memory verse says, *“He who walks uprightly, and works righteousness, And speaks the truth in his heart.”* Psalm 15:2 These are the type of men and women that God wants to use.