

STOWMARKET BAPTIST CHURCH

SUNDAY BIBLE CLUB

21 JUNE 2020

Hello everyone...

Welcome to our next story. It is Jackie writing this week.

I hope that you had a good week. We are all missing you on a Sunday afternoon and pray that you and your family will be kept safe and well.

With love from everyone at Sunday Bible Club

Over the past few weeks, we have been thinking about the Commandments that God gave to Moses when he went up the mountain in Sinai.

So far, we've learnt about the first 4 Commandments. Can you remember them?

Let's remind ourselves:

- 1. God said, "You shall have no other Gods before me".**
That means God is the only true God and nothing should stop us from loving and worshipping him.
- 2. God said, "You shall not make for yourself and idol".**
That means we should not make a picture or statue of God in order to worship. Also, we should not let anything or anyone in our lives be more important than God.
- 3. God said, "You shall not use God's name in a wrong way".**
Because God is so special, we should respect his name and only use it to say "thank you" to him and tell others how wonderful he is.
- 4. God said, "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it Holy" (special for God).**
Christians should keep Sunday special for God, because that's the day Jesus came alive again after his was crucified. On that day God wants us to especially worship him and learn from the Bible to help us love him more.

Did you get them all right?

The first 4 Commandments are all about our relationship / friendship with God.

Now we come to the 5th Commandment and start to think about how we should treat each other. Today we think about our mum, dad and all those who take care of us.

We find this command in the Bible, in Exodus chapter 20 verse 12, which says...

¹² "Honour your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you."

"Honour your father and mother". But what does it mean to "honour"?

Well...

... **It means to obey them!**

Do you always do what your mum or dad say? Or stop doing what they tell you not to do?

... **It means to respect them!**

So, don't ever lie to them or make excuses. Don't do or say anything that would make them unhappy (even when they can't see you!).

... **It means to love them!**

Do you care about them and always try to help them?

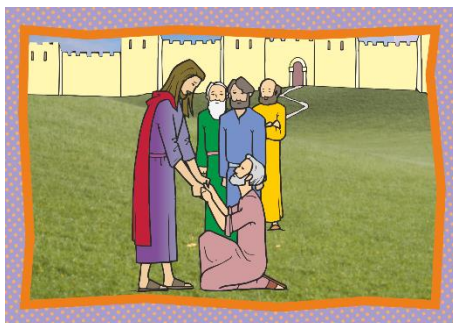
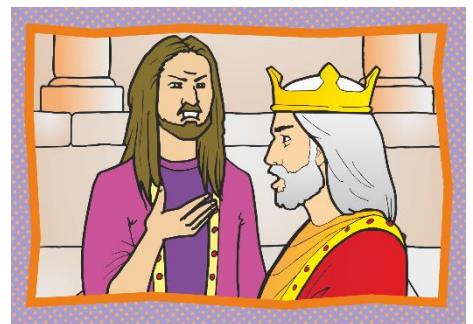
It's not always easy is it? That's why we need to ask God to help us to know what is right and to always stay safe. We need to pray for our parents for all those who look after us.

In the Bible we read about King David. He's the one who was a shepherd boy and had a battle with the Giant Goliath. Later, God made him King over all God's people in Israel. David was a good king who honoured God. He had a son called Absalom.

Absalom knew the 5th Commandment, "Honour your father and mother" but very sadly he did NOT obey it.

When we disobey God's commands, difficult things can start to happen. God gives us these instructions because he loves us and wants the very best for us!

Kind David was getting old, and his son Absalom wanted to be more important than his father. He wanted to take over his kingdom. Absalom wanted to be king instead of David. So, he rode around in a chariot pulled by horses and he had 50 men running along in front of him - everyone would see him coming!



Early every morning, Absalom would go to the city gate and as people came to see King David (his dad), Absalom would talk to them and tell them that he would make a better king than David. Absalom told them he would solve all their problems and make life easy for them. The people believed his lies and liked Absalom.

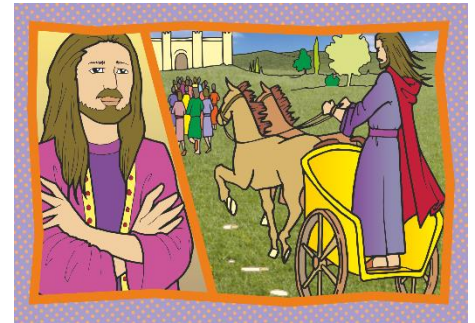
Then one day Absalom went to see King David and told him lies. He told his father, he was going to the city of Hebron to worship God.

NOT TRUE!

Absalom was going to Hebron to make himself king instead of his father David! How terrible!!

You cannot worship God by disobeying his commands.

In secret, Absalom sent messengers all over Israel saying, when you hear the trumpet sound, come to Hebron, and make Absalom King! 200 men had gone to Hebron with Absalom and many others came too, when they heard the trumpet.



Kind David got to hear what his son Absalom had done, and he needed to escape to a safe place, away from Jerusalem and away from his son. Those who were living with King David in his palace, went with him.

Eventually there was a big battle between David's army and Absalom's army. David's army won the battle and so he returned to Jerusalem and continued to be King.

The Bible says that when we disobey this 5th Commandment and don't obey, love and respect our parents, then we are showing God that we don't obey, love and respect God either.

We should respect our parents, teachers and all those who look after us, just like Jesus did when he was a boy. They don't always get everything right, but we should be ready to forgive them and pray for them.

Dear Lord, help me to keep the 5th Commandment and honour my parents, just like Jesus did when he was a boy. Help me to love, obey and respect them, so I can please them and please you.

Amen

You can read this story of King David and his son Absalom in the Bible in 2 Samuel chapter 15 verses 1 - 15, which says...

¹ In the course of time, Absalom provided himself with a chariot and horses and with fifty men to run ahead of him. ² He would get up early and stand by the side of the road leading to the city gate. Whenever anyone came with a complaint to be placed before the king for a decision, Absalom would call out to him, "What town are you from?" He would answer, "Your servant is from one of the tribes of Israel." ³ Then Absalom would say to him, "Look, your claims are valid and proper, but there is no representative of the king to hear you." ⁴ And Absalom would add, "If only I were appointed judge in the land! Then everyone who has a

complaint or case could come to me and I would see that they receive justice."

⁵ Also, whenever anyone approached him to bow down before him, Absalom would reach out his hand, take hold of him and kiss him. ⁶ Absalom behaved in this way toward all the Israelites who came to the king asking for justice, and so he stole the hearts of the people of Israel.

⁷ At the end of four years, Absalom said to the king, "Let me go to Hebron and fulfill a vow I made to the Lord." ⁸ While your servant was living at Geshur in Aram, I made this vow: "If the Lord takes me back to Jerusalem, I will worship the Lord in Hebron."

⁹ The king said to him, "Go in peace." So he went to Hebron.

¹⁰ Then Absalom sent secret messengers throughout the tribes of Israel to say, "As soon as you hear the sound of the trumpets, then say, 'Absalom is king in Hebron.'" ¹¹ Two hundred men from Jerusalem had accompanied Absalom. They had been invited as guests and went quite innocently, knowing nothing about the matter. ¹² While Absalom was offering sacrifices, he also sent for Ahithophel the Gilonite, David's counselor, to come from Giloh, his hometown. And

so the conspiracy gained strength, and Absalom's following kept on increasing.

¹³ A messenger came and told David, "The hearts of the people of Israel are with Absalom."

¹⁴ Then David said to all his officials who were with him in Jerusalem, "Come! We must flee, or none of us will escape from Absalom. We must leave immediately, or he will move quickly to overtake us and bring ruin on us and put the city to the sword."

¹⁵ The king's officials answered him, "Your servants are ready to do whatever our lord the king chooses."