

When Relationships Collide

Lesson 5: Step In

Background Scripture: 1 Samuel 25:1-13

1 Samuel 25:14-17, 23-28, 32-35

Question: *How do you respond when you hear "It's none of your business"?*

1 Samuel 25:14-17

14 One of the servants told Abigail, Nabal's wife, "David sent messengers from the wilderness to give our master his greetings, but he hurled insults at them.

15 Yet these men were very good to us. They did not mistreat us, and the whole time we were out in the fields near them nothing was missing.

16 Night and day they were a wall around us the whole time we were herding our sheep near them.

17 Now think it over and see what you can do, because disaster is hanging over our master and his whole household. He is such a wicked man that no one can talk to him."

1 Samuel 25:23-28

23 When Abigail saw David, she quickly got off her donkey and bowed down before David with her face to the ground.

24 She fell at his feet and said: "Pardon your servant, my lord, and let me speak to you; hear what your servant has to say.

25 Please pay no attention, my lord, to that wicked man Nabal. He is just like his name—his name means Fool, and folly goes with him. And as for me, your servant, I did not see the men my lord sent.

26 And now, my lord, as surely as the LORD your God lives and as you live, since the LORD has kept you from bloodshed and from avenging yourself with your own hands, may your enemies and all who are intent on harming my lord be like Nabal.

27 And let this gift, which your servant has brought to my lord, be given to the men who follow you.

28 "Please forgive your servant's presumption. The LORD your God will certainly make a lasting dynasty for my lord, because you fight the LORD's battles, and no wrongdoing will be found in you as long as you live.

1 Samuel 25:32-35

32 David said to Abigail, "Praise be to the LORD, the God of Israel, who has sent you today to meet me.

33 May you be blessed for your good judgment and for keeping me from bloodshed this day and from avenging myself with my own hands.

34 Otherwise, as surely as the LORD, the God of Israel, lives, who has kept me from harming you, if you had not come quickly to meet me, not one male belonging to Nabal would have been left alive by daybreak."

35 Then David accepted from her hand what she had brought him and said, "Go home in peace. I have heard your words and granted your request."

Life Application Questions

- What's the difference between tattling and giving someone information to keep a bad situation from becoming worse?
- What prevents us from stopping a "train wreck" in someone's life?
- What does Abigail's story teach us about how to step in?
- What does it take to step in and get involved?

Live It Out

- **Give permission.** Give someone permission to step in if they are about to make a bad decision.
- **Seek advice.** If you're not sure if you should step into someone else's problem, ask the advice of someone you trust.
- **Intervene diplomatically.** Say what needs to be said with humility and respect.
- **Let God lead as you step in to keep a bad situation from getting worse.**