**Evangel Community Church**

**Games People Play**

**HIDE AND SEEK**

**Doug Surratt** December 11, 2022

*“Absalom never spoke to Amnon about it, but he hated him deeply because of what he had done to his sister.”*

*2 Samuel 13:21-22*

*“(David) longed to go to Absalom, for he was consoled concerning Amnon’s death.”*

*2 Samuel 13:21-22*

*“Pretend you are in mourning. Dress in mourning clothes, and don’t use any cosmetic lotions. Act like a woman who has spent many days grieving for the dead. Then go to the king and speak these words to him.’ And Joab put the words in her mouth.”*

*2 Samuel 13:39- 14:3*

*“I want to know one thing, “The king replied. “Yes, my lord?” she asked. “Did Joab send you here?” And the woman replied, “My lord the king, how can I deny it? Nobody can hide anything from you. Yes, Joab sent me and told me what to say. He did it to place the matter before you in a different light…’*

*2 Samuel 14:18-20*

***“****So the king sent for Joab and told him, “All right, go and bring back the young man Absalom. Joab fell to the ground before the king and blessed him and said, “At last I know that I have gained your approval, for you have granted me this request!”*

*2 Samuel 14:21,22*

*“Then Joab went to Geshur and brought Absalom back to Jerusalem. But the king gave the order: “Absalom may go to his own house, but he must never come into my presence.” Absalom lived two years in Jerusalem without seeing the king’s face.”*

*2 Samuel 18-24,28*

*“Then Absalom sent for Joab to ask him to intercede for him, but Joab refused to come. Absalom sent for him a second time, but again Joab refused to come.**So Absalom said to his servants, “Go and set fire to Joab’s barley field, the field next to mine.” So they set his field on fire, as Absalom had commanded.”*

*2 Samuel 18:28-30*

**“**Then Joab came to Absalom at his house and demanded, “Why did your servants set my field on fire?” And Absalom replied, “Because I wanted you to ask the king why he brought me back from Geshur if he didn’t intend to see me. I might as well have stayed there. Let me see the king; if he finds me guilty of anything, then let him execute me.” So Joab told the king what Absalom had said. Then at last David summoned Absalom, who came and bowed low before the king, and the king kissed him.”

*2 Samuel 18:31-32*

*So Joab told the king what Absalom had said. Then at last David summoned Absalom, who came and bowed low before the king, and the David kissed him.*

*2 Samuel 18:33*

**Basic Belief of the Game**

Belief that conflict is bad or just too hard.

**Game Strategy**

1. Deny any feeling of anger and frustration.
2. Tell yourself, “given enough time, things will work out on their own.”
3. Have lots of imaginary conversations.
4. Expect others to be mind-readers.
5. Gossip instead of confronting.

*After this, Absalom bought a chariot and horses, and he hired fifty bodyguards to run ahead of him.****2****He got up early every morning and went out to the gate of the city. When people brought a case to the king for judgment, Absalom would ask where they were from, and they would tell him their tribe.****3****Then Absalom would say, “You’ve really got a strong case here! It’s too bad the king doesn’t have anyone to hear it.****4****I wish I were the judge. Then people could bring their problems to me, and I would give them justice!”*

*When people tried to bow before him, Absalom wouldn’t let them. Instead, he took them by the hand and embraced them. So in this way* *Absalom stole the hearts of all the people of Israel.*

 *2Samuel 15:1-5*

**Winning at the Game**

You meet your need for approval through pretense.

**Ending the Game in Your Life**

1. Decide that being “real” is more productive than being “nice”
2. Attempt to handle conflict in a biblical manner.
3. Get comfortable saying direct phrases.

“I’m angry.”

“Can you help me understand?”

“I forgive you.”

1. Rely on God’s approval instead of trying to please people.