

# Examining Motives

What motivated Joab to join David? What motivated Abner's captains to kill Joab? Were they thinking of helping the kingdom of Israel? Or selfishly thinking about themselves? What motives do we have for the things we do? We often have more than one reason for what we do and that this is okay!

Read the actions below. Choose what you think is the best motive for each action. Notice other possible motives. It is good to be honest about the real reason we do things. That is the beginning of change. Use one color to highlight what you think is the best motive, and another color to highlight the second best motive.

1. Letting a younger child ride your new bike:
  - a. you want them to appreciate how fast and cool it is
  - b. your parents will be impressed with your generosity
  - c. they would have fun
  - d. next time they have something new they might share it with you
  
2. Include a classmate in an activity who is often left out:
  - a. it would make them feel included
  - b. your teacher would be happy
  - c. they might be willing to do a lot of the work
  - d. you are supposed to be kind to everybody
  
3. Clear the table and do dishes without being asked:
  - a. next time you ask for something your parents may say 'yes'
  - b. you enjoy helping out
  - c. because your mom or dad really deserves a break
  - d. you won't have to do it again for a long time
  
4. Invite someone to your birthday party who is not a close friend:
  - a. one more person equals one more present
  - b. they would really enjoy coming
  - c. you would like to become better friends with them
  - d. they will probably invite you to their party
  
5. Put your own money in the offertory at church on Sunday:
  - a. people will notice and think well of you
  - b. you want to give something back to the Lord for all He has given you
  - c. you don't really need the money for anything else
  - d. the church needs the money to pay for the minister and for building repairs