

Paragraphs with many forms of *be*:

"A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger" (Proverbs 15:1). The story of David and Abigail is a clear illustration of this proverb. When David's servants asked Nabal for provisions, his answer was one that might have been a record for grievous words. "Who is David?" asked Nabal. "Shall I take the food that I have prepared for my workers, and give it to someone I do not even know?" These words were so insulting to David that he was ready to wipe Nabal and his household from the face of the earth.

As soon as Abigail was aware of Nabal's response, she prepared enough food to feed a small army. Soon she was in the presence of David with her gift, saying, "Upon me, my lord, upon me let this iniquity be"—speaking such gracious words that David immediately was sorry for his murderous plans. By her soft answer, Abigail was able to turn away David's wrath and save the lives of everyone in her household. The impression she made on David was so favorable that after Nabal's death, David sent a proposal to Abigail, and soon she was his wife.

Work hard to put action into your writing style. Use descriptive, active verbs. Replace *be* if you can use something better. Remember: action draws attention.

Applying the Lesson

In 150–200 words, explain or illustrate a verse from Proverbs. You may use one of the following or choose one yourself. Put special effort into using lively action words. Also work for originality as you studied in Lesson 3.

1. "A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favour rather than silver and gold" (22:1).

Paragraphs with more active verbs:

"A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger" (Proverbs 15:1). The story of David and Abigail clearly illustrates this proverb. When David's servants asked Nabal for provisions, he gave an answer that might have set a record for grievous words. "Who is David?" asked Nabal. "Shall I take the food that I have prepared for my workers, and give it to someone I do not even know?" These words stirred up such anger in David that he made preparations to wipe Nabal and his household from the face of the earth.

As soon as Abigail heard of Nabal's response, she prepared enough food to feed a small army. She hastened with her gift to David, saying, "Upon me, my lord, upon me let this iniquity be"—speaking such gracious words that David immediately repented of his murderous plans. By her soft answer, Abigail turned away David's wrath and saved the lives of everyone in her household. She made such a favorable impression on David that after Nabal's death, David sent a proposal to Abigail, and soon she became his wife.

Lesson 22 Answers

(Individual work.)