

TIGER WOODS

Personal Profile:

The Story:

Tiger Woods is best known for his abilities on the golf course. But after November of 2009, he came to be known for something else – his adultery.

Police were called to his home after Tiger crashed his SUV into a tree. Rumors circulated about his wife smashing out one of the windows with a golf club. In the weeks that followed Tiger’s fans learned from media reports that he had been unfaithful to his wife on many occasions with many different women. The details of his infidelity were put on public display. There were reports that his wife had left and planned to divorce him. Tiger went into hiding, stopped playing golf and did not speak to the media for months. There were rumors that he was off on his yacht and that he had checked into a clinic in Mississippi. It is one of the ugliest scandals in the history of professional sports.

With Tiger’s plan to resume playing golf in April at the Masters, once again he is in the news. He has made a public apology to his fans. He has begun giving interviews again. He has acknowledged that he was “living a lie” and describes his behavior as disgusting. He also admits being nervous about his return to golf. Time will only tell if his fans will welcome him back to the sport that he has made so popular for the last decade.

The Lessons:

What are some lessons you learn from the fall of this golf hero?

(1) _____

(2) _____

(3) _____

TEACHER'S GUIDE

Instructions:

1. Read the story to your students and discuss what they know about Tiger Woods' story.
2. Have them identify some of the lessons they believe we should learn from his story. Urge them to incorporate Bible principles in their responses.
3. Supplement their answers with the thoughts below.

Observations:

1. Our sins have a way of catching up with us.
 - I don't know how long Tiger had been "living the lie." He had a lot of money to help him keep his double life a secret. But even Tiger Woods, the greatest golfer in the history of the game and one of the wealthiest men in the world, could not keep his sin hidden forever. It caught up with him.
 - We see examples of this principle in the Bible – sin catching up with people. Can you think of some examples? King David comes to mind (II Samuel 11-12). He tried to carefully cover up his sin with Bathsheba. He had all the power and money that came with being king to help him pull this off. But he could not hide it forever. Just like Tiger, David's sin was exposed and it brought all kinds of grief and sorrow into his life.
 - Can you think of some sins that young people try to hide?
 - Internet pornography
 - A relationship that parents disapprove of
 - A habit of cussing
 - Lying to parents about places I'm going
 - Cheating on tests to pass a class
 - Hiding bad grades from my parents
 - While you are thinking about these, describe how easy it is to get caught doing these things.
2. There are worse things than not being caught.
 - Young people hide things from their parents or spiritual family and feel like they have accomplished something. But have they?
 - Nothing we do is hidden from the eyes of God (Hebrews 4:13, Proverbs 5:21). Keep in mind that He's the One who really matters.
 - If you hide some sin from others for your entire life, then are forced to answer before God, what have you really accomplished?
3. A brief moment of pleasure can bring a lot of long-term damage and pain.
 - Whatever pleasure Tiger received from his relationships with these women does not begin to compare with the grief and sorrow he is suffering now because of his sins.
 - King David certainly suffered terribly because of his sin with Bathsheba (II Samuel 12:10-15).
 - This is the way sin is. We may have pleasure for a moment, but there is always a terrible price to pay. Can you think of other examples of this principle?
4. Tiger is hoping that his fans will forgive him.
 - Do you think they should forgive him (Colossians 3:12-13)?
 - Is it fair that this evil conduct may tarnish his image forever, no matter what else he may accomplish?