
Part I: David's Kingdom Established

(Chapters 1-10)

Application Guide: 2 Samuel 1

1. Warm-up (5-10 min)

Choose one:

- a. Have you ever cut yourself accidentally with a pocket knife or some other sharp object? How did it happen? Did you cry?

- b. Have you ever been bullied or seen someone else get bullied? What was it like? How can you help stop bullying from happening?

2. Engaging the Chapter (15-20 min)

Background: The Bible talks repeatedly about tens of thousands of soldiers marching against each other as they conquered the promised land one battle at a time and it was this very type of battle that was being referred to here in the first chapter of the book of 2 Samuel. These were barbaric times and God had to try and work with the people where they were....

Have you ever seen any of the Chronicles of Narnia or The Lord of the Rings movies? The epic battle scenes just captivated my imagination when I saw my first Narnia movie. I'd never been able to picture what these ancient battles with armies wielding swords and spears looked like before. To me they look just like what the Bible describes in it's raging battles for The Lord (minus the Gryphons, Centaurs, etc.).

Picture it: Imagine you were a soldier in ancient Israel. How do you think you would feel being in the midst of thousands of mighty men swinging razor sharp swords and spears in every direction? Do you think you would be crying out for God's help like David often did?

What kinds of things make you cry out to God today?

When David and his men found out that Saul and Jonathan had lost their lives due to one of these epic battles they tore their clothes and put dirt on their heads and wailed and cried for hours—even days. Jonathan was David’s best friend, but keep in mind that Saul hunted David like a wild animal for years trying to kill him out of jealous rage. And yet, David mourned both his friend and his enemy. Have you ever felt such compassion for someone who didn't seem to deserve it? How hard is that to do? Why?

 **3. Applying the Chapter to Your Life (5-10 min)**

- a. Watch one of the Chronicles of Narnia movies or another Bible movie with epic battle scenes to try and get a feel for what ancient Biblical battles must have looked and felt like. Ask yourself or discuss with a friend how God could work in such barbaric conditions back then and how you can be used by God in the conditions in which you live today.
- b. Often times bullies have been victims of bullying themselves. What do you think you can do to be more like David and show kindness to those who bully you or your friends?

 **4. Prayer Time (3-5 min)**

Spend a few minutes praying for those who have been mean or inconsiderate to you or a friend. Ask Jesus to help them feel bad about the way they treat you and to give them a desire to change their ways. Ask Jesus to help you be kind to them in spite of the way they treat you