
Application Guide: 2 Samuel 13

1. Warm-up (5-10 min)

Choose one:

- a. Have you ever had a crush on someone? What was it like?

- b. Have you ever personally known someone had an uncontrollable obsession with someone of the opposite sex? Describe the situation and how it turned out.

2. Engaging the Chapter (15-20 min)

The Situation: In this chapter we find a great example of why coveting is considered a sin. Amnon was terribly infatuated with his half-sister, Tamar, because she was so beautiful. He thought about her and dreamed of her so much that in his mind everything focused on her beauty and it got out of control. He eventually wanted her so badly that he was willing to do anything at all to have her. And it seems that he wasn't wanting her to talk to and have a relationship with her—he seems to have just wanted her body—to get off sexually. So, his over-aggressive desire turned into rape and then, since there was nothing more there than sexual desire, his desperate lust turned into hatred as soon as he had her and then he despised her.

In this situation was Amnon thinking about Tamar's health and well-being or only himself?

How do you think Tamar felt about being outwardly beautiful? Do you think she ever thought her outward beauty would lead to such a violent act against her?

In the Bible we read that David and other kings had hundreds of wives and concubines. Why do you think kings had so many women in their lives—was it possible to have meaningful relationships with that many women or was it just for unlimited sex? How do you think the wives and concubines felt about this?

Do you think this cultural atmosphere played a role in setting up Amnon to rape Tamar?

Do you think our culture today is more or less obsessed with sex? Why?

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

Choose one:

- a. If you are a guy it is very important to think about how you view girls. Pornography, sexual advertisements, and sexual situations in movies can lead to treating girls like objects to be used rather than people to know. Sexting, hook-ups and other sexual encounters that teens get into result from how guys and girls view themselves and each other. Have a discussion with a group of guys and girls along with your adult youth leaders and discuss how Christian guys and girls should view each other.

- b. If you are a girl the way you present yourself to the world in many ways determines how the world, especially guys, see you. Have a discussion with a group of guys and girls and youth leaders and discuss the issue of how girls dress from a girls perspective and from a guys perspective. Discuss: Jewelry, short shorts or skirts, low-cut tops, skin-tight clothes vs. looser fitting, lots of make-up vs. a little, etc. What's the difference between being a little flirty and being provocative? How should a Christian girl dress? What should a Christian guy do when he sees an inappropriately dressed girl?

4. Prayer Time (3-5 min)

- a. Spend some time in prayer over how you view the opposite sex and how you view yourself. Pray that Jesus will help you to see and deeply impress on your mind that He doesn't want you to "use" other people or to be "used" yourself.

- b. Ask Jesus to impress upon your mind how much He loves you and all the wonderful positive things He has in store for you.