
Application Guide: 2 Samuel 14

1. Warm-up (5-10 min)

Choose one:

- a. Have you ever held a grudge against someone? Why?

- b. Has anyone ever held a grudge against you? Do you feel like you deserved it? Why/why not?

2. Engaging the Chapter (15-20 min)

The Situation: David was holding a grudge against Absalom for killing his son Amnon. Absalom had killed Amnon for raping his beloved sister, Tamar. In doing this he was attempting to defend his sister's honor and take revenge into his own hands.

Did David have the right to be upset with Absalom for killing Amnon? Why/why not?

Did Absalom have the right to be upset with Amnon for raping his sister? Why/why not?

Why do you think God made the statement, "vengeance is mine saith the Lord"?

After already being raped and humiliated by her half-brother, Amnon—do you think Tamar was happy that her brother Absalom killed Amnon? Why or why not?

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

- a. Holding grudges and trying to get revenge can often lead to more trouble than you began with. In the New Testament Jesus said to forgive someone 70 times 7. Think through your own life—do you tend to hold grudges or to forgive? Why do you think that is? Which do you think is a better approach?

- b. In addition to teaching on forgiveness Jesus also violently cleared the temple courts of money changers who had made His Father’s house into “a den of thieves.” How can you tell the difference between the two types of situations in your own life?

- c. Think through a situation where you were forgiving to someone else. How did it turn out? Do you think it was better or worse than holding a grudge?

- d. Think through a situation where you held a grudge. How did it turn out? Do you think it was better or worse than forgiving?

4. Prayer Time (3-5 min)

- a. Pray and ask Jesus to help you learn to be as forgiving as He was. Remember that Jesus even forgave the people who were crucifying him. Pray and ask him to give you the same forgiving spirit.
- b. Pray and ask Jesus to also help you to stand up for what is right just as He did in the temple and ask Him to give you wisdom to know the difference between the two kinds of situations.